

# PHILLY STANDS WITH ISRAEL

FEBRUARY 2024



**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Philadelphia

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The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia mobilizes financial and volunteer resources to address the communities' most critical priorities locally, in Israel and around the world.

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**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Philadelphia





“

Everything we've invested,  
we need to sustain.  
We need to see that these  
communities will survive.

Talia Lidar, Director of Israel and Global Operations  
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

”



Scan this code to watch video

## The Jewish Federation is built for moments like this.

For over a quarter of a century, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia has formed and nurtured a strong bond with its Partnership2Gether (P2G) communities of Netivot and Sdot Negev, which are located in southern Israel and border Gaza. When exploring these regions, you will feel the heart of not only Israel, but also Philadelphia: they even have a Liberty Bell.

That camaraderie is due to the generosity of donors who have enabled the Jewish Federation to connect deeply with the people and institutions there and learn about their unique geographical and socioeconomic realities compared to the rest of the country and world. Through longstanding conversations, relationships and trust, the Jewish Federation has been able to identify and address various issues through its Jewish Community Fund that have and continue to help these regions flourish and be actively prepared for emergencies, such as the Oct. 7 massacre.

When the Oct. 7 attacks happened, the Jewish Federation's team in Israel was already positioned to responsibly raise and effectively allocate your dollars to where the need was greatest through the **Philly Stands with Israel Emergency Fund**.

Thanks to you, the Jewish Federation responded immediately to the urgent crisis and proudly showed how the Greater Philadelphia community is a leader in fighting for humanity. Your support has enabled the Israeli people to remain resilient in the face of unrelenting trauma and continues to act as a guiding light as they begin to rebuild.

**44+ ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED**

**\$15.5+ MILLION RAISED**

**4,200+ DONORS**





# Am Yisrael Chai

**THE JEWISH FEDERATION** is grateful to the Greater Philadelphia community which answered the call of need and generously donated over **\$15.5 million** to the **Philly Stands with Israel Emergency Fund**, addressing immediate and recovery needs in its partnership regions as well as other communities in the country. As of Feb. 1, the Jewish Federation has allocated **\$11.6 million** through a combination of direct distribution and designated gifts. The Jewish Federation looks forward to sharing an update on the rebuilding efforts in Israel next quarter.



**188th Barak Brigade Foundation .....\$20,000**

The 188th Barak Armored Brigade is an Israeli armored brigade, subordinate to Israel's Northern Regional Command. Emergency funding equipped 1,000 units with winter gear to prepare for cooler temperatures.

**Abraham Initiatives .....\$5,000**

As part of Abraham Initiatives, Home Front Command specializes in civilian protection during crises or war. Emergency funding enabled the organization to create and distribute a video in Arabic for the Bedouin community to prepare and protect Arab citizens during this ongoing war.

**ALL4Israel .....\$5,000**

ALL4Israel provides emergency help to families and seriously injured citizens in Israel with medical assistance. Emergency funding went toward the organization's overall emergency relief efforts.

**American Friends of Magen**

**David Adom of Greater Philadelphia ..... \$130,000**

Magen David Adom (MDA) is a nongovernmental agency and Israel's official representative to the International Red Cross. It is responsible for providing disaster relief, ambulance and blood services. Emergency funding supported MDA's emergency response efforts.

**American Joint Distribution Committee ..... \$100,000**

The American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is a leading global Jewish humanitarian organization, working in 70 countries around the world. Emergency funding supported life-saving social services for children and youth at risk, the elderly, and people with disabilities. It also provided economic relief for Israelis in distress, including small business owners in the south, and supported psychosocial training for frontline responders.

**Asif .....\$39,200**

Asif is a nonprofit organization and culinary center in Tel Aviv dedicated to cultivating and nurturing Israel's diverse and creative food culture. It is a joint venture of the New York City-based Jewish Food Society and Tel Aviv's Start-Up Nation Central. Emergency funding provided meals to 6,000 Israel Defense Forces' soldiers in Netivot and Sdot Negev.

**Association for the Advancement of the Residents of the Eshkol Region .....\$20,000**

The Association for the Advancement of Residents in the Eshkol Region advances programs in education, welfare and culture to promote equal opportunity for Eshkol's peripheral communities. Responding to the needs of war, the association dispatched therapists to hotels and evacuation points to create therapeutic spaces for evacuees. Emergency funding provided ongoing trauma support for children.

**Association for the Wellbeing of Israel's Soldiers .....\$950,000**

The Association for the Wellbeing of Israel's Soldiers (AWIS) is the sole avenue through which donations are directly made to the Israel Defense Forces' soldiers and units. Emergency funding went towards a simulator to train civilian doctors to become army doctors in the reserves.

