



Krembo Wings

A Youth Movement for
Children with and
without Disabilities

Israel's inclusive youth movement for children of all abilities



Together creating a meaningful
place for everyone



Krembo Wings breaking down barriers in society.

We include children with disabilities in a national youth movement and develop social responsibility in young leaders.

Membership in youth movements is a formative 'rite of passage' for the majority of Israeli youth. It enriches them and the country with enhanced *social and leadership skills*, a *commitment to society* and a country-wide network of *friends*.

Before Krembo Wings, children with severe to moderate disabilities had no place in the youth movement network.

Krembo Wings is the world's first inclusive youth movement and an Israeli innovation!

Krembo Wings opens the door to a new world of experiences for children and teenagers from 7 to 21 years old - regardless of their abilities and disabilities.

Krembo Wings changes the way kids get to know each other and creates a future where all of us can live together in *respect*, with *understanding* and true *friendship*.



Demand to open new branches of Krembo Wings increases yearly in communities across Israel.

Krembo Wings - learning to be tolerant, respectful and accepting of each other as a basis for common living.

The Story of Krembo Wings

In 2002, a group of teenagers banded together to make a change in their community when they noticed that children with severe disabilities were isolated from others and could not participate in youth movements. After school activities and youth movement programming are central to the lives of children and teens throughout Israel. With the help of their parents, the teens broke the traditional mold and established their own youth movement which accepts children and youth of all abilities between the ages of 7 and 21 and they named it "Krembo Wings." Since 2002, groups of teenagers in cities across Israel have established many more branches of Krembo Wings. Their own lives have been changed forever. Now they are shaping the future character of Israeli society into one of greater equality and true inclusion.

Why Krembo Wings?

Krembos are Israeli's favorite chocolate covered biscuit-and-marshmallow treat. They are so delicate that they must be hand-wrapped in a protective foil. Krembo Wings kids may need some special care, but when they are properly nurtured, they can take flight and soar. We see it every week, at Krembo Wings activities!

The news of Krembo Wings flew across the country. New branches were established by kids for kids of every type, regardless of ability, race or religion.



2002
we opened our doors, and then ...



2009
We had 9 branches with 273 members



2012
We had 20 branches with more than 1,800 members



2015
We had 47 branches with more than 4,300 members

The Gift of Friendship

For children with disabilities, afternoon hours are lonely. Because of their limitations, they remain at home while their able-bodied siblings and peers go off to extracurricular fun and sports inaccessible to them.

Krembo Wings was established to help each child fulfill her potential. Every child's greatest need is to enjoy *real friendships* and *childhood joy*. Positive social interactions are critical to healthy social development.

Whether a counselor or participant, everyone active is a registered member in Krembo Wings. They all take pride in being an integral part of the national program and mission.

Participants: Children and youth, ages 7-21 years old with a wide range of abilities and cognitive and physical disabilities. They come from all backgrounds, reflecting the diversity of Israeli society.

Counselors: Teenagers, ages 12-18 (with and without disabilities), who lead members each week at their local Krembo branch. They benefit from intensive organizational, leadership, emergency medical and other forms of training.

Counselors and members are paired together based on their personalities, abilities and disabilities. They work in groups, small and large, and generate a special *energy* of youthful *happiness*, common *purpose* and rays of *hope*.

Together they share life-changing childhood experiences.



Tikkun Olam – Making the World Better for our Youth



Summer Camp



Summer Camp



Branch Activities



Delegation to Poland



Branch Activities



Counselor Training

At Krembo Wings stereotypes are broken.

Children and teens of all backgrounds share experiences and learn from each other - to plan, to organize and even to struggle together.

Krembo Wings:

- Transforming attitudes
- Cultivating young leadership
- Creating Agents for Change to promote social solidarity and stamp out discrimination in all forms

"At Krembo Wings you will experience true joy. We have common bonds and learn to truly respect each other's differences."

Ron, 17, Herzliya branch



The President's Award
for Work with Youth, 2009



National Honor, Torchbearer
on Israel Independence Day, 2008



Yigal Alon Award for Exemplary
Pioneering Activities, 2014



מעריב
Social Movement of
the Decade, 2010



In the Community



Branch Activities



Spreading Krembo Wings

Every week, thousands of children and teenagers with and without disabilities participate in informal educational activities, games, songs and camaraderie. Each branch reflects the community it serves and absorbs the 'flavors and aromas' of that community - Krembo Wings membership is open to Israelis from all cultures – without discrimination of race or religious affiliation.

Program Development

Every Krembo Wings group draws on the insight of professionals who assist the dedicated young volunteers in developing programs. They guide counselors, work with parents and oversee operational logistics including supervised transportation. Two counselors are assigned to each member and together they find the best way to empower each other, build character and allow a sense of achievement for every individual and together as a group.

Advocacy and Awareness

Krembo Wings brings children and teenagers with disabilities into the community, preventing their social isolation and *creating true and lasting friendships*. Krembo Wings challenges children and youth of all abilities to share values, experiences and grow together. By interacting, every member learns to appreciate each other's unique personality and contribution to society.

"Everyone gives of herself and everyone benefits from understanding, empowerment, deep friendship, sensitivity, tolerance and a ton of love."

Keren, 15, Lod branch



"I hope that "Krembo Wings" youth movement will go global and that it will protect all kinds of human rights - wherever needed."

Rania, 17, Rahat branch

Rania's Life is Changed Forever

My name is Rania. I live in a traditional Bedouin community in Rahat. I once asked my father about planning for a University education and he refused to hear of it. He said it's a waste of money that he does not have. "Girls don't need higher education in Bedouin society, only boys," he explained.

