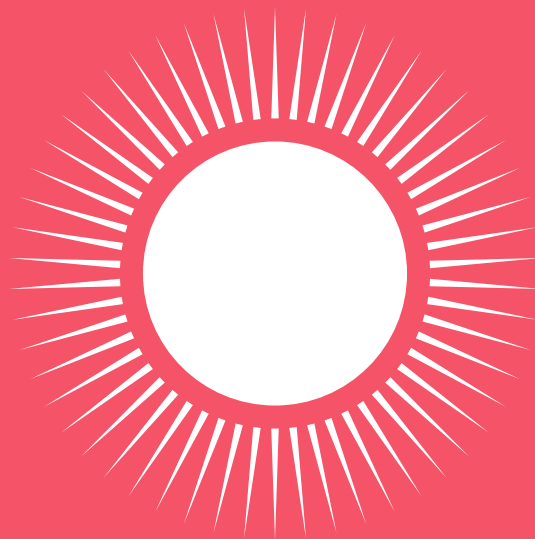
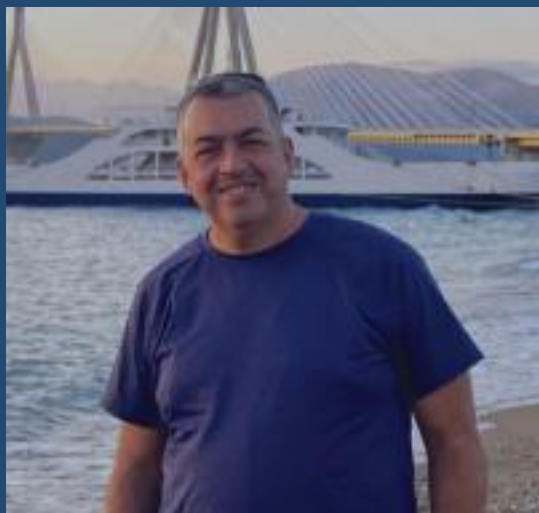




DAYBREAK

Initiatives of Healing and Hope



In memory of Moshe and Eliad Ohayon z"l

Moshe Ohayon, Chair of the Board of the Shaharit Institute, and his son Eliad bravely left their home at the beginning of the Hamas assault on Israel in order to protect their town of Ofakim. They were missing for just over 24 hours, until Sunday afternoon, when it was announced that they had been murdered at the hands of Hamas terrorists.

For those who knew Moshe, it was no surprise that he did not hesitate for a moment, and that he jumped instinctively out the door to the task at hand. That is how he taught us one should live their life, and that is how he was in his final moment. His larger-than-life presence makes his loss feel that much more immense. Moshe was a fellow-traveler and a true friend, both super-smart and uniquely wise, with a smile that won your heart and with a bear hug that made you feel the love. In addition to being the Chair of the Shaharit Board of Directors, Moshe served as the CEO of the 929 Project and a leading social activist in Ofakim, where he lived with his family for the last two decades.

His son Eliad was a wonderful kid, who frequently volunteered with social organizations and generously donated his time to his community. When the attack began, he didn't think twice before joining his father. "I have learned from all of my students, and from Eliad most of all," said his high school principal.

May their memories be a blessing.



7.10.23 A day that will be etched in the world's hearts and minds, and in the soul of Israel. The impact of Hamas's terrorist acts on innocent people will continue to haunt Israeli society for decades. We mourn the loss of so many on that day and the days that have followed. As American Jews we too were shattered and continue to struggle with ways to show support for our Israeli family.

18.10.23 Daybreak was born. Shaharit's idea of this fund gave us both hope and a small way to support the good that had emerged from such unfathomable evil. Our gratitude is immeasurable. Your work has touched so many in Israel and it has allowed us, our children, our family, our friends and colleagues to feel so much closer to all of you here. We hope in return you all understand that this is our way of saying "you are not alone".

Am Israel Chai.
Alan and Kim Hartman
Simon Greer



In our ongoing nightmare since the 7th of October, there has nevertheless been a ray of light - you. People from all sectors of the country who stood up and felt the need and responsibility to act, to embrace each other, to connect with one another. We are living in the darkest of days, and simultaneously, "this is our finest hour".

This catalog displays the outburst of energy and creativity that has filled the country with hope. At Daybreak you are our partners in moving forward, reweaving our frayed fabric as a society, together..

Dr. Eilon Schwartz
Shaharit

Getting Out of the Chair

Samira Azzam

Think how difficult it is to remain calm and focused during an emergency, when nothing is stable and uncertainty reigns over the regular and familiar agenda. Now think how difficult it is to do this for people with special needs, those who suffer from cognitive or physical problems, and struggle with difficulties in their day-to-day lives.

'Getting Out of the Chair' is a project that provides them with calming activities and a kind of routine, amid the cloud of uncertainty. The entrepreneur founded this project to create a sense of routine for local residents, adults and children, with disabilities and special needs.

This activity is as essential to them as air to breathe. Even on normal days, most of them feel lonely and lack social interaction; in wartime the situation is even worse. Professionals are involved throughout the entire project and work with the children on dealing with fear and anxiety, and above all provide them with a critical sense of belonging in these difficult days.



Enlisting Pastry Chefs

Entrepreneurs: Liron Tako and Dr. Mor Mizrahi

Many families with children were quickly evacuated from their homes, and they still see no end in sight. But time continues to go on and children still have birthdays. However they cannot celebrate as they would want — in their familiar home with all their family and friends. Cake Project seeks to at least brighten their birthday, amid the great darkness that has descended upon them.

130 confectioners from all over the country were recruited for the project by the entrepreneurs. They prepare stunning bespoke cakes for the children who were evacuated from the Gaza Envelope and are celebrating a birthday far from home. The entrepreneurs make sure to gather the orders from the families, and also transport the cakes directly to the children. The project donated beautiful and delicious cakes to hundreds of boys and girls in hotels all over the country.

We won't be able to show the children's faces in the pictures here, but trust us they are beaming with happiness and gratitude for this wonderful initiative.





Netivot Volunteer Operations Center

Entrepreneur: Barak Edri

Netivot was one of the communities whose residents were evacuated following the Hamas attack on October 7. Almost the entire settlement was evacuated, except for those who cannot leave their homes due to physical difficulty or fear.

The Netivot Volunteer Operations Center was established to support the residents who remain in Netivot, including families who are struggling every day and facing great financial difficulty. The volunteers supply the residents with basic necessities, according to need. They are also a listening ear for those who are left alone and have no one to turn to.

They also established a warehouse to gather equipment for the army and police forces that arrived at Netivot. In addition to basic equipment, the center provides the soldiers with clothing, food, hygiene products, portable chargers, etc. Dozens of volunteers handle the transportation of the equipment to civilians and soldiers.



Dream Kites

Entrepreneur: Shai Ben Tal

The children of Yeruham, whose daily routine was disrupted by the war, were given a wonderful project that provides both a relaxing activity to divert their thoughts from the emergency situation and also serves as a social activity, bringing together other children and adults. This project also allows children to engage in creativity and exercise their imagination, which are very important in days of uncertainty.

The participating children first choose a sentence related to a dream and its fulfillment - there are no limits on the dream, of course. Together they build paper kites and, according to the instructions and training of the guides, they decorate the kites with pictures and drawings inspired by the sentence they chose.

The kites, with the dreams on them, are flown by the children and carry hope and prayer that they will soon come true. The activity provides the children with the emotional need to vent and dream about tomorrow. The activity also unites family and friends around action and creating, giving them a few hours of peace of mind and hope in their hearts.



Kitchen Patrol

Matan Hayat and Kulna Jerusalem

When war broke out in Israel, the Keshet High School in Jerusalem came to the decision that it was necessary to help those who needed assistance, and that, for now, it was far more important than their studies. The entire school community, including students, teachers, parents, and even alumni, got involved in preparing hot, home-cooked meals for soldiers on the front and families who were evacuated from their homes in the Gaza envelope.

The Keshet community prepares 400-500 hot meals each day, which are delivered to the soldiers and the displaced families together with the students' handwritten notes that seek to strengthen the spirit of the soldiers on the front lines and raise morale.

The impressive response of this initiative provides for soldiers and families during this critical time and also gives students an incredible opportunity to learn about the power of giving, mutual responsibility, and good citizenship. And this is likely the most important lesson they will learn in school.



Morale and a Smile

Anan Katish

In light of the crisis in Israel, hundreds of thousands of people were called up for long stints of reserve duty. Soldiers in active military service were also mobilized and joined the war effort, forcing them to leave home for long periods of time, with direct implications for their family members. Being away from a parent for a long time is especially hard for kids and has a negative impact on their mood and overall morale.

This was especially evident in the Druze community, where many adults serve in combat units and continue to serve in the military as career soldiers and officers. The Yuvalim organization, a nonprofit that runs social and civic initiatives in the Druze community in normal times, mobilized to provide support for the children of career soldiers and reservists - including emotional support and activities designed to provide respite and boost morale.

An extensive network of volunteers, including social workers, occupational therapists, teachers, and counselors, help kids with schoolwork, run different types of programming, provide emotional support and attention, and above all, are there for the kids, until their families reunite again.



Activities for Special Needs Kids in Lod

Rafi Ben Lulu

While uncertainty makes life difficult for adults, it is especially difficult for children. For special needs kids, who have a hard time integrating into regular frameworks on a good day, situations like this can become a real nightmare. When the ground beneath them is unstable, they find it difficult to function optimally, and everyday life becomes extremely challenging.

Lod is a mixed city that is home to both Arabs and Jews, and relations between the two populations are often tense. There are several organizations in Lod that provide assistance and support for both Arab and Jewish kids with special needs. In the context of this project, events were held for these children and their families that were attended and staffed by people from all sectors — Arabs and Jews, religious people and secular people, women and men.

It was heartwarming to see how the challenges and difficulties faced by these kids resolved into social cohesion and unity. Arabs and Jews sat together and played. Even parents were able to enjoy a cup of coffee while their children participated in craft projects, climbed on play equipment, and patronized the food stands. This is the way to create activities that are essential both on a personal level, for this distinct population, and for the community at large.



Mehadrin Kosher Meals

Rachel Elul

About 150,000 people were displaced from their homes in northern and southern Israel. Many of them were evacuated on very short notice, and weren't able to gather the basic supplies they needed for a long stay away from home. A significant number of families were evacuated to private apartments of generous people in Tel Aviv who agreed to provide them with a place to stay. But in Tel Aviv it can be difficult to find kosher food that meets the most rigorous religious standards.

Families who only eat food that abides by these rigorous standards found themselves in a bind. This wonderful initiative that prepares strictly kosher food and delivers it to evacuees, stepped into this vacuum. Every day, dozens of volunteers prepare more than 1,000 meals that are delivered to families in the Tel Aviv area, enabling them to eat their fill without compromising on their rigorous kosher standards and beliefs.



Channel the Good

Meital Yishai and Hagit Shalev

The war has taken a heavy toll on the many soldiers and citizens who were wounded and need day-to-day support. Rehabilitation after an injury, both physical and emotional, is a difficult and complex process for the injured, and also takes a toll on the rest of the family. Staying by someone's bedside in the hospital all day demands a lot of coordination and technical arrangements, and not all families are able to do this, even though they want to be with their loved ones.

The people who initiated this project realized that hospitals are unable to provide for all the needs of the injured and their families during rehabilitation, and decided to make sure that nobody falls through the cracks. These families have many needs, and the needs vary by family—from clothing, toiletries, shoes, and food for family members who spend long days in the hospitals, to basic equipment and rehabilitation gear after the injured are discharged, to cell phones and computers for hospitalized patients.

The “Channel the Good” project has a team of volunteers that spans all sectors of Israel's population. The volunteers put together comprehensive lists of all the things that people need in different hospitals, gather the necessary equipment from kindhearted donors, and get it to the people who need it. The injured receive the immediate help they need to aid their recovery, and for their families this help is often a lifeline that makes it just a little bit easier to deal with their difficult situation.



Families for Families

Nissan Sharvit

When Nissan Sharvit, a veteran of the elite Duvdevan unit, saw the tractors breaking through the border fence on the morning of October 7th, he felt that his world was caving in on him. When he found out that someone from his army unit was killed in battle, he decided that he needed to do something in his memory, and in memory of his own brother, who also served in the elite Duvdevan unit and was killed in the line of duty at the beginning of the Second Intifada.

Knowing firsthand what it's like to lose a loved one and how hard it can be to deal with the loss, Nissim decided not to sink into the grief and despair that surrounded him, and instead chose to provide emotional support for the newly bereaved families. Nissim connected newly bereaved families with veteran bereaved families, who could use their past experiences to provide strength and support at this time. This initial contact between bereaved families developed into a full blown “Mourners Support Mourners” group with more than fifty volunteers who provide emotional and logistical support for the newly bereaved families. The project also established a hotline staffed by 15 social workers who provide basic emotional support for families in need.

This sensitive and incredible network has helped more than 60 families. Families in desperate straits, whose lives have been turned upside down from one moment to the next, are embraced by a sensitive and professional support network that shows them that they aren't alone.



From Dream to Reality

Chen Levi

When Chen Levi of Ashdod became very ill at the beginning of November 2022, she was not able to celebrate her birthday as she wanted to. This year, as her birthday approached and she realized that again there would be no celebration, instead of being disappointed, she thought about the thousands of kids who could not celebrate their birthdays due to the war and decided to do something for them.

From Dream to Reality surprised birthday boys and girls (ages 6 to 12) - and their parents - when volunteers arrived at their homes unannounced with a gift, a balloon, a smile, and a hug. As a teacher, the entrepreneur was able to obtain a list of the kids who were celebrating their birthday in the month of October in the city and its surroundings, in cooperation with the school principals. The gifts were purchased from local businesses in order to support the local economy, and children's book authors from all over the country donated their books.

Approximately 2,500 kids from Ashdod and Ashkelon celebrated a birthday they will never forget. The gifts were distributed by numerous volunteers, from the age of 5 to the age of 80, from the full diversity of the population of Ashdod. This project therefore not only made the children happy, but brought together the various communities in the city. The entrepreneur's partner, who was called up to reserve duty, expanded the project to the children and grandchildren of reserve soldiers from all over the country, who also returned home with a gift for the children.



Shelter Renovation

Shanit Biton

How can emergency preparedness be combined with activities that provide local residents a chance to unwind? In Kfar Yona they figured out a way to balance these two things! An incredible group of volunteers, made up of families who are hosting people displaced from their homes, teamed up with youth from the Telem pre-military academy in Jaffa to renovate and paint local shelters and make them accessible for older people and the disabled.

The shelters were upgraded, both in terms of their physical appearance and emergency readiness, and the renovation process itself proved to be a worthwhile and fun project for the volunteers. After the renovations were completed, the shelters also served as an activity and crafts center for children from Gaza envelope communities who are staying in Kfar Yona temporarily, simultaneously providing the kids with a fun outlet and giving their parents a well-deserved break.

In this way, a project that seemed to be a small and private initiative at first glance, accomplished so much good and filled the needs of so many different people, while creating unity and social cohesiveness.



Vegan Food for Soldiers at the Front

As hundreds of thousands of reserve soldiers answered the call of duty and gathered in different staging areas on their way to the front lines, it quickly became obvious that it was necessary to address the most basic human need: food. For soldiers who need vegan food though, this basic need became highly complicated, since most meals provided to soldiers don't meet vegan dietary standards.

Social entrepreneur Rami Zelikovitch stepped into the vacuum and spearheaded an incredible initiative to enable vegan soldiers to enjoy delicious food, without compromising on their value system.

In conjunction with The Vegan J17, a Tel Aviv-based vegan restaurant that donates the food, dozens of volunteers pack and transport 1,000 vegan meals to soldiers on the front lines every single day.

Thousands of volunteers from around the country jumped in to help cook, pack, and distribute the food so that nobody would be left hungry. These initiatives are still operating at full steam. Beyond making sure that everyone has enough food to eat, they also place a spotlight on the reciprocity and concern for others that are a potent force in Israeli society.



Help for Disadvantaged Bedouins

Yousef Alamour

The harsh realities of war have not spared the Bedouins who live in unrecognized villages in southern Israel. They too have been impacted by difficulties on an individual and family level. For people with disabilities, the situation is even more complicated. They struggle to adapt to the situation, and they need a broad and stable support system to maintain their daily routine.

This project helps this sector of the population and places a special emphasis on children in the special education system, many of whom ordinarily receive necessary therapy in school but whose schools were closed at the beginning of the war. Through this project, these children's families receive professional support and therapeutic tools that can be used at home. This project also places an emphasis on students who suffer from different disabilities (including intellectual, physical, and emotional disabilities, and autism), and helps them cope and gives them an outlet for expressing and working through their emotional experiences, by offering them therapies suited to their emotional needs - including different therapeutic activities, professional support, and a help hotline. Those who are physically handicapped and struggle to function independently are given support that is adapted to their needs.

Additionally, volunteers offer support to disadvantaged populations who struggle financially, by dispensing packages of food, games, and other necessary basic equipment.



The Good Truck

Yasmin Bar Or and Camp Midburn Pony Riders

The bloody festival at Kibbutz Re'im on the morning that the war broke out dealt a fatal blow to the trance music community. Hundreds of members of the community were killed, including producers and entrepreneurs in the field, as well as people who enjoyed coming to music festivals to dance.

A group of friends from the trance music community and Midburn, some of whom survived the festival at Re'im, found themselves attending the funerals of many of their friends. Between these funerals, they founded "The Good Truck" - a project in which chefs and bar and restaurant owners from Tel Aviv team up to bring food to soldiers at different staging areas on the outskirts of Gaza.

The friends founded "The Food Truck" near these staging areas, where they distribute approximately 2,000 meals to soldiers each day. And when a food truck gives out food for such a wonderful purpose, it actually becomes a "Good Truck".



Trauma Prevention for Kids

Ashraf Traubin

What's the right thing to say to children in the middle of a war? What's best not to say? What should kids do to keep busy? And how can we give them a sense of security and routine? These questions stand at the core of the Trauma Prevention for Kids project in the city of Rahat. Keeping busy and creating a routine helps kids function well, especially in times of crisis.

In light of the importance of routine as a way of dealing with complex situations, project volunteers provide children in Rahat with things to do and a daily routine, with a regular schedule (including wake up, mealtimes, school, etc.) as well as activities that help the entire family relieve tension: discussions, board games, and brain games.

This project was conducted in Rahat's older neighborhoods, which are home to families of low socioeconomic status. The project helped them deal more optimally with the crisis and build the emotional resilience that will help them return more easily to their routine in the future.



