



Garden School Victoria

**Brisas del Valle, Colonia Victoria
San Pedro Sula, Honduras, C.A.**

September 16, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Gal Weizman. I met Gal when he became a volunteer at Garden School Victoria in April 2018. Our volunteers deal with many challenges. They live in basic housing where there are often power and water outages. In addition, they teach with limited supplies and resources to students that have unique discipline problems due to complicated home lives. Gal was not only able to handle these challenges, but was able to excel and encourage those around him to excel as well.

Gal started as a volunteer teacher at GSV with no teaching experience. He initially worked as our resource teacher, working with students who were struggling academically or behaviorally. He would either work with these students one-on-one out of the classroom or he would help in the classroom, helping to manage discipline or academic issues. Due to the poor education system in Honduras, there are no resources for students with learning disabilities. We typically have at least one or two students in each class that have undiagnosed or untreated learning or behavioral issues and several other students that deal with abuse, neglect, or extreme poverty in their home lives. These students, in a country with better resources, would most likely be in special programs or working with trained professionals on a regular basis.

Although Gal had no teaching experience, he was an incredibly effective resource teacher. He got to know the kids and their needs. Gal was open to advice and willing to work hard. Due to our limited resources, volunteers sometimes need to be creative when coming up ways to teach students. Gal spent significant time working with Fernando, a 5th grader who was unable to read or write due to a learning disability. For most of his life, Fernando was just left to sit in the back of the class. Few teachers took interest in helping him. Gal put in a great deal of effort into coming up with creative solutions to help Fernando learn to read. He incorporated music and physical activities that got Fernando excited about his resource classes. In a school where resource teaching was previously unheard of, Gal showed other volunteers and our Honduran staff the importance of taking an interest in struggling students, rather than just ignoring them and moving on with the rest of the class. Now, a few months later, Fernando is starting to read and has shown vast improvement.

After a month of resource teaching, Gal opted to stay on at GSV for longer than he originally intended. We had two volunteers leaving and needed someone to fill one of their spots, so Gal volunteered to take our 1st grade class, as well as 7th and 8th grade. Our 7th and 8th grade classes are difficult for volunteers since the students tend to have significant problems with attitude. They also have a very low level of English. Because of their age, the students often

complain about learning the basics of English and say that it is boring, even though they are not ready for more advanced material. Gal was able to earn their respect, which is no small feat, and keep the classes under control and entertained. He put in extra effort outside of class to plan lessons that the students would enjoy. I know that he has still kept in touch with several students from those grades since he left.

Perhaps Gal's greatest strength as a volunteer was his willingness to get involved in the community. His first grade students absolutely adored him and Gal would take time after school to go and visit his students in their homes. He got to know their families. This not only made the students feel special and loved, but it also allowed Gal to better understand each student as an individual and understand their background. This was incredibly helpful in the classroom since he was able to better deal with discipline issues. Since he left Honduras, Gal has not abandoned his students. We recently had a first grader who was diagnosed with liver cancer. Gal did not hesitate before starting a Go Fund Me to raise funds for her treatment and raised over a thousand dollars to help her and her family.

I highly recommend Gal for any position working with children. He is kind, caring, willing to work hard, and able to deal with difficult students in a loving and understanding way. He truly cares about the children he works with and is willing to go above and beyond to help them in any way he can. I would happily hire him again for any position available. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Faris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Faris
Vice Principal & Volunteer Coordinator
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