

LAKESWOOD COMMUNITY UNITES IN SUPPORT OF RABBI EISEMANN

Rabbi Osher Eisemann
with Hagaon Harav
Chaim Kanievsky shlita



A massive pidyon shvuyim campaign is underway in preparation for the January 15 trial of Rabbi Osher Eisemann. The beloved founder of SCHI, a school for children with special needs, has been embroiled in a legal battle with the state for over two years.

Rabbi Eisemann founded SCHI in 1995, spurred by the need for a school for his own special child, and propelled by the vision of his father, Rav Moshe Eisemann *zt"l*. On his last day, the elder Rav Eisemann charged his son with this unique calling.

Rabbi Eisemann tackled his new mission with tireless dedication, and spearheaded one of the earliest initiatives in the world of special education. It did not take long for Rabbi Eisemann to realize how acute our community's need for his school was. What began in a storefront location with five children, steadily blossomed into a remarkable institution with hundreds of students. Today, SCHI is housed in a magnificent, state of the art facility, and a household name throughout the broader community.

Klal Yisrael's appreciation toward Rabbi Eisemann has become evident during these past few weeks, as he prepares for the trial.

Gedolim and legal experts are united in their support for Rabbi Eisemann. In the words of one attorney familiar with the case, "this is not a prosecution, but rather a persecution." After carefully reviewing the details of the case, Rav Shmuel Kamenetzky echoed the sentiment.

A number of *gedolim* and *rabbonim* affixed their signatures to a public letter lauding Rabbi Eisemann's honest and selfless dedication to the Jewish community, and termed the cause "a *tzedakah* which supersedes all others."

In fact, Rav Shlomo Miller attached a decisive halachic ruling to his own signature: "*Mitzvah gedolah l'batzilo*—it is a great *mitzvah* to save him."

The Roshei Yeshiva and Mashgiach of the Lakewood Yeshiva also released a letter encouraging us to act on our debt of gratitude toward Rabbi Eisemann for all he has done for our community.

In a heartfelt public address regarding the

allegations leveled against Rabbi Eisemann, Rav Elya Ber Wachtfogel stated unequivocally that the case should have been thrown out of court long ago, and wondered aloud why someone who is so *moser nefesh* for others would be placed in such a situation. "It can only be that Hashem wants us to be *nosei b'ol*. There are so many *tzaros*... Hashem wants something from us and we have to go beyond our capabilities to help."

The fundraising campaign was launched on Wednesday, December 19, in all Lakewood Yeshiva's locations. In an inspiring show of solidarity, thousands of *yungeleit* donated generously with open hands and hearts (some even gave the stipends they had just received). Hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised

in just a few days; a testament to the esteem in which Rabbi Eisemann is held. The campaign has since extended to shuls throughout Lakewood. Still, the legal fees are mounting, and the prosecution is pushing relentlessly for an extended prison sentence.

In a parallel effort, tens of women and girls have joined to study *sefer Oz V'hadar Levusha*. (To join, please call 732.806.8139, and enter option 1, and 1 again.)

Amid the outpouring of support, a steady stream of letters have been sent by admirers and beneficiaries of Rabbi Eisemann's work.

A few excerpts:

"We started this process nineteen years ago; it was a very lonely process. No one was there to understand us. Then someone introduced us to Rabbi Eisemann. It was the most blessed day of our lives... Rabbi Eisemann has become my role model. He

was available for our family at any time, day or night. I learned from him the importance of being there for others... Whether it meant giving up on family time or any other responsibilities, Rabbi Eisemann was there for support. Our special needs community has the opportunity to work with a selfless, upstanding man, who has only one care in the world—helping those with special needs. Rabbi Eisemann's goal in life is not money, fame, or a fancy title—all he wants is for children to reach their potential."

"I can go on and on and describe in great detail the incredible compassion and concern Rabbi Eisemann has shown us over the years, but what >>>

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amazes me most is meeting countless other parents just like my wife and I, and each of them feels as though they are his number one priority... After one particular phone call with him, I apologized profusely for all the time he was spending with me. He quickly interrupted me and said, "If I'm not helping others, what am I on this earth for?"

"Rabbi Eisemann's hand-holding" literally breathed hope into our lives. He is undoubtedly one of the most inspirational people we know. It is crystal clear that his tremendous devotion to SCHI's children stems only from his intense desire to help as many special children as he can... Our esteem for him is rivaled only by our hopes for his continued ability to lead the incredible institution that he created."