The Flower People

Lihi Slefte

The staggering number of people killed in the war, specifically during the first few days, led to hundreds of funerals within a short span of time, and a huge demand for fresh flowers to place on the fresh graves. Flower shops couldn't keep up with the demand and their stock of flowers was quickly depleted. Lihi, a flower exporter, immediately understood the problem, and decided to use her resources to provide flowers for the families who were forced to bury their loved ones, and enable them to honor their relatives at this difficult time.

Within a 24-hour period, her modest initiative that sought to help a few families took on incredible proportions, and she began to receive hundreds of requests for bouquets and wreaths by phone. Realizing the magnitude of the situation, Lihi reached out to farmers and flower growers and set up an operation center that was staffed by 30 people at its height, with official responsibilities and an organized system for filling orders and distribution.

More than 1,000 volunteers partook in the project, including 150 florists who set up a mini-factory for making wreaths, and distributors and drivers who faithfully delivered the flowers to each and every family, more than 1,000 in total. Everything was provided free of charge and delivered all over the country. Thanks to "The Flower People", nobody was forgotten.



Help and Support for Bereaved Families

Tali Dvir Livnat and Aliza Lavi

The "120 Leadership Council" is a forum of women in public positions, both presently and in the past, that was established last year on account of the deep polarization in Israeli society. The forum seeks to restore respect for different opinions and voices in the public discourse and rebuild the trust that derives from shared conversation. On the evening of October 7th, as the magnitude of the disaster became increasingly clear, it was natural for the female leadership that had developed in this forum to use their resources and help wherever help was needed.

Tali Dvir and Aliza Lavi immediately jumped in to help and opened a command center for bereaved families who had lost loved ones in the cruel terror attacks perpetrated by Hamas. The command center offered emotional support, and also collected funds and food for people in need. More than 400 volunteers staffed the command center and fielded calls and arranged for people to get the help and other things they needed around the clock.

Beyond this, a forum of over 60 former Knesset members used their professional connections and experience in the public sector and reached out to local municipalities, governmental offices, civil society organizations, rabbis, spiritual leaders, and public personalities to support the initiative. Almost 800 families were helped by the women of the forum and the former Knesset members, who provided emotional support, attended funerals, and visited families in mourning, as well as provided families with resources, equipment, and various supplies.



The Daniel Operations Center

Keren Brand, Chagit Daniel, and Yael Daniel Rappaport

The early days of the war were extremely chaotic, both on the home front and on the front lines. The list of missing equipment grew increasingly longer and included basic supplies necessary for fighting or a prolonged stay away from home. In all the chaos, there were people who fell through the cracks, and didn't have anyone to worry about them and their needs. For example, lone soldiers who don't have families at home or a loving support network, and elderly Holocaust survivors who live all alone.

Three women who live in central Israel stepped into the vacuum and opened the "Daniel Operations Center". They were in touch with army units to find out exactly what soldiers were missing - from food packages, to clothing, to medical equipment, to electrical tape and shoelaces - collected donations and made sure that things were brought to the correct places and distributed to the people who needed them.

Beyond this, they activated a support network for lone soldiers that ordinarily operates in their city and attended to the needs of lone soldiers on leave like fixing eyeglasses, picking up packages, and doing laundry, among other things. The volunteers, who usually maintain more than 20 local apartments for lone soldiers, jumped in to help with these things too. Volunteers also called and visited Holocaust survivors who live by themselves to ensure that they wouldn't be left all alone at this difficult time. This is what communal and social solidarity looks like. Providing for society's weakest elements and taking care of their needs strengthens society as a whole.



Role Model

Ron Idzon

Sports are not only about exercise and living a healthy lifestyle. Sports also challenge us as human beings, teaching us how to overcome challenges and deal with difficulties and success. Sports can help raise our morale, both personally and collectively, and through sports we can learn about perseverance, patience, faith, and self-confidence.

In light of this, there's nothing more natural than for athletes to meet with people who are coping with difficulties and share their own inspiring personal stories. This initiative connects 15 athletes from a variety of Olympic sports, including both religious and secular athletes, with kids and teens around the country who are having a hard time in these difficult times.

The senior athletes, champions in their sports who compete on the international level, shared how perseverance and willpower helped them become who they are, and how they manage to keep their morale high, even when they lose. Through these encounters, that also included some informal games, this initiative managed to raise the spirits of approximately 150 kids and teens, provide them with an outlet, and help build their emotional resilience.



Beit Kandinof in a State of Emergency

Nadav Rappaport

Beit Kandinof is not just another restaurant. It's also a social center that serves as a venue for people from Tel Aviv and Jaffa to hang out and spend time together. In fact, this establishment stands at the center of a thriving local social community. When the war broke out, after the shock of the initial few days, the owner of the restaurant decided that he couldn't just stand idly by. He galvanized the restaurant community to join forces and prepare home-cooked delicious meals for anyone who needed food, on the frontlines and on the homefront.

Within a short time, the kitchen was opened, the seating area was transformed into an operations center for the project and the restaurant community became a volunteer network for cooking, packaging, and distribution. Every day, the Beit Kandinof community provided 500-1,000 hot meals for soldiers, both on the frontlines and in other positions, in accordance with the needs communicated to the operations center.

Beyond the help and support for the soldiers, this enterprise also served as an important outlet for the restaurant's employees and community. It quickly became apparent that this was no less important than the help provided to the frontlines; it helped boost the spirits and mental resilience of the volunteers and gave them a sense of vitality to overcome the feeling of helplessness that engulfed Israeli society on October 7th.



Hareidi Farming Project

Yonatan Reiss

Chedvata is an educational organization in the haredi society. It is recognized by the Ministry of Defense as an organization that helps haredim who want to enlist in the IDF and provides them with a support system for the duration of their service. The CEO of the organization, Yonatan Reiss, saw the severe damage to agricultural farms due to the war, and wanted to help wherever and however help was needed.

150 students from Chedvata went to volunteer in fields, farms, and greenhouses. They picked vegetables and performed many other types of farmwork. Not only was their volunteer work essential; it was also profoundly inspirational. They went wherever they were needed and were more than ready to perform any kind of hard labor. The project generated a central list of all the farmers who reached out and asked for help, and assigned volunteers accordingly.

Maintaining social solidarity necessarily begins with being kind and charitable. When we see the other as a fellow human being without focusing on politics, belief systems, or skin color—offering help seems completely natural and logical. All the volunteers in this project that came from the haredi community felt a sense of belonging. They felt that they were part of an incredible and exciting civilian initiative that was determined not to leave anyone alone at this time, and this feeling was no less important than the objective assistance that they provided.



The Doorman Project

David Kadishvitz

With the outbreak of the war, countless families in Ofakim, Sderot, and Gaza envelope communities spent many nerve-wracking hours holed up in their safe rooms, desperately trying to make sure their safe room doors could not be opened, and hoping that the terrorists wouldn't reach them. Unfortunately, not all of them were so lucky.

Safe rooms are designed to keep people safe in the event of missile attacks. They aren't designed for prolonged stays, and they don't have a locking mechanism. The fear of terrorist infiltration suddenly became a realistic possibility in many parts of the country, and the need for a mechanism to keep the safe room door locked was urgent.

Local initiatives partially addressed the problem, but in light of the tremendous demand thousands of people were left in the lurch, including elderly people and individuals who aren't part of organized communities. The Doorman Project stepped into this vacuum, and carpenters around the country began to produce locks for safe rooms and distribute them to residents for free. Volunteers created a centralized list of all the requests, prioritized them in line with the guidelines set forth by the Home Front Command, and distributed the locks. So far, thousands of locks have been given away.



Working Together

Vered Nakash

Though quite a few volunteer operations centers were established to help soldiers on the frontlines throughout the war, especially during the first several weeks, the operations center in Yavneh is one of the largest and most impressive. The people of Yavneh threw themselves into this project and no less than 900 volunteers got involved, ready to help with anything and everything.

In the beginning, there were many specific and unique needs that cropped up, which necessitated setting up a suitable network that would be able to provide for all the different needs. For this reason, at the Yavneh operations center there are people whose job is to be in touch with the target population and understand what they need at any given point in time. Evacuated families from the south and north, and families of soldiers and reservists who were called up to the front, have been embraced by the Yavneh community and receive help with everything, big to small—including apartments for evacuated families, furniture, food, clothing, emotional support, and activities for kids.

The Yavneh community has proven that it stands alongside the rest of Israeli society. It's not just a slogan. When everyone works together, everyone benefits.



From One Man to Another

Eran Rondel

In the aftermath of the murderous terror attacks on October 7th, and the war that followed, many men feel afraid for themselves and their families. On account of social constructs and for historical reasons, men are often likely to repress their feelings and “keep it all inside” in order to support those closest to them and show strength when others feel weak. However, reactions like these actually cause self-harm, and past experiences show that in times of crisis and instability, reports of domestic violence increase.

Using this information, Eran Rondel, CEO of the ASLI - Israel White Ribbon Organization, launched a series of guided conversations between men, facilitated by ASLI’s group facilitators, who are all professionals with experience in situations like these. The conversations provide male participants with a safe place to air their feelings, relieve the tension generated by the security crisis, and realize that they are not alone.

These conversations also give men the tools to recognize the symptoms of stress in themselves and among their friends. In this way, the program not only helps participants, but also provides for their immediate environment. Conversations are conducted in small groups of less than 10 men for an intimate and safe space. Where necessary, one-on-one conversations are also offered. Approximately 50 men were helped by the project during this period.



Hosting Evacuated Families

Bezalel Stauber

One of the ways in which the spirit of volunteerism and drive to help another was manifested was in people’s readiness to host families who were evacuated from their homes on account of the terror attack. This readiness was apparent in all parts of the country, and in all sectors of the population. Everyone wanted to do their part.

Bezalel Stauber also quickly realized that he had the capacity to help families from terror-stricken areas. He spoke with several social entrepreneurs from the cities of Ofakim and Netivot, from haredi and secular backgrounds, whom he knew from a joint study program. Together they reached the conclusion that what families needed most at that point in time was some time away, in a less dangerous place, in central Israel. They began to work on a plan.

10 coordinators, including people from haredi, secular, and traditional backgrounds, took it upon themselves to coordinate the effort. They connected families from Ofakim and Netivot—two cities that were not evacuated officially—with places that could accommodate them. Approximately 200 people were fortunate enough to be warmly enveloped by this initiative, including families in difficult situations, such as large families with many children, families with special-needs children, and families who were directly impacted by the fighting. This period gave them the peace of mind they needed to get back on their own two feet.



Culture in the Crisis

Hadas Goldman

Israel's experience in states of emergency have demonstrated the importance of creativity and art for people at risk who are dealing with emotional stress. A report put together by the OECD clearly showed that culture and art play a critical role in the rehabilitation and treatment of societies and communities in traumatic situations.

Culture in the Crisis is a unique initiative – it is the first line of therapy and emotional support that uses art and culture to strengthen and rehabilitate the mental health of residents of the Gaza envelope and their families who were impacted by the awful terror attack. More than 1,000 cultural figures and artists volunteered to join the initiative, and they travel anywhere where they are needed to raise the wounded and scarred souls of the people who lived in these communities.

A national operations center is in touch with the places where evacuees from Gaza envelope towns and communities are currently located, assesses the different needs that arise, and connects them with volunteer artists and performers. This undertaking is so important for the emotional resilience of each individual, which, as we know, forms the foundation of general societal resilience.



Iron Sisters

Hana Iram

During Operation Iron Swords, the haredi community jumped in with full force to help by putting their greatest asset to use: their strong sense of community and mutual reciprocity. It is not surprising that many of the initiatives in the haredi community were spearheaded by groups of women.

Within the span of just a few days, the Iron Sisters project united more than 1,000 (!) haredi women who established a network to help, in any and every area where help was needed—meal preparation, babysitting services, telephone support for women in crisis, home visits, donating supplies and clothing to families, attending funerals, and making shiva calls.

The wide support and warm embrace from the haredi community shatters to pieces the barriers built in Israeli society through the years regarding attitudes toward haredi society, and establishes a network of warm and impressive interpersonal relationships that we hope will remain in place even after the crisis subsides.



Computers for Kids

Adi Nir

During ordinary times as well as in times of crisis, the Yeladim - Fair Chance for Children organization runs a foster program that provides support for approximately 100 children who were removed from their homes by the Ministry of Welfare on account of complicated family situations in which a parent struggles with substance abuse, a difficult illness, or imprisonment, or has abandoned the family, or died and left the child orphaned. Some of these children have been subject to years of neglect, abuse, and pain.

In a time of war, these children's lack of security deepens. They become overwhelmed by previous traumatic experiences. Their lack of access to computers for distance learning exacerbates their social isolation and causes them to feel disconnected from their academic and learning frameworks, prompting enormous functional and emotional difficulties. Yeladim sensed this need and contacted a number of computer retailers who agreed to provide computers for this population for a fraction of the cost.

In the context of this project, 35 laptops were bought and distributed to these kids who were adversely affected by the war, and live in dormitories that aren't able to provide for this need. The computers enable these kids to learn remotely, keep up with their friends, and make it easier for them to cope during a time of war, which they are going through alone, without the ongoing support of a loving family.



Respite in Yeruham

Avihai Hazut, Hila Shlomi, Orit Levenberg

The town of Yeruham has absorbed many of the families evacuated from areas adversely affected by the fighting. Hundreds of families, numbering thousands of individuals, are currently living with host families in Yeruham and in vacation rental units throughout the town. They fled their homes in a rush, lacking the basic supplies necessary for a long stay away from home.

The Yeruham community and the Youth in Yeruham nonprofit organization stepped in to help and provide for everything the evacuees needed—from basic supplies like clothing and food, alongside leisure activities, educational programming, and cultural events. These activities serve as an important respite for the evacuees by raising their spirits and diverting their minds from the difficult experiences they endured.

450 families enjoyed the activities, predominantly displaced families who are currently located in Yeruham, but also local families from Yeruham who stem from a cross-section of Israeli society—young and old, religious and secular, conservative and liberal. It was a heartwarming project that demonstrated that when it comes to goodwill and social innovation, the sky is the limit.





Maximizing Legal Rights

Efrat Pudem

Even in ordinary times, bureaucracy is tough to deal with. In times of war, when uncertainty prevails, it is even more difficult. Because of the crisis, people needed to access services from a variety of governmental institutions. This was especially true for people who already belonged to disadvantaged parts of society, such as people who live in public housing projects and those who are poverty-stricken.

Efrat Pudem from the legal clinic at the College of Management Academic Studies works with the underprivileged in ordinary times too. During this current crisis, she gathered a group of 50 law students, including men and women, religious and secular, from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds, many of whom are the first ones in their families to attend university. Their diverse backgrounds helped them to understand the needs of each population.

The volunteers gathered requests about complicated situations that need to be handled by public and governmental systems, such as debts, foreclosures, guardianship orders, adoptions, inheritance orders, running interference with banks on behalf of those who lost their jobs, and maximizing social security benefits. On many occasions, the legal assistance provided ensured that people were not thrown out of their homes and prevented their fragile world from collapsing.



Civilian Sewing Network

Oren Weintraub, David Duvinio, Einav Amit

The unusual spirit of volunteerism in Israeli society has created a new type of problem—in many military units, far more soldiers showed up for reserve duty than anticipated. When war broke out, reserve soldiers reported to their units even if they had not been called up. On the one hand, this was extremely heartwarming. On the other hand, it resulted in a shortage of basic equipment.

The Civilian Sewing Network brings together more than 300 sewing volunteers, who set up mobile sewing shops in different regions of the country in order to provide soldiers with the equipment they were missing, such as backpacks, different types of pouches, mending torn uniforms, and improving and adapting equipment. The volunteers use high-quality fabrics that meet operational standards for combat use.

This is a unique project that takes care of needs that often “fall through the cracks” but are really of primary importance because they both provide for soldiers’ objective combat needs and also raise their spirits on the frontlines, by reminding them someone is attentive to even their smallest needs.

Nova Eilat

Suzy Sharam Cohen



Approximately 30 residents of the city of Eilat were at the Nova party-turned-bloodbath and managed to save themselves from the massacre. Since then though, their lives have changed dramatically. Some of them suffer from anxiety, and in certain situations they struggle to function. All these people participate in the Nova Eilat project, which was spearheaded by the project's organizer after she attended the funerals of two Eilat residents who were murdered at the party and understood that she needed to do something to help the survivors recover.

The survivors were joined by 17 local residents of Eilat who began to suffer from anxiety due to air raid sirens in Eilat, as well as evacuees from the Gaza envelope area who relocated to Eilat. The project helps participants ease back into their normal lives through group and individualized therapy. It is staffed by a professional team of psychologists who specialize in severe trauma, specifically after psychedelic experiences, a psychiatrist, and a social worker.

In the context of sessions, participants use different mediums to work through their experiences, such as: art, movement, therapy and breathing exercises, touch therapy, acupuncture, music, aqua therapy, EMDR treatments, as well as stress relief activities.

During this state of emergency, the city of Eilat has become two cities - a city of residents and a city of refuge for evacuees. Both populations are in a difficult situation and this project helps both groups get back on their own two feet.



Strength Starts at Home

Kineret Tzach



In an emergency, a strong civilian homefront is no less important than a strong army on the frontlines. Patience and perseverance at home give the state and the army the support it needs to do what must be done and strengthen national resilience and social cohesion. How does one strengthen the home front? In the context of the Strength Starts at Home project, posters of different sizes with messages calling for unity and maintaining routine during times of crisis were printed and distributed across the country.

The posters and notices were disseminated in a number of ways: through social media, through postcards that were sent to combat soldiers with uplifting slogans, at the entrances to businesses and in urban areas, on billboards, and on buses. At the operation centers and places where evacuated families from Gaza envelope communities were based, posters were hung in buildings and in safe rooms. There were even some special posters for kids with comforting pictures of teddy bears.

A strong society is measured by its ability to remain united in times of crisis, and the unity and social cohesion on the civilian front have been manifested in many places throughout Israel during the war. This project's important messages continue to echo everywhere, causing anyone who encounters them to stop for a moment and think about themselves, and about Israeli society and how it should look after this crisis has ended.





Connecting to the Youth

Binyamin Machlev

The nonprofit organization Mithabrim Be’Nehama runs programming for kids from tough neighborhoods in Jerusalem who have dropped out of school and provides them with a framework that includes classes and activities in the afternoon. Through the years, the organization has had quite a few successes and many past participants have changed their lives, and gone on to serve in the army and build stable, happy families.

