



Winnick Family Foundation Commended for Supporting Guide Dog Program For Visually Impaired Israelis

The Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind has helped nearly 400 visually impaired Israelis since 1991 by training dogs to respond to commands, familiarizing them with local Israeli streets and safety protocols.

Los Angeles, CA (PR Web) January 18, 2011 -- The Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind has commended the [Winnick Family Foundation](#) for its contributions in support of the Center's guide dog program. The Center, based at the Beit Oved cooperative in central Israel, has aided nearly 400 visually impaired Israelis since its founding two decades ago.

Said [Gary Winnick](#): "The wonderful animals trained by the Center profoundly improve the quality of life of blind people every day by providing them with mobility, independence and self confidence. We are proud to support that effort."

The Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind was established in January of 1991, just prior to the Gulf War with Tillie, a Yellow Lab from England. The first graduate was Haim Tsur, a concert violinist from Jerusalem who graduated in June of that year. Today, there are 27,000 legally blind Israelis, but less than 300 active working guide-dog partnerships in that country.

Said Norman Leventhal, President of the Center: "Before the founding of the Center at Beit Oved, visually impaired Israelis had to travel to England or America to obtain a qualified dog, but these foreign animals were principally trained in English and in foreign traffic customs. We now have a world-class facility that provides guide dogs born and raised here in Israel – animals trained to respond to commands in Hebrew and completely familiar with local Israeli streets and safety protocols. That is all made possible by the continued generosity of donors like the [Winnick Family](#)."

About the Winnick Family Foundation

The Winnick Family Foundation encourages project-specific programs but also selectively supports capital campaigns and unrestricted gifts to grantee organizations. There is a preference for projects in Los Angeles and New York – or for those having an international component.

Foundation naming grants include:

- Winnick Family Clinical Research Institute at Cedars Sinai Hospital
- Winnick House at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University
- Arnold S. Winnick Student Center at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University

WINNICK FAMILY *Foundation*

- Winnick International Conference Center at the Simon Wiesenthal Center / Jerusalem
- Winnick Children's Zoo in Los Angeles
- Winnick Faculty Scholar at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University
- Winnick Hall at the Skirball Cultural Center
- Arnold & Blanche Winnick Popular Library and Karen Winnick Children's Gallery at the Los Angeles Central Library
- Winnick Hillel House at Syracuse University
- Winnick Board Room at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City
- Winnick Winners Mentoring Program for the Los Angeles Unified School District
- Winnick Fellows at UCLA School of Medicine
- Winnick Gallery at Yeshiva University Museum, Center for Jewish History

Karen and [Gary Winnick](#) and the Foundation have endowed university and high school literacy and scholarship programs at Brown University, at Mrs. Winnick's alma mater Syracuse University, and at Gary Winnick's alma mater, Long Island University.

They have also funded the transformation of the on-campus C.W. Post mansion administrative center – renamed Winnick House – as well as the main cafeteria which is now named in honor of Mr. Winnick's late father.

In California, the Foundation has supported educational programs at the California Science Center, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, KOREH L.A., the Los Angeles Zoo, L.A.'s Best Afterschool Program, the Wonder of Reading, the Fulfillment Fund and Noah's Ark at the Skirball Center.

Among the many other Foundation grantees are the Special Olympics, The Center for Jewish History, Children's Scholarship Fund, Partnership for Better Schools, Teach for America, The Gettysburg Foundation, The National Parks Foundation, Best Friends Animal Society, The Los Angeles Police Foundation, Shoah Foundation, and the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University.

The Foundation also supports charities operating outside the United States, including the International Medical Corps, Flora and Fauna, World Wildlife Fund, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, the Israel Museum, the Israel Philharmonic, the Jerusalem Zoo, Heifer International and the Bloomfield Science Museum at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. For more information on the Foundation and its work, visit <http://www.winnickfamilyfoundation.com> on the Web.