**Atidim's Emergency Student Fund ..... \$100,000**

Atidim's Futures initiative creates and implements innovative educational programs that effectively address socioeconomic disparities to foster a stronger, more inclusive and prosperous Israel for all. Emergency funding went toward the organization's emergency efforts in Israel.

**Ayalim Association .....\$20,000**

Ayalim Association promotes the values of Zionism, Jewish identity and young entrepreneurship by running 11 student and entrepreneur villages in the Negev and Galilee regions. Emergency funding supported basic needs, like food, for the influx of displaced Israelis housed in its Ashalim facility.

“ We just went to a party to celebrate. To have fun. And he was murdered.”

Tamar Kan, 23, survivor of the Supernova festival



Tamar Kan was wounded at the Supernova festival on Oct. 7, being struck by a bullet that caused severe damage to her abdomen and the nerves in her right leg. Her boyfriend, Ofek, was murdered. Kan's father is now the sole caregiver for his daughter, and they receive support from the Jewish Agency for Israel, supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, for immediate medical costs and to



upgrade the home to better suit her altered physical needs.

◀ Hear her harrowing story here.



**Branco Weiss Institute ..... \$125,000**  
The Branco Weiss Institute aims to develop educational materials to promote learning and cognitive thinking in schools throughout Israel. In partnership with the Schusterman Foundation, the Branco Weiss Institute created pop-up schools for evacuees in both the north and south of Israel. Emergency funding helped open schools, and hire teachers and social workers.

**Dror Israel..... \$138,000**  
Dror Israel provides therapeutic emotional and educational support by establishing makeshift schools and day care centers for thousands of evacuee children and families. Emergency funding provided trauma response support for two weeks for those living in Mitzpei Ramon.

**Emergency Volunteers Project..... \$145,000**  
The Emergency Volunteers Project is a disaster relief and rescue organization whose primary mission is to deploy volunteer teams to Israel in times of crisis. Emergency funding deployed 40 American firefighters to Israel.

**Social Delivery ..... \$24,000**  
Social Delivery was founded to bridge the gap between discarded consumer goods and vulnerable populations who lack necessary resources. By collecting consumer goods from companies, Social Delivery transports the items to nonprofit organizations that benefit vulnerable populations. Emergency funding went toward one truck for each of the eight evacuated Sdot Negev communities.

**Friends of Israel Defense Forces ..... \$1,800**  
Friends of Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is a non-political, non-military organization that provides for the wellbeing of IDF soldiers, veterans and family members. Emergency funding went toward its emergency response efforts.

**Gumat Chen at Kibbutz Sa’ad ..... \$34,500**  
The Gumat Chen HaNegev boarding school in Kibbutz Sa’ad empowers at-risk women and girls. After Oct. 7, students were evacuated to the academic campus at Givat Washington for their safety. Emergency funding went toward a food truck for food preparation and cooking as part of a therapeutic intervention for students. In addition, a culinary professional provided four months of meals utilizing the operated mobile kitchen.

**Hadassah Academic College ..... \$7,500**  
Hadassah Academic College (HAC), located in downtown Jerusalem, is a unique institution of higher education offering students world-class, career-focused degree programs. Emergency funding supported HAC’s emergency response.

**Israel Trauma Coalition | Resilience Center .....\$57,907**  
The Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC), established in 2001 in partnership with the UJA Federation of New York, provides national response in the treatment of trauma and emergency preparedness and operates 12 national resilience centers. This donation went to ITC’s resilience center in the Jewish Federation’s local partnership region Netivot to respond to the growing mental health and trauma needs.

**The Jewish Agency for Israel ..... \$13,000**  
The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) provides the global framework for aliyah, ensures global Jewish safety and connects Jews to Israel. This donation went to JAFI’s Fund for Victims of Terror, which directs emergency aid to help survivors in the wake of tragedy by providing financial assistance and ongoing care to individuals and families on the road to recovery.

**Jewish Federations of North America Collective Support of Hospitals.....\$500,000**  
Jewish Federations of North America pooled funds from 146 Jewish Federations to rehab and equip hospitals impacted by the terrorist attacks on Oct. 7. Support ranged from staff to infrastructure and equipment costs. All donations ensured hospitals could reopen and respond to the increased medical needs in Israel.

**Kibbutz Alumim.....\$5,000**  
Kibbutz Alumim is in the Negev desert of southern Israel, located near the Gaza Strip. Emergency funding went toward kindergarten supplies for evacuees.

**Kibbutz Be’eri .....\$5,000**  
Kibbutz Be’eri is in the Negev desert of southern Israel, located near the Gaza Strip. It has been called the “ground zero” of the Hamas attacks, with 100 brutal murders and many hostages taken. Emergency funding went to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, which supplied household necessities for 100 displaced families, including 350 children.

