We’re excited to officially welcome Gal Avni Barlev as the new Director of Haruv USA at OU-Tulsa — a training institute for professionals in the field of child abuse and neglect.

This purposeful rotation of social work professionals from Israel allows us to continue to share our collective knowledge and experience, furthering our profession and our worldwide work dedicated to the prevention and treatment of abused and neglected children.

Gal was born in Israel and earned her Master’s and Bachelor’s in Social Work from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Currently she is a PhD student at Haifa University. She most recently served as the Director of “Beit Lynn - Child Advocacy Center” in Beer-Sheva for 6 years. Prior to that role, she was an Instructor, Child Protection Officer and Head of the Social Workers’ Team in Yeruham Municipal Council. Gal is married and has 3 daughters.

As the Director of Haruv USA, Gal will be responsible for working directly with our OU-Tulsa Social Work faculty to plan and host professional development trainings and social simulations for professionals across the state, collaborate with a variety of community partners, as well as continue to coordinate and host the series of Haruv USA free public lectures where national experts in the field of child abuse and maltreatment come to share their expertise.

Haruv USA’s mission is to support and nurture professionals dedicated to the prevention, identification, reporting, and treatment of abused and neglected children. Haruv USA trains social workers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, judges, counselors, teachers, and anyone who works with abused children and their families. Haruv USA also connects the many services here in Tulsa.

In Hebrew, “Haruv” means Carob tree. There is an Israeli fable about a man who planted a Carob tree. When asked why he planted a tree that won’t bear fruit for 70 years, he responded, “So my children and grandchildren will get to enjoy it.” Haruv USA carries the same name because future generations will enjoy the fruit of our work.

Welcome, Gal! We’re thrilled to have you join the OU-Tulsa family.