Then I joined Krembo Wings and was appointed to a leadership position. I was the liaison between the branch and its members and their families. It really empowered me. My self-esteem grew. Eventually I thought about my future again only this time I resolved to study in University, despite the fact that I live in a traditional community. At Krembo Wings I learned that I can combine a family life with studies and work too. I am determined to make a good life for myself.

One day my father came to visit Krembo Wings and watched me and my co-members in action. On the way home, Dad became emotional and said: "Rania, I am so impressed with you! You are an excellent manager. If you still want to study in University, I will find a way to help you."

I will never forget that moment in my life! I did what I knew to be right and I really learned to respect everyone. And in the end, I won my father's blessing!! I am thrilled!

Inclusion: Shaping a new social consciousness

Member

Seventeen year-old May was born with a spinal cord disability: "I can't wait for the bus that picks me up and brings me to Krembo Wings. I can finally hang out with friends after school like other kids. We paint murals and sing and shout the cheers of Krembo Wings together. We are a really tight group."



Parent

Noa's daughter, Ya'ara, has cerebral palsy and limited eyesight and hearing: "Discovering Krembo Wings was a transformative experience for me: My daughter now spends social time with other children - instead of being isolated with only us - her family. Together, they enjoy a special spirit of adventure, positive energies and joie de vivre that we can't provide. I couldn't be happier because Ya'ara now has such a happy childhood."



Counselor

Tom, counselor at the Kiryat Shmona branch: At Krembo Wings' training seminars you gain important tools that help you deal with real life situations. Everything I learn through our activities and through my amazing partner has become the way I define myself. I don't know where it will all lead me but I am a leader, a friend, an organizer and a person who sees beyond the outer packaging.



Professional

Michal Nagari, Director of the Ra'anana Education Department: "At Krembo Wings children and teens discover strengths and skills that they didn't know they had. They benefit from being in the mainstream like everyone else. Sometimes I think one hour of Krembo Wings does them more good than a week of traditional therapy."

Benefits of Krembo Wings

Membership:

- Sense of belonging
- Improved communication and social skills
- Advanced leadership training
- Stereotypes are broken
- Heightened sense of fairness and justice





*"Involvement in Krembo Wings has a ripple effect on everyone. We have attitude. Really positive attitude. It's contagious."
Yuval, 18, Modi'in branch*

Afik's Story

My name is Afik and I am the first blind counselor at Krembo Wings. Before I joined Krembo Wings, I never thought it would be possible for me to take part in a youth movement.

Rotem, my special partner is my eyes at the branch. During the activities she describes everything to me. I help her understand things because I know how to reach her and explain things in a way she can comprehend. We have a really good connection, a common language.

Krembo Wings made me believe in myself and dare to be active in a youth movement just like everyone else. For me it's a dream come true.



I'm a better person because I became a person that cares." Danielle, 16, Kfar Saba branch

Julian's Story

I was born in Argentina and moved to Israel with my family when I was 3 years old. An immigrant always feels different - the cultural differences, the accent... I wanted so much to belong.

When I was 12 I was sent to a boarding school. I was a wild kid who couldn't find my place anywhere. Everybody in the new school went to the Krembo Wings branch and I went with them, not knowing exactly what it was. After two weeks I knew in my heart that I finally found my calling.

Children and youth from all backgrounds were active together – religious and secular, Jewish and Arab, with disabilities and without - all were friends having a great time, doing great community work. I was not judged. I was loved and accepted for who I am!

Since joining Krembo Wings, I have changed and become a better person. I became a counselor and a leader of my branch and joined a pre-army service program and I can see a bright future for myself. That is a truly great feeling!

Better Together

you can empower young Israelis to soar to the greatest heights

You can help Krembo Wings spread higher and reach out to every community.

By giving every child the chance to be an integral part of his community from a young age, you will give him a gift for life – self-confidence, self-esteem and social skills to feel connected. As we grow, tomorrow's leaders will be better able to work together to create a positive, healthy community.

\$50,000

opens a new branch serving 80-100 kids

\$30,000

supports the annual costs of a branch in an underserved community

\$14,000

sponsors transportation for members with disabilities at one branch for a year's activities

\$11,000

trains a team of 70 counselors in leadership and social values

\$7,500

funds a scholarship for an adult coordinator to manage one branch

\$2,250

sponsors a special member on our inclusive Delegation to Poland

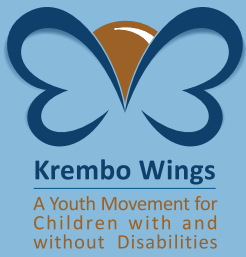
\$1,300

equips one Krembo branch with a dynamic activity kit

\$900

sends a member and his family to Krembo Wings' summer camp





Krembo Wings: The Israeli Grassroots Youth Movement for ALL. Combining childhood joy and social responsibility.

Your donation today will make a child smile for life:

Tax deductible donations may be made by sending checks earmarked for Krembo Wings, Israel tax registration #580-455-681, to the following:



United States

P.E.F. Israel Endowment
Funds, Inc., 630 Third Ave.,
15th Floor New York, NY 10017

Earmarked for Krembo Wings

Canada

The Ne'eman Foundation
75 Lisa Crescent
Thornhill, ON L4J 2N2

Earmarked for Krembo Wings

United Kingdom

Jewish Child's Day
707 High Road,
London N12 0BT

Earmarked for Krembo Wings

Israel

Krembo Wings
22 Hata'as St.,
P.O. Box 2242,
Kfar Saba, 4442524

Online donations in the US, UK and Canada : www.Israelgives.org (Krembo Wings)

To donate in Israel and for further information: www.krembo.org.il

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