



דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

נדפס ע"י ולזכות
הרה"ת ר' יהושע דוד
וזוגתו מרת איידל חנה
ומשפחתם שיחיו
שפוטץ

You Won!

AS TOLD BY RABBI ZALMAN HEBER (TACOMA, WA)

Our shlichus in Tacoma began in the fall of 5763 and soon afterwards we purchased a home with an adjacent property that was suitable for building a Chabad Center. When we were ready to plan the new center, we realized that there was no sufficient space for a *mikvah*.

To accommodate the construction of a *mikvah*, we approached an elderly neighbor with an offer to buy her home. She rejected the offer and even took a leading role in the neighborhood opposition to our building a shul on the block. After two and a half years of a lengthy permitting process and a court hearing, we were granted the much needed permits for our shul and construction began immediately.

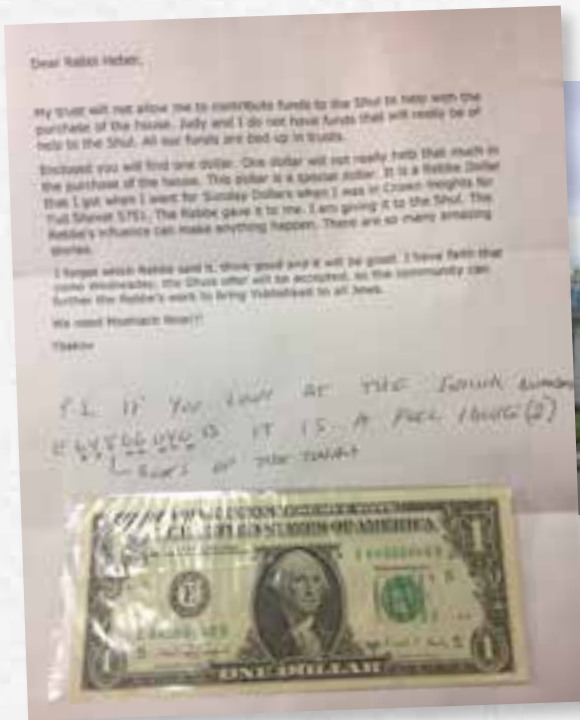
The day we broke ground for the new building, our neighbor approached us and offered to sell, but our building plans were finalized and changing them was not within our capacity at the time. We politely declined, but I

kept an eye on the house with the intentions of purchasing it at a later time.

I had always dreamed of building a replica of 770. *Boruch Hashem*, in Sivan 5772, we celebrated the *chanukas habayis* of our beautiful 770 Chabad Center.

Our relationship with our neighbor improved considerably after she realized that our building enhanced the quality of the block and the activities were not as noisy as she imagined they would be.

During Pesach this past year, we noticed much activity at her home. Due to her poor health, she was moved to an old age home and her relatives were responsible for selling her house. I met with their realtor and offered to submit an immediate offer without them having to go through the trouble of posting the house on the market. They refused my offer, since the housing market in our area is very healthy and they correctly understood that they would cut a better deal by allowing the public to bid on the house.



Together with my realtor, a member of our community, we prepared an offer hoping for the best. It was a long shot, because we knew that others had submitted much higher bids. Throughout the week, our chances of buying the home grew worse and worse.

I needed to be in New York for personal reasons, and when I was at the Ohel I wrote a *tzetel* to the Rebbe describing the property situation. We had committed to building a *mikvah* in Tacoma when the time would be right, and we felt that this was our chance. I asked the Rebbe to give me a sign that this was the right property and that we would ultimately succeed.

When I returned home the next morning, there was an envelope on the floor of my office from an elderly member of our community that contained a dollar from the Rebbe and the following note:

Enclosed you will find one dollar. One dollar will not really help that much in the purchase of the house. This dollar is a special dollar. It is a Rebbe dollar that I got when I went for Sunday Dollars when I was in Crown Heights for Yud Shevat 5751. The Rebbe gave it to me. I am giving it to the shul. The Rebbe's influence can make anything happen. There are so many amazing stories.

I forget which Rebbe said it, think good and it will be good. I have faith that come Wednesday, the shul's offer will be accepted, so the community can further the Rebbe's work to bring Yiddishkeit to all Jews.

I was overjoyed to receive such a clear sign and waited for more developments.

Two minutes later my realtor called me. "Rabbi, it's not good. There are 25 offers on this house. We need to make

an offer that is considerably higher than their asking price, but still within market value." She suggested a number and I agreed to go ahead and submit the offer. I excitedly shared with her what had just transpired and that I was confident that we would succeed.

The next day a friend of mine sent me a private Whatsapp message of an audio clip of a *sicha*. In the *sicha* the Rebbe says that institutions need to operate above their budgets in order to accomplish bigger and greater things. The Frieddiker Rebbe always ran a deficit, borrowing money to keep his activities going strong. Yet somehow he always managed to repay his debts by the year's end. By following his example and taking on more activities than the budget seems to allow, we can rest assured that we're being carried on his "broad shoulders." Hashem will surely give the added success needed to cover the deficit.¹

After hearing the short clip, I turned to my wife and said, "It's a good thing we offered more money than the asking price. The Rebbe expects us to go big."

Just then I received a phone call from my realtor. "Rabbi, it doesn't look good. We need to borrow more money."

"Absolutely", I replied. "Set the price as you see fit!"

Sure enough, our proposal was accepted despite the fact that there were four cash offers and one offer that far exceeded our bid. They had taken into account a letter we had sent them describing how important this house would be for the development of the entire community. We are now preparing the plans, raising the necessary funds, and with the Rebbe's continued *brachos* we will merit to build a beautiful *mikvah* right here in Tacoma. **T**

1. Motza'ei Shabbos Parshas Eikev 5738, sicha 5.

YOUR STORY

Share your story with A Chassidisher Derher by emailing stories@derher.org.