The representatives from the state were shocked, to say the least, and they were unclear as to how to proceed, because no one had ever attempted to return money before.

"In addition to our personal experience, we can also testify on behalf of other SCHI parents that Rabbi Eisemann is a leader par excellence. We have heard firsthand from these families that Rabbi Eisemann has saved them from the abyss. He breathes life into these children and their families every day... We will need Rabbi Eisemann's continued guidance, support and wisdom for a very long time."

"Rabbi Eisemann is known for seeking the truth in all areas of life. In fact, many years ago, when SCHI was in its early stages, Rabbi Eisemann received a grant from the state. After the project was completed, there was still some grant money remaining. Rabbi Eisemann contacted the state to find out how to go about returning the leftover money. The representatives from the state were shocked, to

say the least, and they were unclear as to how to proceed, because no one had ever attempted to return money before."

"Whereas in the previous agency we had attended, many requests were denied as a matter of course, in SCHI the same requests were met with, 'We will do whatever is in our legal power to further your son's progress.' We were awestruck."

"Rabbi Eisemann makes himself available at all times to assist with any needs a family may have. This includes actually taking physical care of special needs children when needed. This was a shock to me when I first started working here, as I had interned in another school where I observed students being shortchanged... To be honest, I am astounded that there are people who accuse Rabbi Eisemann of any financial wrongdoing. He lives a simple life. He has a strong belief that G-d provides for each person. There have been times when coworkers and I had to explain to him that not everyone is like him; some are motivated by materialistic gains. He seems to truly have a hard time comprehending this concept."

Please daven for Osher ben Chana Frumit.

Call our 24-hour pidyon shvuyim hotline at 732.813.1212

(Corrected Number)

Or mail checks to 307 Dewey Avenue, Lakewood, N.J. 08701

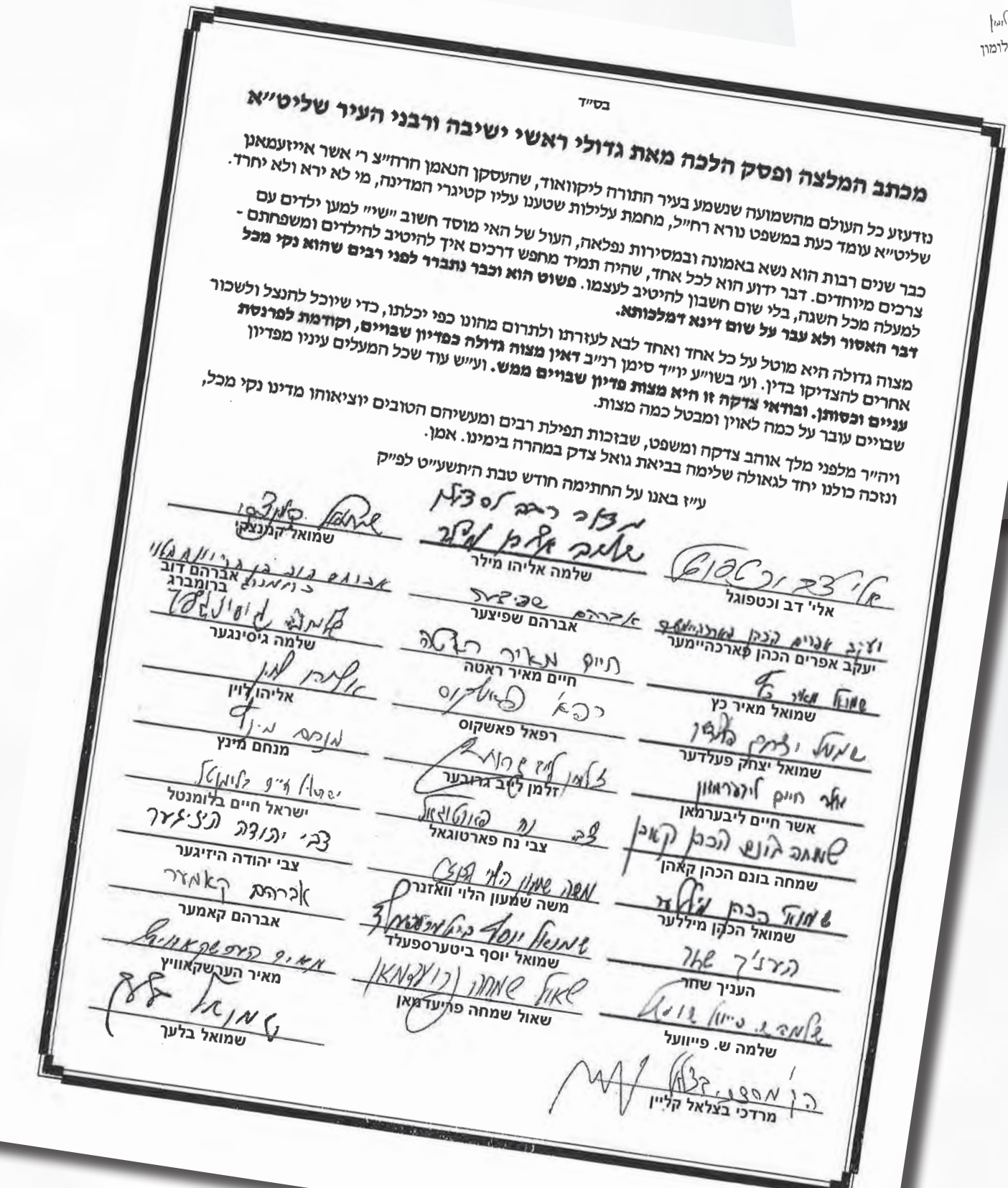
Please make all checks payable to CZR (tax deductible)

