



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

לזכות
 החייל בצבאות ה'
 לוי בן התמים ר' מנחם יצחק
 וזוגתו מרת רינה פריידל שיחיו
 טרקסלער
 לרגל הולדתו י"א ניסן ה'תש"פ
 נדפס ע"י זקניהם
 הרה"ת ר' משה גדול וזוגתו מרת שושנה
 שיחיו טרקסלר

Beyond Our Imagination!

AS TOLD BY RABBI MENDY GREENBERG (PALMER, AK)

Two years after moving out on shlichus to the Mat-Su Valley, Alaska we decided to invest in buying a home for our Chabad House until we would have the ability to purchase a large building for a proper Beis Chabad.

For the greater part of 5778 we searched for a home in a central location that was between 3,500 - 5,000 square feet, with one room large enough to host approximately 80 people and of course within a specific price range that

we felt we could handle. We toured over 50 homes and we could not find the perfect one.

In Alaska all home leases expire in the summer because it's not practical to move houses during the Alaskan winter. As the summer of 5778 rolled around we were under pressure to find a new home because we really did not want to spend the money on a rental which we felt was unwise. After some discussion, our landlord graciously agreed to



extend our lease until the middle of Tishrei and gave us the option of remaining there for the winter if nothing turned up before then.

It was 5 Tishrei 5779 and I wrote a *duch* to the Rebbe about the *peulos* of Rosh Hashanah. As I shared in the Chassidisher Derher last year, I wanted to arrange a minyan for Yom Kippur and asked the Rebbe for a *bracha* that I find bochurim to join us for Yom Kippur.

In addition I wrote about our dilemma about purchasing a new home. We had two options at the moment, both of which we were unsatisfied with and were very expensive. In addition, we were under pressure to answer our landlord about remaining in our current home for the winter.

I begged the Rebbe to show us clearly what we should do. Should we buy a new home; if yes, which one should we buy? Or should we remain in our current home for the rest of the winter?

After a very successful and uplifting Yom Kippur (with the many miracles that led to two bochurim joining us) our family traveled to the Rebbe for Sukkos and Simchas Torah. In the terminal waiting to board our flight I received a text message from Mrs. Traighli Hardy. Before sharing the text message I need to preface who this woman is.

In honor of Yud-Alef Nissan 5778 we arranged several Education Day proclamations in towns throughout the state and in the capitol. The People's Paper (a local monthly

newspaper) ran a front page article about the Rebbe and a photojournalist named Michael Hardy covered the events.

His parents, Traighli and Dan Hardy are the well to-do owners of Hardy Heating and involved in many community causes. They recently traveled to Israel together with the most prominent philanthropists in Palmer, Richard and Colleen Stryken and visited the Shiloh Israel Children's Fund (SICF). This organization is dedicated to healing the trauma of children who have been victims of terrorist attacks, R"L, owned and directed by David Rubin, the former mayor of Shiloh.

They were so impressed with SICF, and they invited David Rubin to Palmer and co-hosted a fundraiser for the SICF at the Stryken's home during Sivan. Michael Hardy knew about me from Education Day and suggested his mother invite me to the fundraiser for the Israeli organization as the local rabbi. We attended the fundraiser and started a friendly relationship with Mrs. Hardy and the Strykens.

I wished to develop the connection so in the beginning of the summer I extended an invitation to Mrs. Hardy to join us for Shabbos dinner together with the Strykens, but it never panned out.

On the day after Yom Kippur, as I prepared to board a flight to New York, Mrs. Hardy texted me "I just spoke with the Strykens. We will be happy to join your family



WITH MR STRYKEN (R) AND HIS LAWYER AT THE NEW CHABAD HOUSE.



LOCAL MAYOR SPEAKS AT THE CHABAD HOUSE OPENING.

for Friday night dinner on the first weekend of October.” That would be Shabbos Bereishis and we were scheduled to return to Wasilla a day before so it would work out for us as well.

They joined us for Shabbos dinner and it was a very pleasant evening. After Shabbos I emailed Mr. Stryken to thank him for joining us. He responded in kind and wrote that he would like to meet me for coffee.

We met a few days later and he shared with me all about himself and his new business venture. After a while he finally said to me “So tell me rabbi, what is going on with you?”

I shared with him our struggles about finding a proper home for our family and Chabad activities. He listened with great interest to what we were looking for and then asked me, “Why do you need a room to fit 80 people?”

“Because our public seder last year had 60 guests and we plan to grow it to 80.”

“Such a small vision? You need to aim for bigger and better! Listen, real estate was my career before I retired. I bought my first home when I was 16 and I know the real estate in this area very well. Let me see what I can do for you.”

A few days later Mr. Stryken sent an email notifying me that he searched 800 properties in the area online and sent me three links of homes he felt were good values with large square footage. “About the price - I’ll help you deal with that.”

After touring both properties we settled on a home that is 7,000 square feet with an additional garage that is 2,000 square feet. It was in a prime location but the price was well over our budget.

Mr. Stryken and another mutual friend of ours, Ken Kincaid, participated in all of our meetings with the real estate agent and guided us through each step of the process. Their presence was invaluable. Mr. Stryken even bargained down the price within range of our budget and donated a large sum of money as well. With the assistance of Rabbi Moshe Kotlarsky we received a generous grant from Mr. and Mrs. George and Pamela Rohr and launched a capital campaign to fundraise the down payment. On 8 Adar, two weeks before the lease on our home was up, we signed the contract on our brand new home and Chabad House.

When I asked the Rebbe in Tishrei to show us clearly what to do, we clearly needed to stay in our rented home for the winter and not buy either of the two homes we were contemplating at the time. And within a week, on the day after Yom Kippur, my first real encounter with the Strykens was confirmed which set off an amazing series of events leading up to the purchase of our new home. It is a structure which can serve as our Chabad House for the long term, in the best possible location we could wish for, with options for expansion as well.

Once again we saw clearly how our success on shlichus has nothing to do with us and our plans. When we decided to buy a house we were looking for a short term solution and when we left the decision to the Rebbe we merited to achieve something we had never dreamed of just months earlier. **1**

YOUR STORY

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