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— Rep. Chris Smith

New York and Jerusalem Twin On Autism

Jerusalem is on the verge of becoming a global leader in autism research and education.

The New York-based ICare4Autism organization will inaugurate its new Global Center for Autism Research and Education on Mount Scopus next year, with a five-acre, \$50 million campus scheduled to open in 2014.

Representative Christopher Smith (R-NJ), chairman of the House Global Health Subcommittee and cochairman of the House Coalition on Autism Research and Education, tells *Mishpacha* that global coordination is imperative, and praises Israel as one nation that is “well advanced” in this effort.

Rep. Smith, who has championed the autism cause since the mid-1990s when a high rate of the disorder was found in his district, heralded President Obama’s recent signature on the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011 that Smith sponsored. The measure allocates \$693 million over the next three years for autism research, screening, intervention, and education. Autism is a complex developmental disability, with no single known cause, that typically appears before a child turns three. It affects a person’s ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is defined as a “spectrum

disorder” that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees.

“I believe that real answers about autism will be delineated soon,” Rep. Smith told *Mishpacha*. “There has been a much sharper focus on the issue in recent years.”

ICare4Autism was founded by Dr. Joshua Weinstein. Harvey Seifter, ICare4Autism’s director of special projects, says the focus of the Jerusalem center’s on-site research institute will be to promote prevention and early intervention. It will also be home to the world’s first university-level school of autism studies, a training center for medical and educational professionals, and a comprehensive development center to focus on the vocational needs of adults with autism.

“The fact that Israel will be at the forefront of helping find a cure for autism will further enhance the special US–Israel relationship by giving Israel’s allies another reason to support it and highlight its contribution to the world,” said Ezra Friedlander, an advisor to ICare4Autism.

Mr. Seifter says he has already seen an example of that. “A leading autism expert from [predominantly Muslim] Malaysia recently told me that in so many ways, Jerusalem is the center of the world. The location sounded right to him.”

— Shimmy Blum

Cheaper Bread Means Rise in Dough

In the UK’s current difficult financial environment, the welfare cuts precipitated by the government have motivated two Golders Green businessmen to help the Jewish community in a practical, family-friendly way by offering kosher bread and challah at half the regular retail price.

With over 7,000 Jewish families in the London areas and some 3,000 in Manchester, where the new product is soon headed, the program — called The Family Bread — is cutting at least £40 a month from the average family’s weekly expenses, and much more for local shuls and *mosdos* who buy in larger quantities.

For these 10,000 families alone, the new initiative will likely save a whopping £5 million-



Jerusalem mayor Nir Barkat meets top executives at the DH Blair investment firm in Manhattan to launch ICare4Autism’s new Jerusalem center