The organization has an institutional kitchen where large amounts of food can be prepared, and the person who initiated this project sought to use these resources to prepare hot meals for families staying in Jerusalem. The troubled youth were able to engage in a productive, valuable, and meaningful activity and felt that they were an important part of the civilian aid effort.

Every week, the youth prepared 500 meals together with their counselors from the organization, who also coordinated requests for meals and distributed the food to families staying temporarily in Jerusalem.



Laundry Services for Soldiers

Oren Avrahamian

Under ordinary circumstances, the laundromat in Sderot provides laundry services to the residents of Sderot who need them. However, after the town was evacuated, the only “customers” in the city were soldiers and security forces. Accordingly, this project’s founder, who remained in the city with his family, decided to provide soldiers and security forces with the laundry services they needed.

Despite the fact that the laundromat was closed to the public, hundreds of soldiers and police officers stationed in Sderot had their uniforms and other laundry washed by the laundromat, free of charge.

This project provided a necessary service to soldiers and security forces, and concurrently helped the local laundromat and the project’s founder do something critical for their surroundings, preserve emotional resilience, and play a significant role in the extensive civilian effort.

Accessible Information for Ethiopian Immigrants

Avi Maspin



Many Ethiopian immigrants are not fluent Hebrew speakers and struggle to understand the different instructions and to stay up-to-date. The difficulty of functioning in a crisis is intensified when everything around you happens in a language you do not understand. The nonprofit organization Tenne made all its resources available to provide the necessary emergency services.

In the context of this project, an Amharic-language hotline was opened to provide emotional support and guidance for 240 Ethiopian immigrants, and a support center was established to provide emotional support to 122 patients in hospitals and mental health clinics who needed more support than usual during this time. The organization's volunteers conducted lectures for Ethiopian immigrants about personal and national resilience and provided explanations about the war, including video and audio clips in Amharic. They also provided professional translation services to five official frameworks.

In total, the project provided direct assistance to approximately 2,000 people and indirectly impacted thousands more who were exposed to information in Amharic through the different channels. This project helped immigrants who struggled to understand what was going on gain a better grasp of current events and showed them that others see them and are committed to ensure they are not left behind.



Guitar Project

More than a few soldiers left their beloved musical instruments at home as they raced to the front. Israelis uprooted from their homes also left their instruments behind, some of which were damaged or destroyed on October 7. The Guitar Project provides auditory soup for the soul during this time of distress, to play and hear live music.

The project collects new and used musical instruments and distributes them to displaced Israelis and IDF soldiers on the frontlines. Children whose parents are held hostage in Gaza are discovering a little comfort and lots of hope in the lyrics and the melodies. Some promised to learn to play at least one song before they reunite with their family again.

Music is creation, and creation is life. Playing and listening to music allows one to disconnect, if only for a moment, from daily needs and nightmarish thoughts, in order to dive into a different world, of chords and sounds that do a little good for the heart.

Since the beginning of the project, 300 musical instruments were distributed at IDF bases, at the hotels where evacuees are staying, and to adults and children in need of an uplifting therapeutic tool.

Tzalash - Young People for Shlomi

Avi Biton



The people who live in communities adjacent to the northern border were evacuated at the beginning of the war to allow for better deployment of security forces and out of concern for their safety. Nevertheless, there were some people who remained in their homes in these communities, either because it is physically hard for them to leave and get around, or because they did not want to abandon their homes. Effectively, these people remained in a ghost town.

This project makes sure that the people who remained in these places are not left behind. Ten residents who remained in Shlomi took care not only of all the people who remained in town, but also all the animals—the dogs and cats that were left without food when the residents evacuated. Beyond this, they also helped the army units and first response teams in the Upper Galilee with logistics.

In the context of this project, food, clothing, and equipment were collected and the residents who remained in town benefited from different services in line with their needs. A huge kitchen was set up that prepares 700 meals each day for residents, and soldiers stationed in the area received logistical equipment and gift cards. It is hardly incidental that this project was named “Tzalash” (an acronym that stands for a military honor given to soldiers who excel in the army). Each and every volunteer who participated in this project and made sure that nobody was left behind deserves a medal of honor.



Community Support in Times of Crisis

Liora Ezrahi Vered



Many of the evacuees in the line of fire in the north and south were relocated to the Jezreel Valley, where there is a community that has been around for 25 years that runs projects that seek to support Jewish-Arab coexistence in the Galilee and valley regions. The Jezreel Valley community embraced the evacuated families, and literally took them under the wings of the local community.

More than 150 volunteers founded an operations center that identified the families’ needs and provided assistance, both logistical and emotional, through support circles, interactive meetings, and respite activities. The operations center also operated a system of “spiritual” mentors who made shiva calls across the north to families mourning for loved ones who had been killed in battle. Some of the evacuees were Thai workers who had been evacuated from farms in the south, and obviously they weren’t left behind either.

Each weekend, the community hosts a pluralistic Kabbalat Shabbat event with Shabbat prayers, songs, and learning. All the families are invited to participate and the very act of sitting together, and the possibility of airing feelings and thoughts, has helped many people strengthen their emotional resilience.



To the Point - Making Information Accessible to the Self-Employed

Barak Levi Segal, Aviad Tamir, Dan Konstantinovsky, Yael Aronon Hayun



People who are self-employed, especially small business owners who don't have their own in-house accountants, were the ones who suffered the most financial losses during the war. Among reserve soldiers, the damage was even more severe, but even business owners who were not called up to the reserves had a dramatic decrease in work and revenue. The government compensation plan is not clear to everyone, and there are also other options for economic support and loans.

Financial support is no less important than emotional or logistical support, especially among those who are self-employed. The people who initiated this project, who are all self-employed, quickly realized this and founded this initiative to help self-employed business owners maximize their rights. They made a series of short video clips and texts that are very much "to the point" and instruct self-employed business owners who to contact, about what, which information needs to be submitted, who is eligible, and where requests should be sent. All this information is presented very clearly, so even someone with limited financial knowledge can easily understand.

All the information is centrally located on an accessible, user-friendly website, which is the crowning glory of the project and relevant to a potential pool of almost 200,000 self-employed and VAT-exempt small business owners. After the initial launch, the project made it big time and was officially adopted by the Tax Authority, which incorporated this platform into its own website to help business owners calculate how much compensation money they are entitled to.



Code Blue and White

Inbal Boaz



The city of Yavneh experiences attacks in almost every round of fighting. During Operation Iron Swords, the city was bombed often, forcing residents to take shelter in public shelters and remain there for a long time. Going to a shelter is unpleasant and is often accompanied by feelings of distress and anxiety, especially among kids, as a result of being forced to leave our comfort zone.

In the context of this project, 8 public shelters in Yavneh, one in each neighborhood, were painted and transformed into places that were far more pleasant and aesthetically pleasing. The walls were decorated with positive images, soothing colors, and inspirational slogans. The shelters were painted by the kids and residents themselves, which helped build communal resilience, as well as personal resilience among participants.



The project was implemented by 18 volunteers with a background in art. The name of the project, "Code Blue and White," is the antithesis of the "Code Red" alarm that warns about impending missile attacks. "Code Blue and White" fills people with hope and creates a relaxed atmosphere precisely in the places and during the moments when people are most likely to feel stressed and distressed during war.

True Kindness

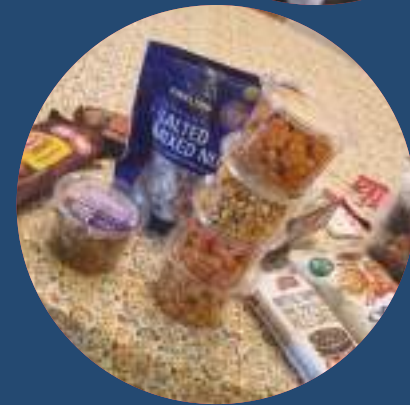
Fainy Soknick and Pnina Pfeuffer



Community and mutual reciprocity are two areas in which haredi society excels even in ordinary times. In times of crisis, these have been transformed into a powerhouse of activity that benefits the general population: soldiers, families, children, and anyone who needs support and encouragement.

The True Kindness project is comprised of 25 haredi women who staff an operations center that collects information about funerals and shivas and gives the information to dozens of volunteers. The volunteers, who are not only haredi but from all segments of the population, come to support families around the country at this difficult time, and make sure that no one is left all alone.

Help is offered in a variety of ways: Volunteers supply equipment and food for houses of mourning, make sure there are prayer services with a minyan (quorum), and also listen and show support and ensure that families aren't left alone during their darkest moments. At the second stage of this initiative, the women provided gift cards to families who had recently completed the shiva mourning period in order to help them get back on their feet. It isn't just incidental that so many volunteer projects and initiatives were started by the haredi community at this point in time. It demonstrates that the vast majority of haredim see themselves as part of Israeli society and want to do their part, and not just in times of crisis.



Quiet Moments

Adi Yonatan Cohen



The children of Ofakim experienced many harsh and difficult moments on October 7th and in the days that followed. The trauma is still fresh, and the emotional wounds are far from healed. In the Galilee too, people experienced many rocket attacks and unpleasant moments that spurred difficult feelings and anxiety among kids.

In the context of this project, which was directed by a graffiti artist who is an experienced group facilitator, children and teens participated in a mural painting workshop where they learned the techniques and methods of painting murals, and decorated the external walls of shelters with drawings and messages of unity and hope. In a symbolic act of coming full circle, they decorated public shelters in the streets in Ofakim that had been infiltrated by terrorists on October 7th as well as shelters in Tiberias located on streets that were bombed.



The wall murals incorporated statements the kids had made about the situation, as well as other elements that served to strengthen the kids and other residents. The children and teens enjoyed several hours of sanity, and the town regained some of the color and vitality that had been lost on that awful day. The connection between art and education, and the transition to hope for the future, raised the spirits of participants. Approximately 30 of them were in Ofakim and another 90 were in Tiberias. The participants were joined by university students, the heads of the youth departments in the local municipalities, and local youth mentors.



Communal Resilience

Zoharit Sasi

In emergency situations, children's delicate souls are the most vulnerable of all. Their routines are suddenly disrupted, and they need to adapt to a new reality, often in a new place, in the absence of the familiar and pleasant environment they are accustomed to. Their confidence is undermined and it is necessary to run different activities to rebuild their confidence and restore their smiles and joy of life.

One of the ways to do this is by creating an environment in which kids feel confident and can express themselves and their abilities. The children of Moshav Hosen and the immediate vicinity, located on Israel's northern border, were lucky enough to partake in a project like this. They participated in conversations, social interactions, games that encourage interpersonal communication, and workshops that empower kids, develop life skills, and encourage self-expression through art, music, and other artistic media, addressing the kids' emotional needs and providing them with an outlet.

Seven mothers assumed responsibility for running the ongoing activities which were directed at a group of 160 kids, from 1st through 12th grade, divided by age group. Beyond serving as a recreational activity, the kids and teens also cultivated and strengthened their sense of communal and social responsibility.



Help for Women in Ofakim and Sderot

Shai Meinrath

When the war ends and the cannons are silenced and things return to normal, the top priority should be rebuilding - both in the physical sense of rebuilding the destroyed communities, and also in the sense of rebuilding the lives of the people, who in many cases lost their livelihoods. To rebuild, it is necessary to first understand their needs and provide targeted solutions.

The woman who initiated this project empowers women in Israel's geographic periphery to join the workforce and develop worthwhile careers, in the context of her job at Amutat 51, a nonprofit organization. The organization's knowledge and experience in the world of employment and its collaborative work with social businesses and local municipalities in Israel's periphery, produced a project that centers the women from Gaza envelope communities and offers them precise training programs, including specialized on-the-job training that culminates in a job offer from the office that trained them.

Additionally, the organization provides the necessary infrastructure and equipment to enable women to rejoin the workforce during these difficult times, when things are still in a state of crisis, and purchases equipment and services for these women and their children, such as computers and tablets. In total, the project has helped about 50 women from a variety of backgrounds—religious, secular, single mother, haredi, as well as women from the local kibbutzim, including women whose families were personally impacted by the war.



Early Childhood Programming in Lakia

Hod Gedenkin and Ziva Shavit

In the Bedouin community of Lakia, located near the Gaza Strip, most of the homes do not have safe rooms or access to public shelters. Some families do not even have proper homes and instead live in tents or shacks. Accordingly, parents who serve in essential jobs during an emergency worry about leaving their kids in an unprotected place all alone.

To give them peace of mind and enable them to perform their jobs in the community in the best way possible, these parents need to know that their kids are safe and protected and productively engaged throughout the day. This project, which is conducted by volunteers in the local community center, provides a day care center with emotional support, educational activities, and recreation for 25 nursery- and kindergarten-aged children from the community, whose parents work in the medical field.

All the activities are conducted in a protected space that is suitable for kids and includes all necessary professional equipment. In this way, parents who are working essential jobs can fully devote themselves to their professional responsibilities, knowing that their kids are in a safe place.



Har Nof's Rapid Response Team

Shmuel Drillman and Eliyahu Weizer

Har Nof is a haredi neighborhood in Jerusalem that has experienced several horrific terror attacks, including an attack on a synagogue in 2014 in which six people were brutally murdered. Since then, Har Nof has been considered a “weak spot” when it comes to security issues due to the fact that it is isolated and home to several notable public figures. The closest police station is located on the other side of the city, and it has a hard time providing for the neighborhood’s needs quickly.

Neighborhood residents, headed by Shmuel Drillman, decided to take responsibility for their community and established a rapid response team comprised of 40 local volunteers. The volunteers were trained, and a location was designated as their command post. The number of volunteers was impressive, and it was heartwarming to see that community residents of all ages jumped on the opportunity to get involved and provide for their community.

With the help of the funding they received, team members underwent necessary training, and used their own resources to renovate their command post, which will eventually become a permanent police station in the community.



The Turquoise Operations Center

Mirit Cohen Baba

The Turquoise Operations Center began as a solo initiative of one woman from Atlit who wanted to collect donations for soldiers in light of the equipment and food shortage in the early days of the war. Accordingly, the Turquoise club, a community center in the city of Atlit, was transformed into a collection point where donations of food, equipment, warm clothing, and toiletries were collected during the first few days.

But news traveled fast, and kindhearted people from the region heard about the project and began to bring large quantities of equipment and food to the Turquoise club, not just for soldiers, but also for evacuated families who had arrived in the Carmel Coast and Haifa region. The modest operations center was transformed into the main arm of a regional collection effort in the Carmel Coast area, and the woman who initiated the project even managed to raise money to purchase thermal clothes and winter equipment for soldiers.

As of today, the Turquoise Operations Center functions as the central collection point in the Carmel Coast region. Dozens of tons of food are brought there each week. The food is sent to families in need as well as to soldiers on the front. It is an excellent example of how a small initiative spearheaded by one caring woman was transformed into a massive social undertaking, together with other people who were looking for people who cared as much as she did.



Yeruham Homefront

Hanni Briga

Yeruham Homefront is an inspiring story that began as a WhatsApp group of local activists and was transformed into a real community. Already on October 7th, a WhatsApp group was started for volunteers and about 100 people joined within a short time. Different needs were raised in the group, primarily equipment needed by the new local rapid response team.

The extensive mobilization of reserve soldiers widened the scope of the group's activities. The group began to address needs that came from the front, as well as to provide for families who had been relocated to Yeruham from Gaza envelope communities. The WhatsApp group that began as a private initiative became a large-scale project with about 700 volunteers from the town of Yeruham, who were divided into different domains: laundry services for soldiers and families; transportation; showers for soldiers; volunteer coordination; getting shelters and apartments ready for evacuees; and a large logistics center with everything needed by soldiers and families, including clothing, food, and toiletries.

Within the town, a community was formed. A community of volunteers that helps more than 6,000 soldiers and 1,000 families in Yeruham and the surrounding areas. Not only does their work provide for the people who need help, it also brings together more and more people who draw strength from the project and have become a wonderful circle of giving and receiving.

Amit - Embracing Life

Shneur Gluckovsky



Many women from areas of the country in the line of fire were in advanced pregnancy at the time of the Hamas rampage on October 7th. In the days and weeks that followed, when their husbands were called up for reserve duty, they gave birth all alone, without the support and embrace they desperately needed from their partners.

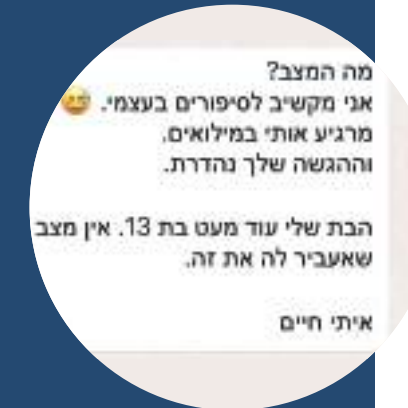
The Chabad community in the Kiryat HaLeom neighborhood of Rishon LeZion, established the Amit - Embracing Life project in memory of Amit Lahav, a member of the community who was murdered by Hamas. In the context of this project, care packages are given to new mothers. Each package includes a onesie for the baby, a present for the new mother, a gift card, and a moving handwritten note that seeks to provide strength to the new mother. Since the outbreak of the war, 340 new mothers from Gaza envelope communities have received kits, which communicate the message, “They tried to take away life; we will respond by creating life.”



The entire community joined the effort, including 250 residents of Rishon LeZion as well as people who work in Kiryat HaLeom, who come from a variety of backgrounds—secular and traditional, women and men. Everyone comes and works alongside one another. Stores have even donated equipment and baby clothing, and in light of the incredible response, the project was extended and an additional operations center was opened to collect equipment for soldiers. This project is an example of a heartwarming partnership between the community and the surrounding environment that moves past the things that threaten to divide us and encourages people to do things for one another.

Bedtime Stories for Heroes

Livnat Ben Hamo



The need for a pleasant bedtime routine for kids is important, especially when they're little. For this reason, we help our kids go to bed and tell them stories so that the transition from being wide awake to fast asleep will be as smooth and pleasant as possible. A time of war is characterized by sirens, anxiety, fear, and often also the extended absence of one (or both) parents. In times like this, kids often do not have someone to read them a bedtime story or be at their side when the dark of night arouses fears or terrible thoughts.



