Hey, it’s a butterfly.

The symbol of the butterfly is there to remind us that even a butterfly that flies so beautifully has a very challenging beginning in its cocoon. So too our children. And it is our mission to give them the tools they need to fly to the best of their abilities.

Hello, Noam.

Kalman, there’s a butterfly on you.

About two years after Noam was born, and we knew she had Down syndrome, Hadar was born and we expected a healthy child. And we knew something was wrong. She wouldn’t drink from a bottle, she didn’t roll over and didn’t make sounds. When I was in the hospital, I didn’t go to her. Not even to feed her. I just couldn’t. it took me a long time to connect with her. And from there the path to Shalva was clear. We returned to Shalva,. They welcomed us with joy and love. Everything was familiar.

Seven, eight, nine…

There’s no way I can keep my daily life without Shalva. The people there only want to do my son good.

Are you looking for him?

Very good, Sapir.

Where did Sapir go?

Sapir has Progeria, a premature aging syndrome. That means that Sapir is now 15, but it’s as if she’s 60. It’s a very rare disease. There were times when I wanted to give her up for adoption but Shalva gave me the strength to carry on because if I don’t have the strength to keep on going, what will my children come to?

I missed you very much. How much?

Shalva was founded as a result of my and my wife Malki’s experience with out infant son Yossi, a beautiful, healthy baby boy who was injured at 11 months old by a faulty vaccine. Yossi became blind deaf and hyperactive and well-meaning people suggested that we institutionalize Yossi. Malki refused and often cried saying to God ‘I will never take Yossi out of the house but if you ever decide to help my Yossi, I will dedicate my life to helping other mothers of children with disabilities.’

It began with 6 children and one afterschool program and we were, quite frankly, overwhelmed. Never did we believe that we would be serving thousands of family members in a world class center.

With boundless love and compassion, Shalva cares for children from birth to adulthood with facilities designed for any kind of therapy, leisure, and research.

We put a spotlight on each and every child here, and a program is tailored to their needs. There’s always someone here you can turn to and they’re there for you out of… out of love.

Oral health care.

Bravo!

The thread that runs through all of Shalva programs is inclusion. It brings the broader community into Shalva activities and it brings the Shalva children into the community. It works like magic.

Sports & wellness.

Overnight respite provides a critical break in the incessant pressure every parent faces in raising their child with a disability.

“Jane and Michael Banks were still in bed…”

Shalva has developed a range of programs designed for our young adults.

Vocational training.

These programs empower them to lead productive lives.

Independent living in the community.

Shalva strives to enable everyone to develop their full potential and the Shalva band is an excellent example.

Eurovision 2019.

Shalva has become a center of excellence and its impact is being felt in the international arena – in research, in academic cooperation and in sharing of knowledge that benefits many centers worldwide.

I think every student studying any type of therapy should visit Shalva and see what a place that treats our special population should look like. The standards are extremely high, there’s nothing like it in Israel or abroad.

I love…

Heart

You.

Heart

I love you.

We have a lot to learn from Sapir. She taught me to love life. She may not be able to walk or hear or see, but she’s still happy and smiling.

Shalva

Giving hope, changing lives.

Kalman Samuels  
Founder and President

Rina Afinjar  
Noam and Hadar's mother

Neta Li  
Or's Mother

Dr. Ariel Tenenbarum  
Children's Health Doctor at Hadassah Medical Center & Shalva National Center Doctor

Timeline words:   
Early Intervention  
Rehabilitative Recreation  
Family Support  
Oral Health Care  
Inclusive Education  
Sports and Wellness  
Overnight Respite  
Vocational Training  
Independent Living in the Community