Or visit <https://secure.cardknox.com/pidyonshvuyim>

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נודע בשערים גדול השיבות המוסד הדגול "שי", שבה מחנכים ומטפחים ילדים בעלי צרכים מיוחדים במסירות נפלאה, שנתייסד ע"י הרה"צ ר' אשר אייזעמאן שליט"א שהוא עצמו השקיע כל כוחותיו וכל מאודו למען הצלחת המוסד, וכדי להטיב עם הילדים הללו בכל אופן שהוא. ומה מאוד נחייבנו כולנו כאחד בחובת הכרת טובתו מצד התמסרותו בעדם. ולעת כזאת אשר הרה"ר אשר שליט"א נקלע למצב דחוק וקשה עד מאוד, ורקוק לרחמי שמים מרובים, הגנו פונים אל ידידנו תושבי עירינו הי"ו ומבקשים אותם לבוא לעזרתו ולתת כל מה שביכולתם לתת, כדי שיוכל להמשיך בעבודתו עבודת הקודש בלי שום הפסק, ומתוך מנוחה ושלוה. וטוב עין הוא יבורך בכל הברכות האמורות במזכי הרבים ועושי צדקה בכל עת.

ט"ו טבת תשע"ט לפ"ק
ארי מלביא קוטלר
בלאמ"ר הגרי"ח ש"צוק"ל
דוד צבי שוסטאל
ישראל צבי ניומאן
יורם אולשין
דוד צבי שוסטאל
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LAKWOOD COMMUNITY UNITES IN SUPPORT OF RABBI EISEMANN

REMARKS FROM A MEETING CONCERNING THE EISEMANN CASE

MOTZOEI SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYIGASH

I recall an askan saying at the start of the Rubashkin saga, “Don’t think this can only happen in Iowa—a place with barely a Jewish presence and no Jewish influence. It can happen anywhere.”

And now, in 2018 in New Jersey, we have a case which, in the words of one attorney, *is not a prosecution, but a persecution*. We have a scenario where, in order to obtain an indictment, the prosecution showed the grand jury a single bank account, and alleged that the government funds that were deposited were later withdrawn for personal use. The jury was not shown that the organization’s other accounts contained the dollar amount provided by the state. The state claims that funds were misused, while at the same time, state orders show that not only had SCHI spent the dollar amount from the government funds on services for the children, it had actually spent *more* than the amount provided!

The question often asked is, if it is so clear that no crime was committed, why is there any need to fear a trial? In answer to this query, I would like to quote one of the lawyers: “When going to trial, we have to

take into account the ‘Jewish aspect.’” The Asbury Park Press paints Rabbi Eisemann and our cherished SCHI in the ugliest of terms. There is a reporter for the AP (Associated Press) who has a WhatsApp account dedicated exclusively for the SCHI affair. How can we expect a fair trial?