This project was developed to improve bedtime routines for kids whose parents are not home or who need help in light of the stressful situation. In the context of this project, bedtime stories were recorded by a musician and radio announcer, who is also a mom who reads bedtime stories to her two little girls each night. The idea was developed on a WhatsApp group for parents. The woman who spearheaded the project posted recorded stories on the group chat and it was so successful that the group filled up with a maximum number of participants within three days.

More than 1,800 people have already received more than 40 recorded stories with musical accompaniment. The stories are diverse and fascinating and deal with a range of topics. They include classics, as well as stories that have been adapted for kids with special needs. Many stories were recorded at the request of kids, so every child can find a story that he or she likes, and no less important - sleep better at night.



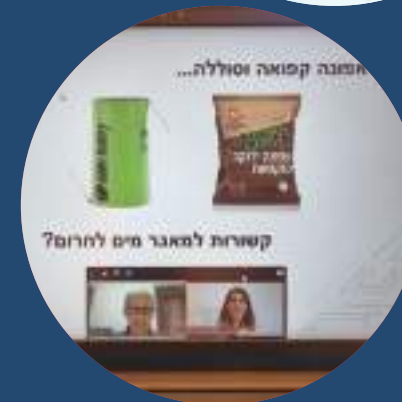
Aid for the People of Ashkelon

Itai Sahar

Unlike the communities in the Gaza envelope that were evacuated at the outbreak of the war, the decision to officially evacuate the city of Ashkelon was delayed and forced the 165,000 residents of the city into an additional quandary: The constant barrage of missiles made it nearly impossible to leave their homes to buy food or take care of other essential errands, and anyway the vast majority of local businesses closed in light of the situation.

These disparities between needs and available services gave rise to a WhatsApp group established by the entrepreneur with over 700 members who forwarded inquiries and requests from residents. Very quickly, by word of mouth, they also began to receive inquiries from residents of other cities who were worried for their relatives in Ashkelon. This is how the operations center was born, with 115 volunteers, which helped about 3,000 families.

The assistance is given in the distribution of boxes of food, equipment, and supplies to families, the distribution of toys for children, cooperation with a national project to locate the elderly and lone Holocaust survivors and assist them in the purchase and delivery of medicine and food, the refurbishment of shelters, distribution of relief kits to shelters and senior centers, and care provided by professional women to relieve the anxiety of adults and teenagers. All of this is done under constant bombing, between one siren and another, while the volunteers cross the urban battlefield so that no resident in need is left hungry or without the basic supplies and equipment they need.



Online Hackathon – Using Tap Water Safely

Shani Biran

War prompts uncertainty and demands that we prepare ourselves for the possibility of needing to remain in a safe space or shelter for days on end, without access to running water. Being prepared for this possibility, together with the Home Front Command's directions, led to an increased demand for mineral water in the early days of the war, which in turn created a shortage.

However, it is not necessary to buy water in order to store it for an emergency. In order to know how to do this correctly, without risking using unsuitable or inferior water, the Kinneret Innovation Center established an online hackathon. For an entire day, they explained how to correctly use and store tap water, and check the quality of the water, so it won't go to waste.

Dozens of professionals who work in the field of water and innovation in Israel participated in the “Strengthening Civilian Water Resilience” hackathon. The event wasn't limited to giving tips to the general public. It also provided policy makers with professional tools and concrete suggestions about the issue.

Healing Teddies

Ilana Konstantinovsky



Real giving begins with a hug, and it's extremely significant—both because it gives patients a sense of encouragement and calm, and also because it helps victims of the massacre and war deal with the severe trauma they experienced and the pain that still sears through their hearts. The “Healing Teddies” organization helps victims of trauma and anxiety, through the unique method of giving out therapeutic teddy bears.

Since the outbreak of the war, the organization's volunteers have been working around the clock to reach anyone who needs help: people wounded in war, families who were evacuated from their homes, hostages who came back from Gaza, and primarily children who survived the atrocities and experienced severe trauma on account of watching their homes burned, and their families and friends murdered, at times before their very eyes. The organization's volunteers work together with evacuee family centers as well as hospitals in order to reach as many children and wounded as possible.

More than 300 teddy bears have already been given out. Beyond this, volunteers are obviously also on hand to support and help the children, their families, the wounded, and the returned hostages, with deep empathy and incredible sensitivity.



South Tel Aviv Stands with the South

Shula Keshet

In the early days of the war, before the government officially decided to evacuate residents and award them monetary compensation, many families frantically headed to hotels, hostels, and apartments in the Tel Aviv region. Most of them came on their own. They were not in touch with the big volunteer civilian operations centers that had opened and did not know how to reach them. They could have easily fallen between the cracks.

The emergency center set up in south Tel Aviv provided help for each of these people in a number of areas, with no less than 200 volunteers: they provided clothing and other essential products for individuals and families who had self-evacuated; hot meals and equipment for soldiers on the frontlines; help for residents of south Tel Aviv who had run into economic trouble due to the war; emotional support for the elderly; and arts and crafts activities for kids in different Tel Aviv centers for evacuees.

Hundreds of families and hundreds of soldiers benefited from this initiative that was spearheaded by the community in south Tel Aviv, a community that doesn't stop and continues to look ahead and put plans in place for after the war and hopes to establish a rapid response team, an agricultural fair with farmers from the Gaza envelope, and a cultural festival.

Call-up Notice for Interior Designers

Miri Balbul



One aspect of the war that doesn't always get the attention it deserves is the issue of wounded soldiers, whose lives have been changed forever. A soldier who loses a hand, foot, an eye, or cognitive abilities, needs to reorganize all aspects of his life, down to the smallest details.

The entrepreneur accepted this challenge and gathered together a group of 300 interior designers to renovate the homes of wounded soldiers and adapt them to the soldiers' physical and mental needs. The goal was to give the soldiers a place that is pleasant and suited to their new needs, in order to make it easier for them to deal with their new and objectively difficult situation.

This incredible project galvanized not only interior designers, but also more than 300 contractors, handymen, store owners, and businesses that donated materials and many hours of their time. Soldiers who come home and need to adapt to their new lives have somewhat of an easier time, on account of their redesigned homes that have been renovated and outfitted with furniture and equipment especially suited for them.



News for Kids

Avishai Mizrahi

In times of war people are glued to the news, and some of the broadcasts include content that is hard to watch and scars and scratches the soul. For kids, this experience is all the more difficult. Even kids who are less exposed to the news know and feel what is going on through the eyes of the adults in their lives and the frequent sirens and tension that hang in the air.

In order to present the news to kids more gently and help them understand current events in an age-appropriate manner, a YouTube channel was set up. Twice-weekly broadcasts for kids feature explanations about the situation and teach kids about different concepts mentioned on the news. Approximately 1,500 people follow the channel, and the dozens of videos posted there have garnered more than 100,000 views. Beyond this, the material is also posted on a WhatsApp group with more than 2,000 members.

Through this project kids have access to videos that were developed by educators and content producers, are adapted to their needs, help them digest information in a healthy way, and also empower and instill hope in them. Many teachers begin their classes with the channel's video clips, and in this way they learn how to talk about these topics with kids so that they will not be emotionally scarred for years to come.

For Them

Raif Hamdan



When it comes to giving and social action, everyone's a winner—not just the beneficiaries themselves, but also the ones on the giving end. Beyond the pleasure of giving to another, the giver internalizes the values of communal and social involvement and strengthens his mental and emotional resilience.

This is the core of this project that mobilized the Druze community in northern Israel to help and provide for the needs of citizens and soldiers. Different sectors of the Druze community got involved in the project, including adults, kids, families of soldiers, women, and men. Approximately 200 volunteers from the Yanuh-Jat region set up a giant logistics center that provided hot meals for soldiers and basic supplies for families evacuated from northern Israel. About 2,500 soldiers and 1,500 families were helped by this initiative.

Beyond the technical help provided for others, this initiative also raised awareness about volunteerism and involvement within the Druze community and galvanized hundreds of people who had never been involved before to participate. Volunteers reported that the experience was uplifting and many of them expressed that they would like to continue to volunteer and do their part in the future too.



Help for Families of Bedouin Hostages

Wahid Alhozeel



In the horrific rampage on October 7th, 20 Bedouins were murdered and an additional 7 were taken hostage. The Hamas terror attack did not differentiate between Israeli Arabs and Israeli Jews, and thus intensified the feeling that we share a common destiny in the State of Israel. Alongside support from government authorities, a forum was established in the city of Rahat for Bedouins from southern Israel impacted by the attack, with the goal of supporting the Arab victims of the attack and their families.

The forum provides for families of missing Bedouins who were taken hostage in Gaza, families of people murdered in the October 7th attack or afterward, as well as Bedouins who sustained injury, both physical and emotional. Approximately 10 volunteers, who come from all the different Bedouin tribes, work around the clock to provide for and support these families, who also come from different tribes.

Beyond the necessary activities—assistance, therapeutic support, logistics, collecting information, respite activities for kids, and helping people maximize their legal rights—there is also a wide communal network through which groups of Arabs and Jews come and visit families to show support. Through this project, we hope that a genuine partnership will flourish and enable people to work together not only in times of crisis, but also in ordinary life.





Soldiers' Wives of Valor

Avital Asulin

A strong homefront not only keeps it together while soldiers fight on the frontlines. It is first and foremost a community of mutual support. When their spouses were called up to the army indefinitely, many women were left to run their homes and raise their kids alone.

The Givat Mordechai neighborhood in Jerusalem established a project to support families in this situation. Approximately 60 women from the community volunteered to cook meals and prepare care packages filled with baked goods, drinks, and magazines. Local teens volunteered to make deliveries. Approximately 25 families receive meals twice each week, and 50 families receive a weekly package.

Beyond the financial and logistical help, these activities show these families that they are not alone. On occasion, knowing that someone else cares about you is far more important than physical help. Even in ordinary times, running a household demands a lot of effort and patience. It is all the more challenging when one is stressed. Ultimately, knowing that someone else is aware of your struggle and cares is what creates a strong homefront.



Women's Medical Advice Hotline

Meital Bonchek and Michal Hason

Since the outbreak of the war, many women have found themselves in the line of fire—whether as citizens who live near the border, or as soldiers and police officers. On occasion, these women find themselves without access to medical services, such as prescriptions, supervision of fertility treatments, or pregnancy monitoring that was interrupted on account of reserve duty or being displaced from their homes. They also have had a hard time addressing medical issues that came up during this period, on account of the crisis.

The emergency hotline mobilized 60 top doctors from around the country who are experts in gynecology, family medicine, psychiatry, cardiology, urology, and mental health. The project provided assistance to 77 women, including female soldiers fighting in Gaza, women whose spouses are serving in the reserves, and women who were evacuated from their homes.

Beyond medical consultations and guidance, this project also helped resolve some urgent issues, such as renewing prescriptions, transporting medications, and helping with bureaucratic issues. This project emphasizes the importance of human diversity, and the place of women within that diversity, and highlights how critical it is to provide targeted solutions to as many elements of the population as possible.

Our Strength is in Our Unity

David Herman

This project demonstrates the extent to which a community or initiative that operates under ordinary circumstances can harness its resources and double its output during an emergency. A nonprofit organization that was established in memory of the founder's daughter, who died of cancer several years ago, changed its trajectory during this crisis and used its network of people and its logistical infrastructure to help families who were evacuated to the Afula and Jezreel Valley region.

Through the organization's network of connections and activities, evacuated families were given places to stay, meals, clothing, games, and interactive activities for kids. The volunteers made a special effort to engage the evacuees in emotionally supportive conversations in which they could air difficult feelings and get help adjusting to their new situation.

Between 20 and 30 volunteers help the families, and a number of local high school students in Afula transport food and other necessities. About 130 families were lucky enough to find a warm home and develop a warm relationship with the local community in Afula. Not only is this heartwarming on a personal level, but it also forms a model for Israeli society as a whole.



Jewish-Arab Relief Center

Hanan Alsana and Shir Nosatzki

The war harms all of Israel's citizens, Jews and Arabs alike. In the horrific terror attacks this past October, Arab citizens and Bedouins were also murdered and taken hostage. This shared fate prompted one of the most impressive and wonderful initiatives that we have been lucky enough to support - the Shared Arab-Jewish relief center in the city of Rahat.

The volunteer operation collects and distributes food and other items for Jewish families from Gaza envelope communities, and Arab families from unrecognized Bedouin villages in southern Israel, who suffered injury and loss of life during the war, since they don't have safe rooms or shelters.

Donations come from organizations and private individuals, both Jews and Arabs, and the volunteers, who come from all over the country, are also Jews and Arabs. This initiative highlights the importance of a shared society in Israel, and the fact that after the war, we will need to continue to live together, and responsibility for this falls squarely on our shoulders.





The Social Closet in Modiin

Limor Rubin

The Social Closet existed prior to the outbreak of the war. From the very first day of war, however, the initiative was transformed into a humanitarian organization solely dedicated to collecting and distributing clothing to evacuees. In the early days of the war, the house where the Social Closet is located became an operations center for collecting necessities, and about 300 packages of clothing were sent out to evacuation centers.

Within a short time, this project became active 24 hours a day, as people came to get clothing to wear, and others packed and transported packages of clothing as needed. The Social Closet helped more than 1,000 families with clothing, and the entire undertaking was volunteer-run and free of charge. Beyond distributing clothing, the Social Closet runs a nightly community event to build resilience, which is open to everyone, free of charge.

Aside from the clothing suited to the specific needs of thousands of families in the greater Modiin area, this project also reduces anxiety through action among the dozens of volunteers, gives donors of clothing the feeling of having done something meaningful, and diverts clothes from ending up in a landfill. That is a net profit on all counts.



Haredi Volunteers Forward Command

Aharon Gafni

With the outbreak of the war on October 7th, many people in the haredi community wanted to get involved in the immense civilian effort to help soldiers and families and rehabilitate society as whole. The ability of haredi society to unite around a common goal and work together, alongside the strong community cohesion and sense of mutual responsibility that characterize haredi society, were clearly expressed in this crisis.

One example of this is the Haredi Volunteers Forward Command in Bnei Brak, which not only functioned as a center for collecting information and transportation, but was also designed as an orderly body with an organized leadership (volunteer-based, of course) and a computerized system for managing activities. In total, the project incorporated more than 1,000 volunteers in different fields: welfare, logistics, emotional support, security, and assistance on the ground. Everyone works in conjunction with the welfare department, emergency organizations like ZAKA and Magen David Adom, farmers, and security companies.

The unusual sense of volunteerism in Israeli society was especially evident within the haredi community in many places throughout the country. Beyond addressing the needs that came up, there is no doubt that this is a statement of intent and expression of the community's desire to integrate into Israeli society, even long after the end of the war.



Constant Support for Victims of Sexual Violence

Yarona Ben Shalom

October 7th was a tragic day for Gaza envelope communities and the entire State of Israel. Unfortunately and regrettably, beyond the murderous rampage and atrocities, there are women who were also victims of severe sexual assault. Quite a few women in Gaza envelope communities, as well as women who attended the party in Re'im, were brutally raped, some of them immediately after their loved ones were murdered before their own eyes, and their fragile souls have been deeply scarred.

These women are in a precarious state. They experienced severe trauma and need ongoing support and treatment from relevant professionals. Some of them have not yet even had a chance to work through their awful experiences.

The Negev's Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Support Center, which helps victims of sexual assault in ordinary times, provides these women with emergency initial psychological treatment using the EMDR method, 2-5 times a week, as necessary, for three months. This treatment is critical to enable these women to overcome the initial trauma and get their lives back on track, as much as possible.



Ashdod Citizens for Ashdod

Inda Flint

With the outbreak of the war, it soon became evident that there was a tremendous gap between the needs in Ashdod and the government response. The city of Ashdod is located close to the Gaza Strip and has been subject to frequent bombardment. Beyond this, many evacuees from the Gaza envelope found their way to the city. A civilian operations center was set up in the city to fill the void and provide support for anyone in need in the greater Ashdod area.

Ashdod is inhabited by many elderly people and single-parent families, and the older neighborhoods in the city are filled with low-income families. To ensure that everyone made it through the difficult time, 200 volunteers jumped in to help. They provided people with food parcels, warm meals, and games for kids; provided logistical support for soldiers stationed in the area; and offered emotional assistance and support to families in which one parent had been called up to serve.

Ashdod Citizens for Ashdod is a project that demonstrates the extent to which local communities in Israel jumped in to help, while official government institutions needed time to digest the magnitude of the situation. This project is one of many local operations centers that operated at the municipal level, and not only provided assistance to people in need in the Ashdod community, but also strengthened social cohesion and the value of mutual responsibility.

Strengthening from the Rear

Liron Doev



Strengthening from the Rear is a different type of operations center. It began as a typical operations center that transported food and other necessities, but within a short time it became obvious to the volunteers that in light of the many initiatives and eager volunteers, and the absence of an organized system, there was an incredible amount of waste. Tremendous amounts of food were discarded, and a lot of clothing and supplies were distributed in much larger quantities than needed.

In response to this need, the founders decided to set up an operations center for managing orders and delivering goods to places where they were truly needed. This center was unique in that it also took back unused items in order to get it to the places where it would be used. Volunteers handed out shirts and hoodies as “barter” for the supplies, and also distributed marketing materials to raise awareness about preventing waste.

This operations center is located in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni and has about 130 volunteers who run a 500 square meter logistics center where equipment is stored. A fleet of 5 commercial vehicles are available to make deliveries. In this way, the project makes good use of the resources of the kibbutz that hosts them, while reinforcing the values of being economical, avoiding waste, and reusing things.



Luzitosh

Dikla Salman Tamir, Ori Sinai, and Ziv Brosh

Reserve duty strips away a person’s civilian identity and transforms him into a soldier. The standards he is used to at home are thrown to the wayside, and he must quickly adjust himself to a new set of conditions, in order to function in the field, and adapt from civilian life to life in the military.

Nevertheless, even in the middle of the fog of war, it’s nice to feel, even briefly, some of the comfort of home. The Luzitush project seeks to provide this by setting up mobile showers with hot water for soldiers in staging areas, and even into combat areas in Gaza! The showers enable soldiers to wash away entire days of war and feel a sense of humanity and cleanliness in the heart of the chaos of battle.

Luzitush fills a basic need that soldiers lack when they are at war for weeks on end. It reminds them that beyond their status as soldiers, they are also people who deserve to be treated as people.



Life Goes On

Hannah Ashkenazi

From the outbreak of the war, and for an extended amount of time afterward, the educational institutions in the city Ashdod remained closed because most of them did not have safe rooms. While middle school students and high school students who are older and more independent cared for themselves, younger children remained at home, leaving their parents in a bind and unable to work. The most urgent challenge was with daycare centers and kindergartens that serve children between the ages of 3 months and 6 years.

