

YOUR IMPACT

A glimpse into the success you created in Woodbridge - Kleinburg



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You're Building a Community

Dear Friends,

Every act of generosity has a story behind it.

Through your partnership and support, Jewish life in Woodbridge and Kleinburg continues to grow in meaningful ways. Families are finding connection, individuals are rediscovering Jewish tradition, and people who once felt alone are discovering the strength of community.

The stories in these pages offer a glimpse into that impact. You will meet neighbors who found a sense of home, individuals who discovered support during difficult moments, and families who are building deeper Jewish roots right here in Woodbridge.

Behind every class, holiday gathering, visit, and quiet moment of support stands a partnership of people who believe that Jewish life matters. Your generosity helps create those moments—often small, sometimes life-changing—that allow individuals and families to feel connected, valued, and proud of who they are.

A Jewish community is more than programs or buildings. It is a living chain, passed from one generation to the next through warmth, presence, and shared responsibility. When that chain is nurtured, identity grows stronger and Jewish life flourishes naturally.



Thank you for being partners in this mission. Because of you, these stories continue to grow and unfold every day in our community.

Your support helps ensure that Jewish life here remains vibrant, welcoming, and strong for years to come—touching families, inspiring the next generation, and strengthening the bonds of our community.

We hope you enjoy reading them.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Rabbi Shalom and Chana Bakshi

You Made Us Feel at Home *By The Buzov Family*



The extended family at the New Home Dedication

When our family first arrived in Woodbridge, we were new to the area and still finding our footing. Like many families starting fresh, we were adjusting to a new place and hoping to find a sense of belonging.

What we didn't expect was how quickly we would feel welcomed, supported, and truly at home.

Almost immediately, Rabbi Bakshi reached out—and without hesitation, came personally to help us put up mezuzahs in our home. It was a simple act, but one that meant a great deal to us. In that moment, our house began to feel like a home.

As we became more involved, we experienced the warmth of the community firsthand. Celebrating the holidays—especially Simchat Torah—was unforgettable. The joy, emotion, and energy in the room were unlike anything we had experienced before.

What stands out most is the genuine love and attention Rabbi and Chana Bakshi are giving to every individual and family. Their dedication is felt not only during holidays and gatherings, but in the small, thoughtful moments that make people feel seen and valued.

We are deeply grateful to be part of a community filled with warmth, connection, and purpose. Chabad of Woodbridge has truly become our home.

You Gave Me a Safe Home

By Rob Shatzky (Daniels)

In the weeks following October 7th, I found myself moving through a period that was heavy, painful, and disorienting. It was during that time that I walked into the Chabad House and quickly felt something I had not expected: a sense of safety, grounding, and genuine belonging.

The way you welcomed me, without hesitation or condition—mattered more than I can easily express. Your presence, compassion, and quiet steadiness provided comfort at a moment when words often fell short. You created space not only for conversation, but for healing.



Rob at the Community-wide Israel Solidarity Event

Chabad of Woodbridge and Kleinburg is clearly a special place, and that is a direct reflection of the heart you bring to it.

That impact has extended beyond me personally. Because of the environment you have created, my family and I have become more involved, participating in community events and showing up in ways we had not before. What began as a moment of support has grown into a deeper connection with Jewish life and community.

Thank you for your leadership and kindness, and for the reminder that no one has to carry difficult moments alone. I am deeply grateful.

You Brought Us Together

By Leat Leah & Jonathan Segal

In a place where Jewish life is not always the majority, Chabad of Woodbridge has given us something rare: a sense of family, safety, and belonging.

At a time of rising antisemitism, the Rabbi and his family lead with strength and responsibility. Community safety is clearly a priority, allowing us to gather with confidence and pride.

What truly sets Chabad of Woodbridge apart is its heart. From the moment you walk in, you are not a guest, you are family. The Rabbi and his family are deeply inclusive, constantly seeking feedback and striving to ensure everyone feels seen and valued.



Eitan at the Pre-Purim Celebration

Before our son's brit, the Rabbi came to our home with his family to offer a personal blessing and later attended the brit itself.

Even when we couldn't attend certain holidays, he made sure Judaism came to us. On Sukkot, he walked over half an hour to our home so we could shake the lulav and etrog.

We've been part of other Chabad communities, and we can say with confidence: Chabad of Woodbridge is one of a kind. It doesn't just build programs—it builds people, families, and a stronger Jewish future.

We are deeply grateful to be part of this community.

When Paths Are Meant to Cross

By Oliver Stone, MBA, CIM

As a community leader myself, I have learned that the people we meet and the moments that shape us are rarely coincidental. Three years ago, through clear Divine Providence, my path crossed with that of Rabbi Bakshi—and that meeting proved to be both meaningful and transformative.

Beyond our personal connection, I have witnessed firsthand the dedication Rabbi Bakshi brings to the Chabad of Woodbridge community. Through years of tireless service, vision, and genuine care for every individual, he has helped cultivate a community that is not only growing, but deepening in spirit, unity, and purpose.



Oliver with Mayor Del Duca and MPP Tibollo at the Sukkot Celebration

Under his guidance, Chabad of Woodbridge has become a home for learning, prayer, and connection.

Our connection began through a shared appreciation for the teachings of *Toward a Meaningful Life*, but it was through Rabbi Bakshi that those ideas truly came alive. He does not merely teach Torah values—he embodies them. He leads by example, listening, guiding, and consistently placing others before himself.

Thank G-d, his impact continues to grow.

This is leadership—showing up for others.

From Darkness to Light

By Matan Ahlfeld

I grew up on a moshav and lived on a kibbutz, in a home that was proud of its Jewish identity but largely secular. Faith was not central in my life, and I believed that meaning and direction had to come from within myself.

October 7th challenged that certainty. I wasn't searching for G-d, but I found myself asking deeper questions. In the face of darkness, I began to wonder whether there might also be a force of light.

Through weekly classes and one-on-one conversations with the Rabbi, I was given space to reflect, learn, and grow—without pressure or judgment.



Matan's sons at the Purim Celebration

Learning became grounding and clarifying.

Over time, I realized that I wasn't changing who I was, but uncovering it. Through Chabad of Woodbridge, I found meaning, connection, and a renewed sense of responsibility to give.

My journey is personal, but it reflects something larger.

Community matters because it creates space for growth and light, especially when the path forward feels uncertain.

Chabad of Woodbridge provides that space, and I am grateful to be part of it.