



THOUGHTS OF A NEW STAFF

By Rachel

When I joined the staff team of Ahuva Good Shepherd - Interim Placement and Assessment Centre (IPAC) in September 2021, it was very clear in my mind that I was to take care of the children.

I recall that on my first day of work I was quite nervous, wondering how the kids will react to me, what my teammates were like. All the anxiety disappeared when I was greeted with a warm smile and a cheery, "Welcome to IPAC".

My days in IPAC have truly been a heart-warming experience for me especially with the children. There are days that resemble roller coaster rides, attending to the needs of several children all at once. But at the end of the day after I have sent them to bed, I always feel happy because I know the children had a good day. Before IPAC I had no experience looking after children, so I was pleasantly surprised that they were generally very loving and sweet natured despite their hardships and fears.

Among my fond memories at IPAC is a scrap of crumpled paper that was pressed into my hand by a child as she was leaving for her next journey. The note read: "Although life has been unfair to me, but guess what? I decided to keep fight through it and never let anything bring me down :->" I suddenly realized that I had something to learn from the children as well. I still feel sad as I wave goodbye to every child during their discharge from IPAC, however I also feel hopeful for them. To be able to move on and start a new chapter in their life. For me, I might have to get a box to store the precious notes that I'm presented with.

I am very thankful to my wonderful colleagues who work tirelessly with me to create a safe space for the children to heal and grow and to the children for teaching me lessons in hope and living.