Complicated situations demand creative solutions, and that's exactly what this project was all about. In a wonderful display of dedication and mutual responsibility, 50 high school girls whose schools were closed volunteered to watch the little kids in town and enable their parents to go to work and earn a living.

About 150 kindergarten and elementary school kids benefited from this arrangement. Not only were these kids under the care of hard-working teenagers, they also benefited from a variety of enriching activities that engaged each kid according to his needs. The kids played games, made arts and crafts projects, received academic assistance and tutoring, and also had support from professionals who joined the project. This is the way to turn lemons into lemonade and put together a systemic solution that helps everyone.



Soldiers Refreshment Zone

Sagi Yehuda

How do you take an existing business, including the people involved and the infrastructure, and turn it into an emergency project? The Soldiers Refreshment Zone project demonstrates exactly how this is done. From its permanent base in the Sharon region, the coffee cart takes its wares to the frontlines in order to provide coffee, baked goods, sandwiches, and soft drinks to soldiers free of charge and enable them to grab refreshments on their way to and from the front.

Every Friday, volunteers take several cars filled with wonderful treats and head toward the front, in order to make the soldiers happy by providing them with familiar foods and giving them a feeling of routine and normalcy, to the extent possible. About 1,000 soldiers benefit from this project each week, from the early hours of the morning, until just before nightfall. In total, about 20,000 soldiers have benefited from the project.

Beyond the fun treat of coffee and a fresh sandwich, the soldiers get to know volunteers personally. Not only do they wait for coffee and cookies each week, but primarily they wait for the human interaction, the conversations, and the simple moments of normalcy in wartime.



Joy Squad

Noa Dan

Finding something for kids to do is one of the greatest challenges facing families who were displaced from their homes in the north and the south of Israel. In the absence of their familiar settings and in a new environment that is usually far more cramped, it is hard to keep kids busy for an extended amount of time, especially if they experienced severe trauma which they have not yet been able to process.

One of the ways to process trauma, and at the same time provide kids with different meaningful activities, is through artistic expression. The Joy Squad is a group of more than 500 volunteers, including artists and educators, that was established on the very first day of the war to help these kids in dozens of centers around the country.

The Joy Squad offers a variety of activities - crafts, games, music, physical activities, and thinking exercises. All these activities are a comforting respite for the kids and, on occasion, a lifesaver in getting them out of their hotel rooms and raising their spirits. The squad has conducted more than 1,050 different events that have benefited more than 150,000 participants.



Happy birthday

Liat and Shlomi Boshkin

Despite the decision to evacuate towns and cities along the border, there were residents who chose not to leave, both because they could not and because they preferred to stay. Whether or not it was by choice, remaining in a ghost town in the middle of war is scary—beyond security concerns, it is hard to live a normal life when most businesses, schools, and service providers are closed.

This project stepped into the vacuum in order to make the kids who remained in these cities and towns happy and celebrate their birthdays with them with a cake, balloons, activities, and gifts. This celebration is very important for the kids, and gives them a few hours of normalcy, which is critical for their emotional resilience.

Through this project, about 10 steady volunteers, as well as many others who join sporadically, provided dozens of kids from the north and the south between kindergarten and age 18 with a birthday celebration, surrounded by their close family and friends who remained behind. One thing is certain: it was a birthday celebration that they will never forget.



Hand of Life – Southern Israel

Mordechai Kreuzer

“An army marches on its stomach,” as the adage goes. In the early weeks of the war, it seemed like it was hard to see this through. In many places, there were shortages because of the large number of reservists who reported for duty, alongside the fact that it takes time to get organized and provide each soldier with what he needs. The Hand of Life project stepped in to fill the void.

With the outbreak of the war, the project’s founder, who is experienced in setting up field kitchens near battle zones and did so on behalf of Ukrainian refugees for a year and a half, set up a massive kitchen and distribution network that provides between 300 and 700 hot meals to more than 40 bases around the country, as needed. Between 5 and 15 people run the kitchen, depending on the amount of work.

More than anything else, the most impressive part of this project (as with many other projects) is the quick response of people who understood the situation and anticipated the problems, often even before the problems arose. With this kind of mutual responsibility, unity and social cohesion among the citizens of the country is not merely a matter of hope, it is fast becoming a reality before our very eyes.



Iron Productions

Shir Sasi

For families who were evacuated from their homes due to the war, joy of life is probably what is most sought after. The disruption of normal life, living in a small hotel room, losing one’s privacy, and the trauma they lived through—all these things naturally impact one’s mood and make day-to-day life very hard.

Iron Productions seeks to “raise people’s spirits”. More than 150 volunteers travel to hotels across the country that house evacuated families in order to make the kids happy (and the adults too) and give them the fun and gratifying experience they desperately need. The volunteers run carnivals with arts and craft corners, tattoo art, games, makeup stations, jewelry stations, sports games, and hairstyle booths.

Beyond the fun activities, the kids enjoy the human interaction and the volunteers’ warmth. After all, these are also things they long for after an extended stay in a hotel. While they have fun, the adults benefit from different activities and workshops that engage their minds and imaginations, completing the package.

Unity is Strength

Daria Petrov



The communities in the north and south in the line of fire are also home to disadvantaged populations. For people like this, the distress is even more severe. Some of them did not leave or were not evacuated, whether for lack of means or because of various limitations. Most of them are elderly people who do not speak Hebrew well, and they live in apartments that do not have safe rooms. They struggle to perform daily tasks, like grocery shopping or other errands, without help.

Unity is Strength runs a volunteer operations center to ensure that these people don't remain alone. They collect information and outline the needs of the population. They then purchase food, warm clothing, and toiletries and make sure that these items reach those who need them. During distribution, volunteers talk with the residents to give them strength and ask about other assistance that they need.

Most of these residents are Russian-speakers and therefore the volunteer center was established with the assistance of the National Federation of Israeli Russian Speakers. In this way, language is not a barrier. Seven volunteers work regularly in the city of Ashdod, and they are joined by volunteers from the Federation in other cities. About 200 families in Ashdod were lucky enough to be helped by this project, alongside dozens of families in Sderot and Kiryat Shemona.



Enveloping the Gaza Envelope

Perach Goldenberg



Kibbutz Shefayim was one of the places that took in families who were evacuated from communities in the Gaza envelope, primarily Kfar Aza. Within a short time, it became necessary to set up kindergartens for the kids in order to give them the routine they desperately needed. The temporary kindergartens were set up pretty quickly, but it was necessary to outfit them quickly with toys, games, and other equipment so they could operate effectively.

In order to give the kids a sense of security with the staff, the kindergartens were run by parents and teens from the evacuated communities, and not by external volunteers and teachers.

The Enveloping the Gaza Envelope project purchased games and toys for the kindergartens in Kibbutz Shefayim. This project enabled the children to return to a structured educational framework, even if only temporary, and allowed them to return to familiar routines.



Mobilization for Agriculture

Galit Avinoam



Agriculture is the economic base for most of the kibbutzim and moshavim in the Gaza envelope. Not only is agriculture their livelihood, it also symbolizes the residents' deep connection to the land. In fact, as soon as the IDF regained control of the communities in the Gaza envelope, the residents wanted to return to the fields, farms, and greenhouses that they love so much.

The primary challenge the farmers faced was a lack of manpower. Most of their workers left as soon as fighting broke out; others were held hostage in Gaza. There simply were not enough people in the area who could help. The acute need for manpower gave way to the Mobilization for Agriculture project. Volunteers from all over the country came to help harvest, plant, and take care of the plants.

An operations center was set up to connect volunteers with farmers, alongside a Facebook page with up-to-date information. The project transports volunteers to where their help is needed, thus helping farmers and farms continue to function, and providing volunteers the opportunity to help rebuild communities in the Gaza envelope.



Loving Embrace

Munir Madi

The Loving Embrace project does exactly what its name suggests: it embraces with love. The Druze community in Daliyat al-Karmel, together with the Kerem El pre-military academy, mobilized to do something for the people who were evacuated from their homes.

Through lectures, traditional musical performances, visits to Druze villages and trips in the surrounding region, activities for kids, and authentic Druze food, the families got a respite from their complicated reality. Beyond this, the students at the pre-military academy which integrates Jewish and Druze youth from around the country, came to the hotels where these families were staying and conducted fun Druze-style evening events with music, traditional food, and a positive atmosphere that helped distract them for a night.

The project was more successful than anticipated and about 3,000 families participated. Later, the initiative grew to include an operations center that raised money and provided assistance and supplies to families as well as soldiers on the frontlines.



Open Your Heart

Amit Asus

Crises that upend our ordinary routines are always felt more acutely by disadvantaged populations who depend on others for help and struggle to manage by themselves. With the onset of the current crisis, families whose children receive hot lunch in school each day suddenly needed to prepare those meals themselves. Families whose livelihoods were severely compromised, and impoverished families, desperately needed immediate assistance.

This project, named for the nonprofit organization that operates it, focuses on families in Be'er Sheva who receive support from welfare services. The organization distributes weekly packages with groceries, as well as vouchers for local stores. Dozens of families receive support each week.

The food parcels and store vouchers are a lifeline for these families. The hundreds of volunteers involved note that the mutual responsibility and strong sense of community emphasized by this initiative ensure that nobody gets left behind. The essence of a community is to take care of all its component parts, and that is exactly what Open Your Heart does.



Rehabilitating the Resilience of Kibbutz Kerem Shalom

Ravit Cohen

220 residents of Kerem Shalom were evacuated from their homes and are living temporarily in hotels in Eilat. Many of them are still dealing with the severe trauma they experienced, when they hid in fear in their safe rooms for hours on end and saw and heard terrorists right outside of their homes, and when they witnessed the terrible destruction, including torched homes and a crushed community.

Emotionally, they are in a difficult and fragile place, which is exacerbated by being far away from their homes for an extended and indefinite period. Entire families were wiped out in an instant. Families of people being held captive in Gaza have been torn apart by uncertainty and the deep ache to reunite with their loved ones.

All these people are in critical need of appropriate activities that can build their emotional resilience. They all need this—young and old alike. This project provides them with activities that can serve as an outlet, such as trips, workshops, and various activities beyond the confines of the hotel that give their hearts and minds some peace of mind and help them recover.



Young People for Soldiers and Evacuees

Shuki Amar

The dozens of guesthouses and vacation suites located in the Julis village in the Galilee ordinarily host couples and families on vacation. People love coming to the picturesque region, located among rolling green scenic hills. In light of the war though, different guests arrived in Julis— platoons of soldiers and evacuees—and the owners of the guesthouses and vacation suites graciously host them, free of charge.

The support enabled the Julis community to take care of the soldiers and evacuees and provide them with the things they left behind when they hastily departed their homes: warm clothing, toiletries, warm meals, and groceries. These things helped them feel at home even though they were far from home. The soldiers also received extensive support throughout their stay in the area.

The staff at the Julis Youth Center supports this project, from identifying the different needs to managing ongoing activities. The entire community of Julis pitched in to help, until the guesthouses and vacation suites can revert to their original purpose. In total, the project helped about 400 people plus 150 families of the security forces who serve in the area.



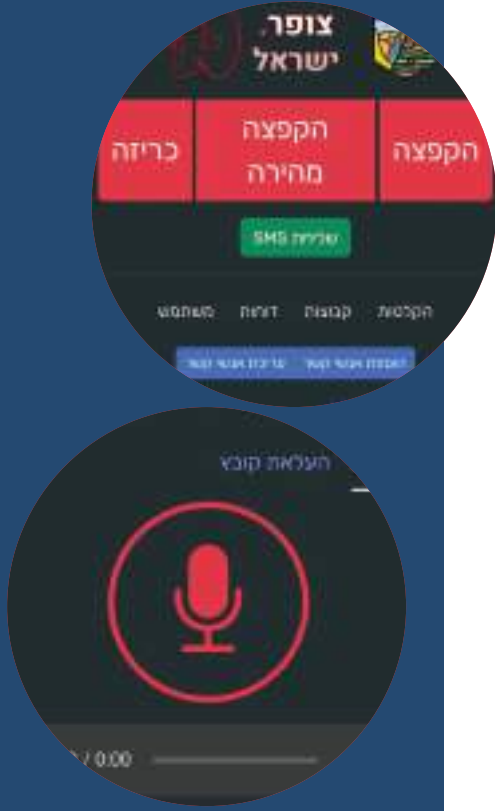
Support and Emotional Assistance for Kibbutz Be'eri

Ido Schwartz

The Kibbutz Be'eri community suffered a very heavy blow on October 7th. The horrific massacre in the kibbutz claimed about 90 victims, with dozens more taken captive to Gaza.

This community needs extensive mental health support and rehabilitation to get back on its own two feet. Many children and teens lost dozens of friends, and they are in deep mourning. Some of them even refuse to leave their hotels altogether.

In the context of this project, volunteers come to the hotels where Kibbutz Be'eri members are living and conduct different activities. Children and adults alike are able to participate in formative experiential activities that take their minds off of things and give them a few moments of the normalcy and stability they need so badly these days.



Tzofar

Oz Elharar, Kfir Solomont, and Shlomo Raz

Recent events have proven that in an emergency every minute, and sometimes every second, is a matter of life or death. The rapid response team in Metula realized this when they needed to call the team to action, but the message did not reach team members in real time. In the aftermath of this incident, an initiative began to take form that would provide a systemic solution to this problem.

Tzofar is a technological system that enables communal security coordinators to record voice messages that are instantly transformed into telephone calls that reach all members of the rapid response team, without needing to contact them via WhatsApp. The system was piloted before the outbreak of the war, and in light of the pressing need it became operational and serves dozens of communities around the country, specifically those located near the border.

The support enabled the system to continue to develop, improve, and adapt to additional challenges, such as enabling mayors of evacuated towns to send updates to evacuated residents in hotels around the country, and making the system available to other communities that needed it. This is a system that saves human lives. In the future, it will be helpful in other emergency situations, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, and more.



Those Who Stayed Behind in Sderot

Irada Ben Gal

About 35,000 residents live in Sderot, and the vast majority of them were evacuated after the October 7th attacks. But not everyone left. About 2,500 residents remained, many of them asylum-seeking refugees from Sudan and Eritrea, as well as construction workers from China. Because they are not citizens of Israel, they are not recognized by the welfare authorities, and when they were left without work, their livelihood was cut short.

This project for those who stayed behind in Sderot takes care of these invisible people who were suddenly left without a job and without anyone who cares for them, and have nowhere to turn to. As part of the project, they received essential supplies and food, which they need to survive until Sderot reopens.

This is a noble project that places at the center the values of concern and care for every person, regardless of who they are. Being in a foreign country, without a regulated status and without family or relatives, is not an easy situation. During war it becomes almost impossible. Thanks to such projects, these people are not left behind either.

Mobilizing for the Community

Siham Khiraldin



In an emergency, disadvantaged populations always have a harder time. The help they receive becomes more sporadic. Their normal routine, which is critical for them, fluctuates. In the Druze community of Hurfeish in the Galilee, ordinary life was severely disrupted. Many people were called up to reserve duty, and residents were evacuated. The people who remained behind were those who could not leave—the elderly, people with special needs, and kids in the “Youth Village” without any other support system.

The woman who initiated this project, under the auspices of A.N.T.M.I., a nonprofit organization that works to strengthen personal, familial, and communal resilience, quickly understood the situation, and set up a system to raise funds and support the residents who were left behind, as well as reserve soldiers from the community.

More than 50 volunteers (including local high school students) mapped the needs with the help of the local educational and welfare systems, and got to work. They visited the homes of elderly residents, distributed packages of food and supplies, helped students who were struggling academically, and collected donations for reserve soldiers. Anyone who remained behind felt they had someone to listen, and sometimes that is all that is necessary to strengthen the community.

Food and Clothing for Residents of the South and Soldiers

Pinchas Sherf



For soldiers on the frontlines to perform optimally, they need professional training and appropriate equipment. No less important though, they also need to feel motivated and maintain morale. This project, under the auspices of the Ach Sameach nonprofit, provides delicious food and warm clothing to soldiers serving on the frontlines.

Approximately 50 volunteers from the organization work on all aspects of the project: food preparation, collecting donations, and of course traveling to the soldiers. Every Thursday night, volunteers travel to the frontlines with delicious homemade food for the weekend. After dinner, they raise the soldiers’ spirits with singing, music, and dancing. The soldiers really enjoy this experience, and say that knowing that they have full support from the homefront helps them stay focused on their goals.

Beyond the support given to soldiers, this project supplies food and supplies to residents of the south who need it, and also offers social support. In total, this project has assisted approximately 5,000 people. In ordinary times, the organization helps people who need full-time nursing care and welfare support. With the outbreak of the war, their infrastructure was easily diverted to support everyone who needed assistance.



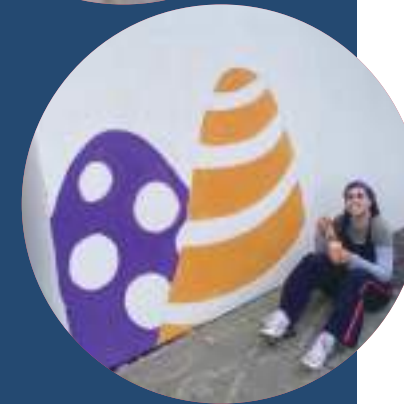
Haredi Women Partners

Esti Shushan

Haredi Women Partners is a project that places cooperation front and center. Around 400 haredi women who wanted to take on a significant role registered to serve as volunteers and were assigned different responsibilities—packing gift boxes for soldiers, sorting and folding uniforms, and packing medical equipment, according to the changing needs on the ground.

The founder of this project received requests for assistance from the IDF, and the haredi volunteers would go to the bases and help. Beyond the objective logistical assistance, this created a deep sense of identification and appreciation. For most of these women, it was their first time being so close to the IDF. Their encounter brought on many emotions and significantly strengthened their sense that they are full partners in Israeli society.

Beyond the help provided, this project prompted hundreds of haredi women to volunteer on behalf of the broader society, beyond the haredi sector. Not only did this project help the soldiers, it also gave haredi volunteers a glimpse into a world they did not know, and perhaps will want to know and understand more deeply in the future.



Community Libraries

Maor Sheleg

The daily life of people who live near Israel's northern border, especially the regular routine of school, was completely disrupted. Many kids were left with nothing to do and spending most of their time in front of a screen.