This persecution has continued for over two years. The SCHI foundation—which raises millions to pay for camp and other non-funded programs necessary for special children—is being painted as an arm to funnel government

money into undeserving hands; a facade for a major criminal operation called “SCHL.” The *tzaddik* who gives his entire life to help these children is being framed as the leader of a criminal organization.

When the judge denied the Defense’s motion, the Asbury Park Press reported, “Even though the indictment stands, Rabbi Eisemann is still being supported by the Dean of BMG and hundreds of people in Lakewood.” It is not Rabbi Eisemann whom they are after; it is every single one of us.

Esav is doing what it is supposed to do *l’mehadrin*; we must do what we are supposed to do.

The trial date, January 15, is nearing. The legal fees are becoming astronomical, and additional experts for the trial are still needed, in addition to public relations efforts to counteract the negative influence of the media.

Let us not allow the lack of funds to cause a tragedy to befall us, *Rachmana litzlan*. Let us join together and tell Rabbi Eisemann, “One thing you don’t have to worry about is money.”

Kol d’mei achicha tzoakim. Consider the pain of this *tzaddik* and his family. We cannot wait for a fearsome verdict to bring us together. In the *zechus* of this *mitzvah*, may we be *zoche* to see the *yeshuah* for this *tzarab* and all *tzaros*, and merit to see the *Geulah Sheleima*, Amen.

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EXCERPTS FROM HARAV ELYA BER WACHTFOGEL’S ADDRESS AT A MEETING CONCERNING THE EISEMANN CASE

MOTZOEI SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYIGASH

The situation with yedideinu Rav Osher has been going on for two and a half years. Many people attended the last court case, and they all saw that the allegations were literally *hevel havalim*.

Sometimes there are cases of *pidyon shvuyim* where someone actually did something wrong. But here it was clear that the defendant did not do anything wrong. (Even according to their allegations, he did nothing for himself; but the truth is he did nothing at all.) There was nothing there; the case should have been thrown out of court. Unfortunately, the prosecution is being relentless and we see that it will not be simple at all.

As Yosef HaTzaddik told the Sar HaMashkim: —*I was stolen from my father’s home and even here I have done nothing wrong for them to place me in this prison.*

Everyone present saw that it was entirely anti-Semitism and *sinas Yisrael*. We feel that we live in America, but we have to look at this as if we are living in Russia.

It is clear that they do not only mean Rav Osher—if we let this fall through *chas v’chalila*... They want to introduce a *me-halech* to get all of us. If this is successful, they will go for the next one. They can always find something and press meaningless charges.

Rav Osher is a person who is *moser nefesh* for the *tzibur* with all his heart and soul. He gets nothing from it; barely a *parnassab*. It has no *psbat*.

The only *psbat* can be that the Ribbono Shel Olam wants us to have a *tikun* and be *nosei b’ol im chaveiro*. Rav Osher was put in this situation for us; it is we who need a *tikun*. The Ribbono Shel Olam means us more than He means Rav Osher. There are so many *tzaros*: illnesses, *shidduchim*, tragedies. Hashem wants something from us and we have to be *nosei b’ol*.

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Shlomo HaMalech says, —*I have found one ben aliyah out of a thousand*. Yet, the Midrash tells us that that entire generation received *Olam Haba*. So how can it be that only one in a thousand were *b’nei aliyah*? The Chassid Yaavetz explains: A person can serve Hashem properly within the limitations of his natural abilities and go to *Olam Haba*. However, *b’nei aliyah* are those who go above and beyond their capability. That is what the Ribbono Shel Olam wants from us. To go beyond our ability to help Rav Osher.

Everyone is asked—whoever can and whoever cannot—to overcome his natural *kochos* and help. It is real *pidyon shvuyim*, which I do not have to explain. Accept upon yourselves to give more than you can and help him be exonerated. In this *zechus*, may we merit to see great *tikunim* and *masbiach tzidkeinu bim’heira byameinu*.

LAST WEEK THE WRONG NUMBER WAS LISTED. PLEASE NOTE NEW NUMBER: 732.813.1212
IF SOMEONE WANTS TO ORGANIZE A COLLECTION IN THEIR SHUL THEY SHUOLD CALL 848.210.6737