**Kibbutz K’far Aza.....\$50,000**  
K’far Aza, situated between the cities of Sderot and Netivot, is in southern Israel and located near the Gaza Strip. Emergency funding helped its residents with rehabilitation and educational needs.

**Kafrit K’far Aza ..... \$10,000**  
Kafrit K’far Aza is a special fund for K’far Aza workers and their families that were impacted by Oct. 7.

**Kibbutz Sa’ad .....\$5,000**  
Kibbutz Sa’ad, situated between the cities of Sderot and Netivot, is in southern Israel and located near the Gaza Strip. Emergency funding went toward kindergarten supplies for evacuees.

**Leket Israel.....\$442,000**  
Leket Israel is the national food bank in Sdot Negev and is Israel’s leading food rescue organization. Emergency funding provided formula for 500 infants for two months, as well as a \$620 stipend for 100 families of farmers for two months.

**Matnas Netivot ..... \$917,000**  
Netivot, a city in the Southern District of Israel, has been one of the Jewish Federation’s Partnership2Gether regions for more than 25 years. Emergency funding provided basic needs, food for 750 families for two months and equipment for volunteer first responders. The funds also provided two large emergency portable bomb shelters and supplies, such as an emergency generator, air conditioners for bomb shelters, activity kits for 1,500 children while in shelters, and emergency lighting.

**Matnas Sdot Negev..... \$825,000**  
Sdot Negev, a city in the Southern District of Israel, has been one of the Jewish Federation’s Partnership2Gether regions for more than 25 years. Emergency funding provided basic needs and equipment for volunteer first responders. The funds also provided 20 emergency portable bomb shelters, 35 air conditioners for new protected spaces for educational institutions and communities, and 32 small emergency generators and educational materials for kindergartens in Kibbutzim Sa’ad and Alumim.

“ Being in Israel since Oct. 7, has been very difficult, especially for all of the Lone Soldiers.”

Noah Zucker, Lone Soldier



Thanks to the Jewish Federation’s support of the Michael Levin<sup>z”l</sup> Lone Soldier Center, Lone Soldier Noah Zucker from Arizona was able to access essential food, clothing, housing, trauma response and more. Most importantly to Noah, the center has provided him with a close network as he fights to defend the Jewish homeland, a country where he does not have any relatives.



◀ Scan this code to hear his story.

**The Michael Levin<sup>z”l</sup> Lone Soldier Center..... \$120,000**  
The Michael Levin<sup>z”l</sup> Lone Soldier Center in Be’er Sheva assists Israel Defense Forces soldiers who do not have family in Israel. Emergency funding provided housing, food and mental health support for reservists.

**The Negev Food Lab.....\$50,000**  
The Negev Food Lab is a community-based lab dedicated to devising solutions for food, dining and catering experiences within the region. By using research and practical knowledge, the lab’s vision is to improve the health of communities in the Negev and the local economy. Emergency funding secured three kitchen trucks for Kibbutz Sa’ad to enable families and teens to cook together, providing therapeutic benefits and a small sense of normalcy during their displacement.

**Olim Beyahad .....\$40,000**  
Olim Beyahad helps members of the Ethiopian Israeli community with employment, residence, education and social life. Emergency funding supported 25 students studying and working remotely due to rocket fire.

**Open University of Israel ..... \$139,000**  
The Open University of Israel aims to make higher education accessible to all individuals seeking it. Emergency funding covered 139 student scholarships, totaling \$1,000 each, for those evacuated from their homes.

**Orr Shalom .....\$33,800**  
Orr Shalom is a nonprofit organization in Be’er Sheva that cares for children and youth at-risk. Emergency funding went toward psychosocial support for the organization’s two family group homes in Be’er Sheva and toward relocation services for graduate students who evacuated.

**PEF Israel Endowment Funds, Inc. .... \$4,824**  
PEF Israel Endowment Funds, Inc. was established in 1922 to collect and distribute money to charities in Israel. Supported initiatives include, but are not limited to, primary and secondary education and the promotion of greater tolerance and understanding between religious and secular communities. Emergency funding went toward the organization’s wartime efforts.

**Pitchon Lev .....\$50,000**  
Pitchon Lev’s mission is to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty in Israel by helping with social welfare rights. Emergency funding went toward assisting evacuees in accessing government benefits.



**Rachashei Lev.....\$265,000**

Rachashei Lev, a nonprofit organization in Israel for children with cancer, launched the Iron Sword Emergency Medical Equipment project to acquire and supply innovative and essential equipment to emergency medical teams. Emergency funding secured mobile ultrasound machines to perform rapid triage for medics in the field.

**Rahat Community Center.....\$60,000**

Rahat Community Center is a predominantly Arab Bedouin city in southern Israel. Emergency funding provided 75 computers for children attending school online.