To answer this need for constructive activity and put a solution in place that provides kids with a respite that is also educationally valuable, the Community Libraries project stepped in. It is a project that serves everyone's needs: The libraries are set up by the kids and local residents, which involves them in meaningful activity and endows them with a sense of competence; the libraries themselves function as a center for the socially valuable and educational activity of reading; and the community space becomes a more pleasant and comfortable place to be.

Projects like this emphasize the importance of synthesizing the values of education, environment, and community cohesion. The final result yields a public space that is more accessible and pleasant for everyone, social interaction among participants, and a stronger connection to their communities.

Wounded Soldiers for Wounded Soldiers

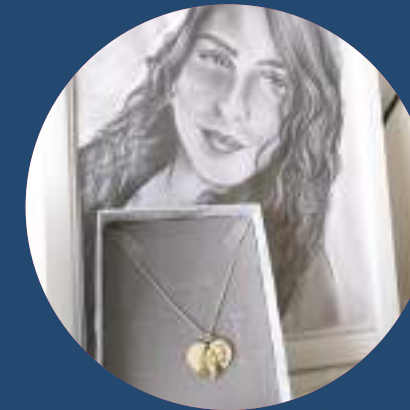
Naom Dadon, Restart



One of the most difficult outcomes of war is wounded soldiers. Their lives change drastically, and they need long periods of rehabilitation. For some, their new situation is permanent, and they will never return to the lives they led before the war. Wounded soldiers and their families need emotional support to make it through the rehab process, as well as practical solutions to help them function physically.

Restart is a nonprofit organization that specializes in creating solutions like this. Following the outbreak of the war, Restart embarked on an initiative to adapt the accessories and technological innovations they have developed to the needs of a person recovering from complicated injuries. This project is unique in that it is run by people who themselves were wounded during their IDF service. They are very familiar with the difficulties and needs of wounded soldiers, both physical and emotional.

In the context of the project, the 150 volunteers visited approximately 250 wounded soldiers and their families in the hospitals and established a system to manufacture technological solutions for them, in cooperation with hospitals and healthcare professionals. Among the creative solutions devised are a Sony PlayStation console that enables people with injured limbs to play with one hand and a specialized crutch adapter that easily transforms a crutch into a walking stick, thereby freeing up the other hand to open a door.



Tachshik Necklaces for Bereaved Families

Havi Weger and Hani Katz

For bereaved families, all that is left is the memory of what they used to have. Eternalizing the memories of their loved ones who were killed keeps their loved ones on their minds and serves as a silent memorial. Tachshik is dedicated to eternalizing the memories of those who were killed. An inspiring project initiated by haredi women, Tachshik gives bereaved families a silver necklace with a pendant engraved with the picture of their relative.

Preparing these necklaces is not always easy—from making contact with the families, to finding pictures that can be engraved—but the results are well worth the effort. More than 2,500 necklaces have been made and distributed. The necklace serves as a gesture and seeks to provide comfort to parents, brothers, sisters, as well as other relatives and friends of soldiers who fell in battle and Israelis who were murdered.

Meeting the family is an intense experience, but it is also filled with mutual appreciation. The moment when the necklace is presented is filled with a lot of emotion on both sides. The women who initiated the project come in pairs or in groups of three, and beyond presenting the family with the necklace, they also offer words of encouragement, embrace the family, and try to raise their spirits at this difficult time.



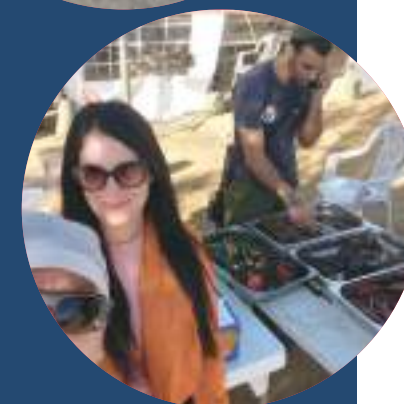
Yakir Li Embraces the Elderly in the South

Entrepreneur: Pini Rabinowitz

The Yakir Li nonprofit organization, which ordinarily raises awareness of the issue of bereavement in Israel, mobilized with the outbreak of the war for the elderly population, with the understanding that this population has a particularly difficult time dealing with the situation. Whether it is grandparents who have lost a grandchild, or whether it is the elderly who are left alone, all of them need assistance.

The organization's volunteers support grandparents who were evacuated from their homes, help them integrate into their new environment, and assist them in navigating bureaucracy. They also organize social events for those located in hotels and guesthouses.

In the case of bereavement and loss, volunteers closely support each individual grandparent. This project helps them through their grief and to stay strong even after the loss.



Civilian Operations Center

Dana Gat

The Civilian Operations Center has been operating continuously since the outbreak of the war, literally around the clock, and addressing almost every possible need. It is one of the largest and most impressive operations centers, with more than 4,000 volunteers who provide for the needs, big and small, of more than 60,000 evacuated residents and 50,000 soldiers.

The Civilian Operations Center is comprised of dozens of smaller operations centers around the country that are managed by the project's founder and consolidate the requests from the field. There are operations centers for food, transportation and distribution, clothing, housing for evacuees, and even to match single volunteers.

Thousands of inquiries and requests for donations reach the Civilian Operations Center each week, alongside thousands of offers to help and volunteer. The beauty of Israeli society comes to the fore through this project, which embraces the soldiers who defend it and all of its component communities.



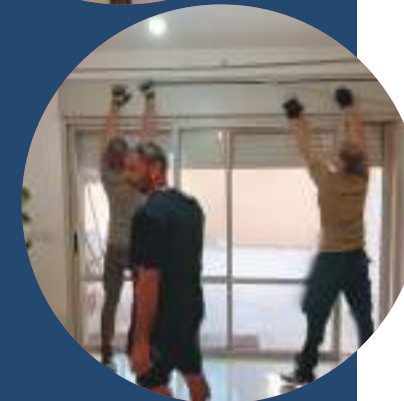
Iron Swords Center for Rights

Shlomit Yahav

War causes a lot of economic hardship, from unpaid bills, to damaged property or lost livelihoods, to physical and emotional injuries. The wide scope of the war created a situation in which many people deserved compensation, but not everyone knew how to exercise their rights, or did not have the ability to do so.

The Iron Swords Center for Rights is staffed by 250 experts in the relevant fields, including lawyers, financial advisors, and insurance consultants. The services they provided to people impacted by the war included helping them exercise their rights to compensation from National Insurance and the Tax Authority and dealing with bureaucracy at the bank, electric company, pension funds, and their places of employment.

War is a time of uncertainty. Dealing with sudden challenges is not easy, certainly not for those still deeply affected by severe trauma. Approximately 250 families turned to the center for assistance, and the support they received enabled them to get what they rightfully deserved, and also gave them the sense that someone saw them through the cloud of uncertainty.



Minor Emergency Repairs

Itai Bierman

The emergency situation caused many municipal bodies to stop operating in the areas near the borders, and many professional service providers were also evacuated or were not able to work. The municipal call center received calls for help from residents, but in the absence of manpower they simply could not effectively respond to residents' needs.

The Minor Emergency Repairs project stepped into this vacuum and established a group of 15 professional service providers in Ashkelon, Sderot, and the surrounding areas who ordinarily work in construction and renovations. During the crisis, they performed emergency repairs like fixing leaks, electrical shorts, and broken windows.

The repairmen receive calls for help from the municipal call center, which collaborates with this initiative and forwards about 150 calls to it each week. This project forms an powerful triangle of giving and mutual responsibility between the residents, volunteers, and local municipality.

Accessing Rights

Nasiv Bahous



One of the greatest challenges facing families evacuated from their homes is accessing their full rights and getting the compensation they deserve from the country. First is the difficulty of identifying which rights and support one is entitled to. Then, because these families are located in hotels and guest suites, it is not always possible for them to physically file the application for assistance.

To fill this vacuum, a group of 10 legal experts and lawyers with a deep understanding of Israeli bureaucracy and compensation rights got together and did the work on behalf of the families. Volunteer delegations traveled to the places where evacuees were staying with all the relevant information and forms to explain to people what their rights were and help them submit applications.

This project functions as a lifeline for these people and has helped approximately 330 individuals since the outbreak of the war. Most of them left their homes quickly, without official documents or basic equipment for a prolonged stay away from home, and were simply unprepared to take on institutional bureaucracy. Also, on an emotional level this project is extremely important since many are still traumatized and do not have the energy for bureaucracy.

Caesarea Operations Center

Sarit Amitai Harel



The Caesarea Operations Center was established early in the war and aimed to function as an “umbrella” for everyone – evacuees, soldiers, and residents who needed help. The operations center identified needs, consolidated requests, and worked cooperatively with all the authorities and volunteers in Caesarea and the surrounding area to streamline its activities and use the resources at its disposal effectively.

And it worked. The Caesarea Operations Center established a logistics center with approximately 400 volunteers that provided clothing, equipment for soldiers, medicine, and toiletries, and distributed thousands of care packages to evacuated citizens and soldiers from the Hof HaCarmel region and throughout the country. Additionally, the operations center provides 3,000 hot meals, sandwiches, protein bars, cakes, drinks, and dry food to soldiers and evacuated families in the area.

Beyond sustenance, a production team was set up to organize activities for evacuated families as well as treatments, babysitting, laundry, and religious services. For specific situations with unusual needs, the operations center undertook special projects such as purchasing computers for kids, or a dog for a traumatized girl from Sderot. As one of the largest emergency projects, the operations center has helped many thousands of people.

Guest of Honor Card

Yonatan Strier and Kobi Charbit



About 40,000 people who were evacuated from their homes came to hotels and apartments in Jerusalem for an indefinite period of time. At the same time, tourism business in Jerusalem slowed significantly, causing serious economic damage across the city. The founders of this project, who found themselves with a shortage of work due to the war, put these two facts together to create a win-win situation.

This initiative brings together dozens of businesses, service providers in different fields, therapists, cultural venues, sports and entertainment centers, gyms, and many other places in Jerusalem that used to have a steady clientele. These businesses agreed to offer goods and services for a reduced price to displaced families with the Guest of Honor card.

Thousands of families in Jerusalem received the card and enjoyed significant discounts. At the same time, local businesses were able to resume working and benefited from the opportunity to earn a decent living once again.

Varda and Micha Straight from the Heart

Micha Adoni



Any initiative that seeks to make things easier for IDF soldiers and help them perform their important work is worthy and significant. This project offers soldiers something unique: pain treatment through traditional and alternative medicine.

From the outset of the war, the mobile clinic has been making the rounds among IDF units on the front lines. 60 volunteers provide a range of treatments to soldiers according to their needs, from ingrown toenails to leg pain. At each stop, professional therapists provide treatments to as many as 200 soldiers. Through reflexology, shiatsu, massages, and physical therapy, the therapists relieve tense bodies and equally tense minds.

The volunteers also bring delicious homemade food, as well as woolen hats and warm socks. These treatment sessions give the soldiers' bodies a chance to rest, and also provide for their souls that need a break from time to time. It is heartwarming to see that nothing is neglected, and soldiers receive a comprehensive range of treatments from incredible people who care deeply.



Handyman Headquarters

Ido Nahum

When the war broke out, many people around the country naturally wanted to make sure that their safe rooms at home were in good working order. With the widespread mobilization of reserve soldiers, far fewer tradespeople were available, and those who were still working were overwhelmed with requests for help. Beyond this, some simply cannot afford the necessary repairs.

The Handyman Headquarters stepped into this vacuum and provided these services free-of-charge to anyone who needed their help. Approximately 50 volunteer handymen and other professionals who work in the field of renovations, came to people's homes to fix doors, windows, electrical issues, and anything else that needed to be addressed in their safe rooms, and sometimes in other rooms too. Many of the people who turned to them were senior citizens who did not have anyone else to help them.

The Handyman Headquarters directly helped approximately 300 people, but its impact was far wider. People were made to feel that they had someone to rely on for their personal safety, even in the middle of a crisis. More than anything else, this initiative is a manifestation of the principle of mutual responsibility.



League of Hebrew Laundresses

Orit Flint, Dafi Szumsztajn, Yael Mushkin, Rama Aharoni, Adi Dahan, Estrella Eisenberg, Shaindy Sadovsky, Ayala Kraus, Gidon Greenblatt, and Amichai Mor Yosef

The League of Hebrew Laundresses addresses one of the most basic needs of families who were evacuated from their homes: laundry. Families living indefinitely in hotels are supposed to receive discounted laundry services, but the costs add up quickly, and in some cases the hotels cannot handle the sheer volume of laundry.

A group of women from the Jerusalem area jumped in to help. What began as a few women who helped a few families wash and fold laundry ballooned into an organized group of hundreds of women that washes, dries, folds, and irons for evacuees in coordination with the hotels.

Later, the project raised funds to buy washing machines and dryers and install them in the hotels. Approximately 15,000 evacuees who relocated to the Jerusalem area are helped by this group, which developed a strong network of support with impressive reach through something as mundane as laundry.



Family Embrace

Adi Zwang Gonen, Sabrina Kornblit, Naama Hully, and Ronit Naimer

The Family Embrace project is a forward-thinking initiative that was able to anticipate the future. The founders understood that the war would be long and would disrupt the daily lives of hundreds of thousands of people, and for this reason it was necessary to commit to long-term volunteer projects, and not just for the initial days of trauma and grief.

This project incorporates 100 volunteers, many with relevant professional experience in mental health and family therapy. These volunteers serve as liaisons to displaced families, bereaved families, families of hostages, and others who need support. The volunteers are there to listen, understand their needs, and pass along relevant information so that the needs can be addressed.

About 170 families have been helped with housing, transportation, clothing, toys, and medical and emotional care. The volunteers understand that they are there for these families for the long haul to ensure they are not left alone.



Emergency Aid for Kuseife and Unrecognized Villages

Shalom-Salaam Kuseife

The Hamas murderers did not distinguish between their victims, and among them were also Bedouin citizens who were murdered or kidnapped to Gaza. Bedouin soldiers are also on the frontlines of the fighting. The families that remain in the villages are suffering from financial distress due to the reduction in their ability to earn a living and the still-fresh trauma.

The project of the Shalom-Salaam organization in Kuseife focused on essential emergency needs for the residents of the Bedouin unrecognized villages in the Western Negev who, in addition to their personal hardships, also suffer from Hamas rocket barrages with no protected spaces for shelter. Packages and food baskets are distributed, along with cleaning materials and hygiene supplies, to about 2,000 families, most of them blessed with children.

In addition to helping with food and equipment, 50 volunteers also set up a hotline for emotional support and helped to distribute the emergency instructions through their WhatsApp groups. This is a project that concerns the most basic need of humans—to live and survive—and provides assistance to those who are the weakest link in the chain.

Together with Grandma

Henia Schwartz

Together with Grandma is a project that addresses the needs of two different sectors of the Ashdod population with one creative solution. Preschool-aged children need supervision, but increased obligations for essential personnel and reserve soldiers made it difficult for parents to be there for their kids as much as usual. On the other hand, older residents have time on their hands, and seek social interaction and a sense of meaning.

The founder of this project put two and two together, and reached out to Ashdod municipality to gain access to a space that was transformed into a playground with inflatables and other play equipment. The kids had a great time, the parents got a well-deserved rest, and approximately 10 older women volunteered to watch the kids and enjoyed spending quality time with them.

Approximately 60 kids benefited from this initiative, which sought to alleviate the loneliness of older residents of the city, build intergenerational relationships between kids and seniors, provide respite for parents who work around the clock, and of course provide a fun experience for the kids.



Warmth of Home

Orly Moshe Tubul

For those who are away from home for a long time, the thing that is missing the most is the familiar feeling of home. Whether it is reservists serving for a long period, or families forced to leave their homes, all of them lack the feeling of home, familiarity, the usual routine, favorite places, and independence.

In order to give these people a little of what they are missing, a team of about 50 women got involved in the Warmth of Home project. Since the first week of the war, they travel once a week to the IDF staging areas, and to wherever displaced families are staying, to prepare home-cooked food for them, to organize social evenings, children's birthdays and more.

Throughout the week, these women prepare an action plan, coordinate needs, and receive requests from the field. Once a week, they travel into the field so that even those who are far from their home, and do not know when they will return to





Northern Operations Center

Noam Weizman

At the outset of the war, there was a shortage of basic supplies and hot food in army staging areas and on the frontlines, particularly in northern Israel. With the staggering number of reservists who answered the call of duty and the need to organize as quickly as possible, preparations were not optimal and many soldiers on the frontlines turned to the homefront to supply missing basic equipment. The volunteers of the Northern Operations Center, which was established on October 9th, stepped in to fill the gaps.

A small initiative that began by collecting hot meals and delivering them to the frontlines in northern Israel, evolved into two industrial kitchens with 80-100 volunteers that prepare kosher food for approximately 3,000 soldiers every day.

Approximately 80,000 soldiers received hot meals courtesy of the Northern Operations Center. Later, when the soldiers' needs decreased, the operations center focused on helping residents who were evacuated from northern Israel, in line with the needs identified by local municipalities. A project that started small scaled up and expanded in direct proportion to the kindheartedness of the volunteers.



Returning to a Clean House

Yael Lavie

Many displaced families fled their homes hastily, without first tidying up for an extended period away. As time stood still for these families, the state of their homes deteriorated. Food spoiled in the refrigerator, animals and dirt came in through open windows, even sukkot remained standing months after the holiday of Sukkot ended.

This project's volunteers ensure that families return to homes that are as pleasant and functional as possible, instead of encountering the traumatic moment when they were forced to leave. The volunteers cleaned mold and maggots from fridges, washed piles of dirty dishes, scrubbed the floors, and wiped away the accumulated dust.

More than 220 homes were cleaned in the context of this project—180 homes in Sderot and the rest in Ashkleon, Talmei Eliyahu, Shokeda, Bror Hayil, Netiv HaAsara, Kfar Maimon, Kibbutz Sa'ad, Yakhini, Yated, and Zohar. In all these places, the project enabled families to restart their lives, whenever they are ready, from a better place.



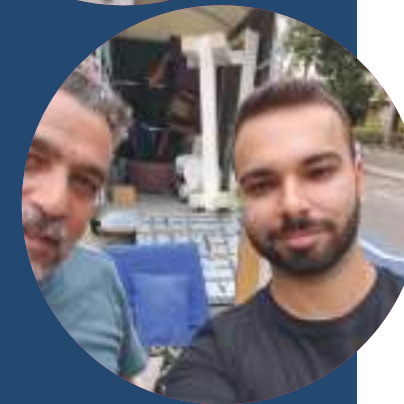
Gaza Envelope Special Task Force

Gadi Tzahor

One of the defining characteristics of Israeli society is the desire to use one's abilities to help others. Members of the Gaza Envelope Special Task Force have been traveling around the Gaza envelope since the second day of the war to help anyone and everyone who needs them.

