



Malta House of Care

Mobile Medical Clinic

Wonder Women Class of '18 Ronit Shoham of West Hartford Community "Glue"

Ronit Shoham's resume is packed with the names of organizations and projects with which she's been involved since 1982, when she came to this country after serving for two years as a social worker in the Israeli Army.

She's been a teacher. A Board member (for four organizations). A Social Action Chair, Gala Chair, fundraiser, volunteer. And a Founder – five times over! Beginning in 2002, Ronit either founded or helped to found:

- [the Miracle League of Connecticut, which enables children with physical and mental challenges to play baseball.](#)
- The [Underground](#), a drug- and alcohol-free place for West Hartford teens to hang with friends
- West Hartford Little League, an additional townwide league for baseball-loving kids
- The [Challenger Division of West Hartford Little League](#), which allows kids with cognitive or physical disabilities to play baseball
- [Cut Out Cancer, which provides free days of beauty at Bloomfield's Milano salon for people undergoing treatment.](#)

Most recently, she teamed up with her friend, Amy Jaffee Barzach, to raise \$1.2 million to refurbish [Jonathan's Dream Reimagined](#), located at the Jewish Community Center in West Hartford – one of the first inclusive, accessible playspaces in the U.S. It reopened in October 2017.

Ronit's efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2008, she won the Noah Webster Award from the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce; in 2015, she won the Stars for Kids Award from the West Hartford Kiwanis Club; and just last year, she received both the IEA Stars Award from the Intensive Education Academy and the [Polaris Award from Leadership Greater Hartford](#).

Whew!

The one title that does not appear on Ronit's resume is "glue" – but maybe it should. Because when you take a step back and look at Ronit Shoham's remarkable decades of service to her community, you can't help but think of that word, that role. *She's* been the glue who patched good ideas together; who matched motivated, passionate people with one another; who stuck with things to see them through to the end.

Without people like Ronit, our communities would be disjointed, disconnected, and ultimately dysfunctional. We are all in her debt.