**Shaldag Unit.....\$50,000**

The Shaldag Unit is a special forces unit under the command of the Israeli Air Force and is considered to be one of the most elite units in the Israel Defense Forces. Emergency funding went towards winter gear for the Shaldag Unit.

**Sheba Medical Center.....\$1,000,000**

Established in 1948, Sheba Medical Center is the leading medical center in the Middle East and an internationally recognized healthcare facility. Emergency funding went toward a new rehabilitation center for soldiers and civilians.

**Shitim Institute.....\$10,000**

The Shitim Institute Jewish and Israeli Holiday Cultural Archive preserve and rejuvenate the celebration of the Jewish holidays and culture that are meaningful and relevant to all Jews. Emergency funding went toward the costs associated with providing after-school activities for evacuated Kibbutz Sa'ad families, children and youth.

**Unistream Entrepreneurship Center.....\$18,500**

The Unistream Entrepreneurship Center in Netivot serves as an inspiring anchor of transformative and innovative education for teens from the community. Since the war, Unistream has adjusted its programmatic efforts to offer teens activities to be a stabilizing force in their lives through productive routines. Emergency funding provided additional opportunities to build resilience through volunteering and on-site activities that give back to the community and country. Funds also supported two additional days of experiential learning about entrepreneurship and innovation, and two days of respite.

**United Hatzalah.....\$52,652**

United Hatzalah's network of more than 6,500 volunteer medics help save thousands of lives annually across Israel by providing medical treatment in an average response time of three minutes or less. Emergency funding supported critical assistance to the Israel Defense Forces and funding for emergency response vehicles.

**Yashar LaChayal.....\$70,000**

From its inception during the 2006 Second Lebanon War, Yashar LaChayal has been at the forefront of providing humanitarian support for Israeli soldiers. Emergency funding provided winter gear for soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces.

**ZAKA Inc. ....\$15,000**

ZAKA is Israel's dominant nongovernmental rescue and recovery organization with over 3,000 volunteers deployed nationwide, who are on call 24/7 to respond to any terror attack, disaster or accident. To meet the increased need, emergency funding provided forensic identification equipment for volunteers.

The Jewish Federation's Partnership2Gether region of Netivot sent this special video message to thank the Greater Philadelphia community for its support during a time when help was needed most.



◀ Watch the video here.

“

Thanks to your help, our city of Netivot was able to help anyone who needed help.”

Children in Netivot





# Long-Term Rebuilding Projects

**IN TANDEM** with addressing urgent and time-sensitive needs, the Jewish Federation is resolute in directing funds toward rebuilding Israel following the mass destruction caused by terrorist attacks. The scale of the infrastructure and programmatic needs to rebuild Israel will be vast and take many years. **As part of the allocated \$11.6 million, The Jewish Federation has committed funds towards these projects that address the initial rebuilding phase.**

## ► Economic Recovery – \$1,000,000

At the same time as attacks forced thousands from their homes, they also forced closures of businesses across all of Israel. Families are now also struggling with the loss of income as reserve soldiers answer the call of duty. The Jewish Federation is at the forefront of economic relief efforts, and in partnership with the Jewish Federations of North America, this grant will go towards investing in frontline communities and in a fund that makes loans to small and medium-sized businesses. These investments are designed to ensure a resilient and flourishing economy.

## ► Partnership2Gether Rebuilding in Netivot and Sdot Negev – \$2,500,000

**Mental Health and Trauma Support:** Israel's evolving mental health crisis is estimated to impact ~9.3M. The level of support needed will depend on the level of exposure to traumatic events. Through our Partnership2Gether communities, we will support programs that meet the increased need for mental health support.

**Rebuilding of infrastructure and building new emergency response infrastructure to thwart future emergencies.**

## ► Anticipating the Needs of Northern Israel – \$1,000,000

“An attack on Israel is an attack on us. The United States and Israel are united and we need to help them out.”

Emergency Volunteer Project Firefighter

Soon after the attacks on Oct. 7, American firefighters arrived in Israel to assist with the Emergency Volunteer Project, a grantee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. The firefighters continue to work with the Israeli Fire and Rescue Services, answering hundreds of calls generated by the rocket fire from the war.



◀ Watch the video here.



Israel's 75th Anniversary was marked with celebration and tragedy – but what remained constant was your Jewish pride and support for the Jewish homeland.



◀ Watch the year in review.

**IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD**, the Jewish Federation's work will continue to safeguard Israel in the ongoing war and help thousands of people return to their homes to rebuild their communities.

Your generous gifts will ensure the rebuilding and strengthening of Israeli society. This commitment is a testament to the shared dedication to creating a vibrant and strong Jewish future in Israel for generations to come.

## The Jewish Federation stands with Israel.



Learn more about how the Jewish Federation invests in Israel and our Jewish community all year long.

[jewishphilly.org](http://jewishphilly.org)