The task force is made up of eight former members of elite IDF units who are extremely familiar with the area and were able to reach places where they were needed, which only a few others, if anyone at all, managed to get to. The group received instructions from residents and military personnel and helped evacuate hundreds of trapped residents, deliver emergency aid to people who remained in the region, and transport vehicles and other essential equipment from the homes of evacuees.

Now the volunteers are focused on the agricultural needs of the Gaza envelope, specifically rehabilitating Kibbutz Nir Oz as a pilot project that could be implemented in other communities in the future. The group is joined by other entrepreneurs and sponsors, an architectural firm, and relevant professionals. Since the outbreak of the war, the task force has been working around the clock to attend to the many requests, and it is certainly true that many Gaza envelope residents and IDF soldiers owe their lives to this task force.



BNF Squad

Itzik Levi

Ordinarily, the BNF community helps people who are building homes find designers and tradespeople. After October 7th, when the scale of the evacuations and the need to find temporary homes became clear, the BNF community jumped in to help evacuees furnish and equip their new temporary apartments with beds, refrigerators, ovens, and other essentials.

BNF launched a digital platform to connect donors and volunteers with evacuees, which other initiatives were able to take advantage of as well. Data was gathered and volunteers knew exactly who needed what and were able to provide people with what they were missing. Accordingly, a furniture collection and distribution program was set up that operates daily and moves furniture from incredible donors to incredible people who need their help.

Hundreds of families used the website to get necessary home furnishings in order to restart their lives in temporary apartments. Beyond this, the project also serves as a source of income for movers who are able to do something good and support themselves at the same time.

The Home Front

Orly Robinzon

The war displaced many independent families and made them dependent on others as they struggle to function in temporary homes. Alongside the technical challenge of furnishing and equipping their temporary homes is an emotional hurdle of suddenly having to rely on others. The Home Front seeks to give these families everything they need.

A huge 16,000-square-foot hangar space donated to The Home Front was transformed into a home furnishing center staffed by 50 regular volunteers and 250 volunteer designers and therapists who participate as needed. The hangar is divided into different departments: furniture, kitchenware, lighting, textiles, rugs, art, electrical appliances, and even a carpentry shop that upgrades existing furniture. An interior designer, and if necessary also a psychologist and social worker, sit with each family that comes to the hangar to understand their needs, and together they gather all the necessary equipment and furniture. The project even provides free delivery.

A person can only begin to heal when he feels at home and has the emotional energy to devote to the healing process. For this reason, the hundreds of volunteers at 'The Home Front' project include designers, movers, handymen, administrative staff, people who support the families, as well as operational staff. Everyone works together as one unit, not only to supply these families with furniture, but also to give them a home. About 800 families have been helped by this incredible initiative.



Making Homes Accessible for the Wounded

Michal Dolev Hashimshony

Rehabilitation programs are expected to have an unusually heavy workload with thousands wounded in the war. On occasion, the wounded need to stay in rehab units for a long time. At the same time, overcrowded rehab units need to make space for others, and must send wounded patients home to continue rehabilitation in their communities.

In order to alleviate congestion and make room for recently wounded soldiers to begin the rehab process, this project was founded in partnership with the Israeli branch of Engineers Without Borders. The homes of the wounded are made accessible and adapted to suit their needs, by installing safety devices in line with the guidelines of professionals and medical teams. In this way, the wounded are able to continue their rehabilitation in a familiar environment and make space for others in rehab units.

In cooperation with Loewenstein Rehabilitation Hospital, approximately 120 volunteers installed different devices in the homes of the wounded, including handrails, ramps, and adapting homes for wheelchair use. The organization's volunteers support the wounded throughout their rehabilitation process with assistive technology and other solutions to improve their quality of life.



Rotem for the Community

Shani Lavie



In ordinary times, the Rotem nonprofit conducts “Complete Makeover” projects and renovates spaces on behalf of disadvantaged populations, such as shelters for battered women, kindergartens for disabled children, dorms for kids at risk, and shelters for LGBTQ youth. The leaders of the organization took their extensive professional know-how and used it to help families from the Gaza envelope who survived the massacre and needed to relocate to temporary homes.

Knowing full well that these families’ rehabilitation process would be long and complicated, and that their new homes would be “temporary” for at least several years, the organization found suitable homes for families and recruited professionals in the fields of design and renovations. Approximately 100 volunteers paint apartments, assemble furniture, hang pictures, and do everything necessary to give these families warm, comfortable, and inviting homes. To date, ten families have benefited from this project.

The end results are incredible. These families are given a sense of home, and a comfortable space that gives them a sense of belonging and confidence. Now they can begin the long process of rehabilitation.



Home for the Envelope

Issi Kulu



On the third day of the war, the founder of the Home for the Envelope project heard about a large house in Herzliya Pituah that was empty and in need of renovation. This single house evolved into a larger project of renovating empty houses for their owners in exchange for six months of free rent for displaced families.

More than 100 professionals joined the project and donated hours of their time, furniture, linens, electrical appliances, and even a new kitchen. After these apartments are renovated, families move in and benefit from living in these places for at least half a year. With time, the project’s founder developed a strong relationship with these families and the project grew to include emotional support and ongoing assistance with additional problems that came up.

More than 100 people moved into these apartments, which are maintained by professionals free of charge even after the families move in. This arrangement gives families peace of mind, which allows them the stability and time that is necessary to begin the rehabilitation process and adapt to their new lives.



Migdal Civilian Operations Center

Ruti Mozes



The tranquil community of Migdal on the banks of the Sea of Galilee hosts more than 300 families who were evacuated from Kiryat Shemona. For the most part, most from disadvantaged sectors of society, families with young children, elderly people unable to care for themselves, and individuals with special needs. For some of them, their prolonged stay in Migdal, far from home, without the ability to work, has created economic distress.

Realizing that many people were experiencing economic difficulties, the founder of this project opened the Migdal Civilian Operations Center to assist with a wide range of needs: clothing, shoes, food, toiletries, school supplies, games, toys, and books. This initiative is entirely private and volunteer-based and includes eight steady volunteers who come to the operations center each day. The founder of this project even took an unpaid leave from her job to run this project and collect donations.

The Migdal Civilian Operations Center helps approximately 1,500 individuals and proves that society's strength is best measured by its attitude towards society's weakest elements. The spirit of volunteerism and helping others is manifested by every aspect of this operations center, which functions as a model of humanity and mutual responsibility.



Bedouin Emergency Support Network

Jamal Alkirnawi



In ordinary times, Bedouin society is at the lowest end of the socioeconomic spectrum. During the crisis, in which Bedouin society was particularly hard hit, when schools were closed and people experienced emotional hardship and anxiety, their difficult situation was significantly exacerbated.

On account of the language barrier, information was less accessible to the Bedouin community in southern Israel. There was a need for a holistic network of assistance in Arabic that would provide appropriate assistance for emotional and physical resilience. An emergency support network was set up in the city of Rahat and provided for about 2,000 people who lived in the city and the surrounding area. Dozens of volunteers helped set up and run this network, in conjunction with the nonprofit organization "A New Dawn in the South."

In the context of this support network which began to operate in the early days of the war, care packages were purchased, packed, and distributed to families each week; an Arabic-language emotional support hotline was set up that receives about 500 calls each week; and initial emotional support was provided by psychologists and social workers. In the long term, Arabic-speaking emotional therapists are being trained to provide ongoing emotional support for about 30 families and individuals.



A Good Eye

Heela Harel, Shifra Wygoda, Hagar Cygler, and Shiri Cnaani



Approximately 150 volunteers realized there was a need for ongoing activities to create a routine that distracts people from the difficult situation, and got together and decided to promote knitting, an activity known to have a calming effect, quiet other thoughts, improve mood, and provide creative and engaging entertainment.

The founders of this project bring brightly colored balls of yarn to hotels where evacuees are located. In the lobby, they knit and invite anyone who wants to sit with them to join their circle and knit and embroider, to learn or teach a new technique, or to sort unruly threads. There is no need for previous experience or advance registration. Many times they simply sit in a circle and talk, and the conversation evolves into knitting.

Knitting is a meditative activity that quiets the noise—both internal and external—and gives people a small refuge of creativity, conversation, and softness. For the most part, older women from all sectors of the population are drawn to this activity, and young boys and girls also join these circles on occasion. These knitting circles are held regularly in hotels in the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Netanya, Ra'anana, the Sharon area, and Haifa, and benefit approximately 450 women and children.



Iron Lionesses

Sivan Volfovitch



As the war broke out, many reservists were called up, leaving behind wives who gave birth while their husbands were still at the front. Many of these reservists could not attend the birth and were not able to meet their new babies. Their new mothers were left to fend for themselves, without the support of their partners.

Iron Lionesses established a network of 30 moms who wanted to do something meaningful for the homefront. They provided emotional and logistical support for these new mothers, so they would be able to continue to be strong for their families. The volunteer moms were recruited through nonprofit organizations and social media groups, and the project offered coaching by parenting experts, hot meals donated by different businesses, postnatal massages, and practical gifts.

Hundreds of new moms benefited from extensive support, including coaching, emotional support, food, and initial supplies for the new baby. The fact that other women deeply identified and understood the new mothers' situation, enabled them to find sensitive solutions that worked well for the new moms—and created a supportive community for the volunteers too.





Mom's Sandwich

Dvir Deloya

We were particularly moved by this project, not just because it has been operating continuously since the first day of the war and provides food for approximately 3,000 soldiers and civilians each day. It moved us because, like DAYBREAK, it was established in memory of Moshe and Eliad Ohayon z"l. Their picture is prominently displayed on the bag of each sandwich distributed by this project, which amounts to more than 120,000 sandwiches.

This project is carried out by dozens of volunteers. The first volunteers arrive at the kitchen early in the morning and prepare hundreds of sandwiches, which additional volunteers deliver to soldiers on the southern front, as well as to families in Beer Sheva who struggle financially and kids with special needs.

The infrastructure for this project is the Organization for Beer Sheva and the Negev, which raises money and recruits volunteers. The organization also prepares kids for their bar mitzvah and tutors kids with special needs. During the crisis, all the organization's activities form one big circle of kindness and giving.



Garment Sisters

Moria Landau, Chomi (Nehama) Sklar, and Dahlia Schilli-Yerichover

Garment Sisters is an initiative that collects clothing donations for families and along the way provides people with an incredible experience. There are 15 regular volunteers who raise money; contact clothing stores, boutiques, and fashion designers; collect donated clothes; and contact communities around the country to distribute clothing and transport everything to the distribution points. There are also 10 clothing stylists who provide women with personal fashion consulting.

The clothing is distributed through a free "boutique" that is opened for the women, where they can choose any clothing item they like. Beyond the new clothing, which is always fun to get, the project provides a pleasant experience for the women who benefit from a moment of normalcy in the midst of a complicated and difficult situation. Garment Sisters visited approximately 60 hotels and 10 communities where evacuated families are based and helped about 3,000 women.

The boutique provides a pleasant, almost normal, environment, and helps these women smile, even if briefly. Later, the project grew to support wives of reserve soldiers throughout the country. Garment Sisters provides them with a special evening, with light refreshments, an interactive conversation with a social worker or family therapist, and at the end a boutique where they all get clothing.

Our Strength is in Our Love

Manor Rahamim



In ordinary times, Nammos Beach in Tiberias hosts vacationers who come to relax by the Sea of Galilee, as well as events. Since the outbreak of the war, the facilities have been used for soldiers serving on the frontlines in northern Israel, as well as families evacuated from their homes on the northern border. Nammos Beach became an operations center, the kitchen was kashered, and the entire staff jumped in to help, alongside 300 volunteers.

In the kitchen, volunteers prepare more than 1,000 hot meals each weekday, and 2,000 meals each Friday, for soldiers on the frontlines. Beyond the meals, Nammos Beach also hosts special evenings for soldiers on leave, including swimming, barbecues, massages, sleeping accommodations, and breakfast. Once a week, Nammos Beach hosts children whose families were evacuated from the northern border and conducts a special day for them with sports and fun activities.

With the arrival of winter, the Nammos Beach operations center collected donations to buy winter gear for soldiers, which is distributed to units stationed in the area. The staff also goes to the units and hosts special dinners for them at their bases. To date, Nammos Beach has provided more than 50,000 hot meals. Nearly every soldier in northern Israel has benefited from the generosity of the staff at Nammos Beach, who have proven that there is no limit to real giving that comes from the heart.



Municipal Emergency Volunteer Network – Tiberias

Yosef Ben Hamo



Many northern residents were evacuated from their homes to the many hotels in Tiberias. To respond to their needs, including supporting needy families and providing recreational activities for children and senior citizens, the city activated an emergency network of 850 volunteers.

The infrastructure for this network has been in place since the COVID pandemic, and it was therefore relatively easy to restore it to activity. In the early days of the war, the network primarily provided food, basic necessities, baby food, and clothing and games for kids. Later, other needs came up, such as hosting birthday parties, and even bar mitzvah celebrations, which were conducted with the help of the volunteers.



The highlight of this project is the recreational activities, which have been conducted throughout the entire crisis, in the hotels and beyond. For evacuees, these activities are a lifeline. More than 5,000 people who were relocated to Tiberias benefit from lectures, sports days, and cultural events that are organized by the volunteers in Tiberias almost every day.



Operations Center for Soldiers

Naama Abraham

From the second day of the war, the residents of the community of Hispin in the southern Golan Heights immediately organized to help the soldiers serving on the northern border. Since the army struggled to provide food for the soldiers in the early days, the community established an operations center to prepare food for soldiers serving in the area.

The operations center prepared and distributed approximately 1,000 kosher hot meals each day, with the help of local women who prepared food in their homes, and volunteer drivers who delivered to soldiers at various outposts. People also sent cakes, cookies, and other sweets to sweeten the soldiers' long days.

Beyond the soldiers who benefited from the food lovingly prepared for them by the incredible and instant response of the people of Hispin, this project also made the volunteers feel a deep sense of purpose. The response from the soldiers encouraged the volunteers to continue running the operations center as long as it was necessary, for many long weeks.



All as One

Maya Arazi

One of the most sacred tasks in this war is ensuring that the bodies of those who were murdered are properly and respectfully buried. ZAKA volunteers perform this important work all year long, but on account of the staggering number of people murdered on October 7th, they worked around the clock for weeks on end. One of the most difficult things they encountered was the stench of death that permeated everything.

In many situations, ZAKA volunteers dealt with bodies that had remained outside for several days and begun to decompose. The terrible stench can become ingrained in their memories and haunt them. The All as One project addressed this problem by providing special perfume ointments to neutralize the awful smell. The project set up a home-based factory to produce and package the ointment so that the sacred work of ZAKA's volunteers could continue.

Aside from ZAKA volunteers, police and soldiers who went through victims' homes and cleaned the houses after the disaster also used the ointments. In total, they helped approximately 1,800 volunteers, policemen, and soldiers who came face to face with unspeakable horrors and at least spared them from the terrible stench of death.

Not One Missing Document

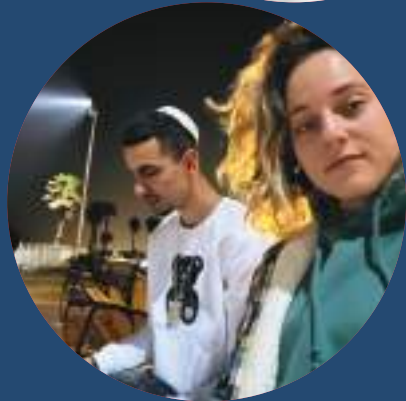
Debbie Green



Never before in Israel have hundreds of homes been set on fire and all their contents destroyed, including the important documents of all the members of the household. People who had to flee their homes were also left without their essential documents for daily life and for their future. Countless certificates, medical records, wills, accounting books, religious documents, and contracts were either inaccessible or destroyed. In many cases these documents were in a foreign language and difficult to replace.

Not One Missing Document recovers lost documents, including translation from foreign languages. The project collected requests for assistance, after which the 14 volunteers—who speak no less than 20 languages, and some of whom have backgrounds in law and accounting—drafted, translated, mailed, and handled all the bureaucracy to give 3,000 people their lives back.

Official documents are critical for daily life, but just as importantly they provide personal security and stability in the rehabilitation process. In a chaotic environment where everything seems uncertain, recovering lost documents is an important step on the long road to recovery.



Good News

Efrat Magen



National resilience begins with personal resilience. Good News strengthens soldiers at the front with deliveries of hot food and supplies and strengthens the homefront by publicizing messages of unity and good news on social media.

Good News has 738 volunteers across the country, who receive assignments according to their location. They deliver hot meals to soldiers on the frontlines and warm winter clothing and assorted essential supplies to families who were evacuated from their homes. This project has provided for approximately 500 requests for help across the country.

Concurrently, Good News opened an Instagram account where they only post good news, with the goal of strengthening Israeli national resilience. Here they share stories about acts of heroism, soldiers with high morale, and volunteering activities around the country. 7,000 people follow Good News on Instagram, and the optimism radiated by this project strengthens the national spirit and rehabilitates society as a whole.





Spreading the Love to the Elderly

Ruti Dahan

The war severely impacted the city of Ashkelon, leading to a situation in which many elderly people could not leave their homes, including Holocaust survivors and those who live alone without anyone to turn to for help. The project's founder recruited 73 volunteers from Ashkelon who jumped in to make sure that no elderly man or women in Ashkelon would go hungry.

In their home kitchens, women lovingly cooked and packaged hot meals. Basic supplies like bread, dairy products, spreads, cookies to sweeten the difficult days, and even Hanukkah candles were added to the packages for the elderly. Volunteers distributed these care packages to anyone who needed help around the city.

In total, more than 500 elderly and lonely residents of Ashkelon received these care packages and felt the power of a community that embraces everyone and makes sure that nobody is left behind. Beyond the delicious food, the benevolent gesture will certainly never be forgotten.



Gathering the Shards

Iris Peles Azoulay

Gathering the Shards is a memorialization project that was founded in the aftermath of October 7th. The project's founder, a professional mosaic artist, wanted to find a way to process the overwhelming pain, worry, and anxiety, and decided to use artistic expression to do her part to memorialize the victims.

At the center of the project is a memorial wall for all the victims that features a mosaic butterfly in honor of each and every victim. The project's founder reopened her art studio, shook off the dust that had gathered on the boxes and art supplies, and invited bereaved families to come and make a butterfly-shaped mosaic in memory of their murdered loved ones.

Many families from all over the country came to the studio and made 1,250 butterflies in memory of those who were killed. On occasion, they were joined by others, from all parts of society, who looked for a way to channel their pain. Together, they gathered the shards, quite literally, and used them to create something new, optimistic, colorful, and filled with hope for a better future.



Ami-Chai Station

Hana Attias Eisenberg and Oriya Attias

With the widespread mobilization of reserve soldiers, hundreds of thousands of soldiers moved to the north and south. In the first weeks of the war, most of the traffic near the borders consisted of soldiers moving to and from the frontlines. For the benefit of the soldiers who traveled these roads at all hours of the day, the Ami-Chai refreshment station was set up near Moshav Mavki'im, just south of Ashkelon.

This station is more than just a regular refreshment booth that hands out coffee and sandwiches. Sixty volunteers take turns staffing the station 24 hours a day, providing for all the needs of the soldiers who pass by, and if necessary, also delivering food into the field. Beyond the hot meals, soldiers also benefit from laundry services, hot showers, clothing, and a warm place to rest and nap.

The project's founders decided that the Ami-Chai Station would stay open until the end of the fighting, and so far more than 150,000 soldiers have benefited from it. All activities are run by volunteers, who form a diverse and unified mosaic of Israeli society and stand together to help the soldiers on the frontlines.



Woman of Valor

Adael Isaacs

When hundreds of thousands of men were called up for prolonged stints of reserve duty, many women were left at home to manage their homes and families on their own. For mothers of large families, this was even more difficult, and many struggled to keep up with basic tasks like cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the kids.

This project worked to make things easier for these women and help them through the challenging time. Approximately 15 women volunteered to cook weekly meals, and donations were collected to buy toys for the kids, lightening the heavy load on these women's shoulders.

In total, the Woman of Valor project adopted 62 families, consisting of 220 individuals, who enjoyed weekly hot meals as well as toys that kept the kids busy. Volunteers also pampered the women with cosmetics and supportive letters. The kids' eyes, and their mothers' eyes too, after they received the letters, said it all.



Help for Struggling Kids in Ashdod

Esther Bracha Rosenblatt, Mordechai Yehezkel Rosenblatt, and David Rosenblatt

For families of kids with special needs, dealing with the war is a tremendous challenge. The sirens and tension make these kids especially anxious, and the lack of stability directly impacts their ability to maintain a normal life, which even in ordinary times is filled with bumps and difficulties.

To help families with special needs kids, this project recruited 30 volunteers to pick them up from their homes in Ashdod and take them to recreational activities, which gave the kids a safe place to play and gave their families a few hours of respite.

This project helped approximately 100 kids in Ashdod who enjoyed games with kids their own age, and therapeutic music and arts workshops. Beyond these concentrated days when activities were held, the children also received gifts and games to take home with them.



Hope Truck

Yisroel Frenkel

The Hope Truck is a project that seeks to bring hope. The project's founder and the volunteers are all haredi, and through this project they seek to build a bridge of hope between different sectors of Israeli society. The truck itself is a mobile stage equipped with a sound system, screen, lighting, and all the equipment for a performance. They travel around the country to cheer up soldiers and citizens, driving from military staging areas to hotels housing evacuees.

Each time the truck arrives, together with 20-30 volunteers, is a real celebration. Everyone gathers in front of the truck and enjoys the upbeat music, as volunteers distribute food, sweets, and gifts for kids. These incredible evenings spread optimism and happiness and help people forget their troubles for a night.

Approximately 40,000 people have benefitted from the Hope Truck in different places around the country. In each place it visits, the Hope Truck brings people closer together. The people of Israel—men and women; children and elderly; haredi, religious Zionist, and secular—sing and dance, perhaps symbolizing the future that this society seeks.

Gaza Envelope for the Lookout Soldiers

Yogev Azulay



Since the outbreak of the war, much has been said about the female soldiers who serve as lookouts on the Gaza border, and the fact that they warned their superiors about the impending attack—to no avail. Through this project, which operates all year long, the people of Sderot and the Gaza envelope express their gratitude to the lookout soldiers who serve all along the border.

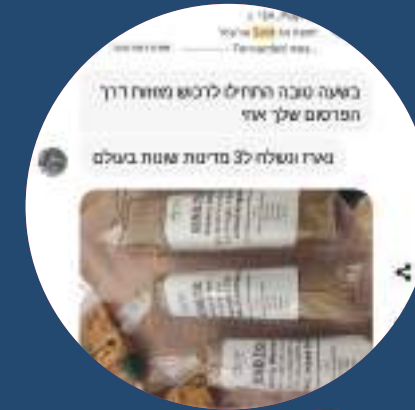
This project seeks to support in the wake of the severe trauma they lived through. In the context of this project, each soldier receives a special gift once a month. Ahead of the winter, they received warm and cozy hoodies with an inspiring slogan printed on them, and the gift was accompanied by letters from volunteer families, as a sign of their appreciation of the soldiers' hard work.

A total of 360 hoodies were distributed to every single soldier who serves as a lookout on the Gaza border. Each one was beautifully wrapped and included a note. Approximately 30 volunteers partake in this project each month, all of whom live in the Sderot and Gaza envelope area.



Iron Businesses

Amir Baldiga



One of the consequences of war is the severe impact on businesses in the Gaza envelope area, compromising the ability of area residents to support themselves. That said, nowadays the geographic location of many businesses is less important. Significant work can be conducted online, even for overseas markets.

Iron Businesses is a digital portal that was developed by five volunteers in order to help businesses from the Gaza envelope and enable them to sell their products and services online. Approximately 3,000 Israeli businesses already signed up, and more than 2,500 transactions have been conducted via the portal. And that's just the beginning.

This is a project that came to be in the most dire of times, but it will continue to operate regularly and strengthen the economic resilience of businesses in the Gaza envelope area. Beyond the connection between businesses and customers, the portal also offers opportunities for collaboration with philanthropic bodies, mentoring programs, business consulting, and grant programs, that will continue to strengthen business owners and by extension the entire Israeli economy.





Buna and Dilemma

Worku Abie

“Buna” is the name of a coffee ceremony in Ethiopian culture, and among people of Ethiopian descent it has deep social importance. Beyond the social function of hospitality, it also plays a spiritual role and is a means of warding off evil spirits and healing.

The project’s founder decided to try and use this traditional ceremony as a way to heal the emotional pain of different populations who were evacuated from their homes to the Hof HaCarmel region. The unfamiliar environment, the distance from the places they know and love, and the trauma they experienced, created deep emotional baggage that many people carried around without sharing or talking about it. The goal of the meeting was to create a safe space for people to talk and share their pain and frustration, as a way to heal.

The group discussions were held in groups of 15-20 people and included the traditional Buna ceremony. In total, approximately 200 people benefited from the project. The project touched the human soul, which is no less important than help with the day-to-day physical needs.



Free Supermarket of Ashkelon

Yasmin Markitan

The Free Supermarket operated in Ashkelon even before the outbreak of the war. It was established in order to provide for people who are struggling and cannot afford to buy food and other essentials. At the Free Supermarket, they can simply come and take what they need, without any restrictions or the need to register or identify themselves.

During the war, demand increased greatly—for the elderly unable to leave their homes, for soldiers on the southern front, and for families who lost their livelihoods. The project’s founder could not stay apathetic to the situation and expanded the scope of the supermarket so it could provide for as many people as possible. An additional 12 volunteers came onboard to help with operations, and the supermarket now provides for about 1,000 people.

The supermarket includes a new clothing department, in addition to school supplies and toiletries. During the worst of the crisis, groceries were delivered so that nobody would be left behind. The entire operation is funded by donations, including both monetary contributions and the products themselves, and the store is staffed by volunteers. Once a month, the project’s founder hosts a pizza night and sends pizza and drinks to the homes of struggling families, in order to provide them an experience that is similar to families with means.



Bereaved for the Bereaved

Ayelet Bargur

On October 7th and in the days that have followed, thousands of Israeli families joined the solemn ranks of bereaved families—the saddest and most painful extended family in Israel. It is a family that often copes with terrible difficulties, loneliness, and helplessness. The project's founder, a bereaved sister herself, understood that the difficult situation demanded special attention.

The Bereaved for the Bereaved operations center was founded in order to help newly bereaved families. In the context of the project, 100 volunteers from veteran bereaved families provide support for newly bereaved families. They provide a listening ear and an understanding embrace during the families' most challenging time. To date approximately 650 newly bereaved families received support, and many also received professional support from a clinical psychologist.

The project does not end at the end of the shiva. Instead, it is a long-term endeavor. Many families do not only need emotional support. They also need legal advice and logistical assistance, which the project also provides. Another layer of the project is the support squad for bereaved grandparents. This population gets less support and attention, and this project devotes an entire department of volunteers to them.



Stones with Human Hearts

Drora Epstein

In Judaism there is a custom to place a stone on someone's grave as a symbol of the soul's eternity. In contrast to flowers, which wilt and die after a short time, a stone stays forever. In memory of those murdered on October 7th, this project creates ceramic stones in the shape of hearts for families to place on the graves of their loved ones.

The project's founder opened her studio in Kibbutz Negba to volunteers, who worked around the clock to create the ceramic hearts—18 hearts for each family, for a total of about 28,000—to place on their relatives' graves. Dozens of volunteers participated in the project, including the elderly, soldiers, kids, and families, who worked together in this large-scale operation.

The hearts, and the project in its entirety, symbolize the solidarity of the entire nation with the bereaved families. The range of people who came to join the project and see it through proves that this solidarity is deeply felt.



Give Ada

Noa Khoury

Thousands of people who were evacuated from the border regions are being hosted in the community of Givat Ada. The locals of Givat Ada stepped in to do whatever was necessary to ease the transition. From the very first day, furniture, home goods, clothing, baby products, and school supplies were collected for the displaced families to help them feel at home.

The initiative continued to develop and evolved into a lovely physical location where all donations were stored, as well as a place for local families to interact with the displaced families. Knitting sessions, basketmaking workshops, women's singing events, and support circles for parents whose kids are serving in the army were conducted there.

Hundreds of people got involved in this project, which benefited approximately 3,000 adults and children. The local community and the evacuated families became one interconnected community that supports families evacuated to Givat Ada and also provides a sense of purpose to local community members who assumed a significant role in the national effort to rehabilitate those most impacted by the conflict.



HUBS Aid

Chen Rasooly, Shelly Ge'eli, Gal Tenenhouse

Many people fell between the cracks of the government's support plan for those affected by the war and were not eligible for compensation. These include businesses that did not meet the thresholds set out by the government plan and regular citizens whose homes were damaged but not sufficiently to be awarded compensation to offset the costs of repairs.

This project, initiated by business administration students at Hebrew University, brought their entrepreneurial and business abilities to the fore by connecting these two cases. The funds raised for the project were given to businesses that were harmed but not eligible for government support, and in return the businesses undertook the repair of homes that were damaged but whose owners did not receive compensation.

The student initiators were joined by volunteer mentors from the relevant fields in the industry. A total of six people are in charge of managing the project, which has helped about 50 people. This project engenders a circle of support in which businesses are paid for their work, and residents' homes are repaired. Remarkable creativity thus combines with the social sensitivity that is so badly needed in times like these.



Shuva Junction Refreshment Station

Eliran Trebelski

Tens of thousands of soldiers pass through Shuva Junction, near Netivot, on their way to or from the frontlines of Gaza. Eliran and his brother decided to open up a stand with coffee and cold water for soldiers passing through. The high demand from thousands of soldiers who visited their stand made them realize that more was needed.

This stand has evolved into a huge tent where soldiers can stop, rest, eat and drink, and also stock up on everything they lack: clothing, hygiene products, hot food, and any other need that arises. The station is open 24/7, and there is always a volunteer present to greet the soldiers with a warm smile.

About 3,000 soldiers come to this rest station daily, and altogether about 400,000 soldiers have passed through. Located just a kilometer from Kibbutz Be'eri, at Shuva Junction the darkness is slowly turning into a beacon that lights the way for the soldiers.



Nir Sabo and The Negev Israeli-Jewish Forum

Nir Sabo

Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva has been working nonstop since the outbreak of the war under emergency conditions and with an unprecedented workload. In order to thank them and to acknowledge their difficult and exhausting work, the Culture Evenings project was founded—a series of events and get-togethers for hospital employees to strengthen their resilience.

The evenings are run by about 30 volunteers who are residents of the city and the surrounding area, skilled in the field of Jewish content as well as a wide variety of other areas: culinary, mind-body (massage, acupuncture, natural healing, etc.), singing, dance, and art. All these things are transformed into experiential evenings of connection and team-building as a thank you to the entire hospital staff.

So far, about 400 hospital employees have participated in these evenings, which serve not only to express gratitude, but also to relieve the workload faced by the staff, and comprise another form of mobilization in the joint national effort.





Peace of Mind

Vidya Babar and Lutfi Aladin, Mechinat Kerem-El and Yad LaBanim for the Druze

The enlistment rate in the Druze community is among the highest in Israeli society. With the large-scale call up of reservists in this time of emergency, many members of this community were called to the frontlines for extended periods of time. The families they left behind had to shoulder the demands of day-to-day life and raising children in their absence.

The founders of this project, with the Kerem-El pre-military academy where Jewish and Druze students study side-by-side, aimed at helping such families by organizing recreational activities for Druze children ages 6-12. In conjunction with community centers and youth groups in Druze villages, they organized social events, sports days, and tutoring for those in need.

Forty Kerem-El students participated in this program, which served about 240 kids from 16 Druze villages in northern Israel. In addition to the direct benefit to the kids, their mothers, left to run their households by themselves for the duration of their husbands' reserve duty, received a few hours of respite.



Kibbutz Be'eri Pioneer Team

Inbar Kedem

The destruction experienced by Kibbutz Be'eri will not allow for the return of the community to the kibbutz for a long time, even after the shooting stops and the security situation improves. Many of the houses and public buildings are seriously damaged or destroyed. A pioneer team of young people who grew up in Be'eri has taken upon itself to oversee and undertake the process of restoring the kibbutz.

The pioneers left all their other obligations and have dedicated their lives for the time being to restoring the kibbutz and the community. In a modern-day pioneering process, they prepare the land for settlement, purchase equipment and furnishings for houses that were destroyed, and bring in professionals to repair the houses that can be salvaged, with the aim of restoring Be'eri to how it was and making it livable once again.

About 70 volunteers take part in this pioneering enterprise, which affects all the residents of Kibbutz Be'eri, which numbers about 1,200 people. From the depths of the pain suffered by the community of Be'eri, the members of the pioneer team are working to bring healing and light to this kibbutz.



Assistance to Russian-speakers

Alex Rif, CEO - One Million Lobby | Sasha Mizheritsky - Director of Russian speaking department, Tzedek centers | Anna Zharova - Co founder and CEO, NGO Israeli Friends of Ukraine

Since the beginning of the war, public emergency services as well as local aid hotlines have been overwhelmed by an enormous load of calls. Some of these services have been so inundated that they are unable to provide meaningful responses. In the midst of this difficult situation, many Russian-speaking citizens who are not fluent in Hebrew struggle even more than others.

In Sderot, Netivot, and Ofakim, thousands of residents have remained in their homes, and the vast majority are elderly Russian-speakers who need help in the form of a reliable and effective response. This project works in coordination with local social services agencies in order to locate those in need of assistance. Volunteers reach out to them proactively and provide for any needs they may have, including food, transportation, basic supplies, medicine, emotional support, and even alternative housing solutions.

There is also a hotline that provides support both by phone and WhatsApp. Under the auspices of the One Million Lobby, which ordinarily works to support social equality for Russian-speaking Israelis, 50 volunteers take part in this project, and 600 families have received assistance and support.



Charge N Fight

Sharon Weshler

In order for soldiers to perform optimally, they occasionally need to recharge—to relax, refresh, and regain energy. Charge N Fight gives soldiers a chance to recharge in a variety of ways, both in the area around Gaza and on the northern front.

Over 300 volunteers take part in this project. They come every day to an army base or staging area with portable showers, hot soup, a rich library, coffee, energy bars, clean clothes, personal hygiene products, cakes, and even fast mobile phone chargers, so mobile devices can also be recharged.

Volunteers distribute books and soccer balls to soldiers for the breaks between operations. The response from soldiers has been very enthusiastic, and the volunteers are very happy to have the opportunity to bring joy to those who are protecting them. No fewer than 60,000 soldiers have benefitted from this project all around the country.



We Will Win

Itzik Levy, Gilat Gabay Appleman, Yoav Appleman, Yifat Ben Elishar Meron, Shai Sinai, Haim Padlon, Yiftah Koren, and Roni Hertz

Weekend meals, especially Friday night dinner, are an Israeli tradition, and extended army reserve duty away from home leaves reservists missing this popular event. A group of 60 men and women from the city of Yavneh decided to dedicate their weekends to benefit soldiers at the front. Every Thursday a staff of about 30 go to bases around the country to give soldiers a festive weekend meal.

During the week, the staff makes the necessary preparations, including everything from cooking to coordinating with various army units. On Thursday the staff head to staging areas with an open heart and delicious food, and organize meals for soldiers with a flavor of home, including barbecues, homemade salads, challah with schnitzel, and food for vegetarians and vegans so that everyone can enjoy.

Over 12,000 soldiers from 20 army bases and staging areas, from north to south, have already benefited from this project. The food is satisfying and delicious, reminding them that there are good people on the homefront with big hearts who are thinking about them at all times and cannot wait for them to return home safe and sound.



Renewal

Shira Gergi

If you are talking about national solidarity all across the county, you are probably talking about Renewal. This project brings together groups of women from Kiryat Shmona who have been evacuated from their homes to Eilat. Since they are used to community involvement on a regular basis, these women wanted to help in whatever way they could even while far from home.

This project takes care of all sewing and repair work for uniforms and clothing of soldiers and of the many families from the north or from communities near Gaza who have been evacuated to Eilat. The repairs are carried out almost immediately, and the 40 women who volunteer for this project work in shifts so that there will never be a time when a soldier needs an immediate repair and they cannot provide it.

In addition, these women have initiated a project to recycle second-hand clothes whose material can be used to create new clothing items, or whose appearance can be improved. Over 2,000 soldiers and citizens have already been helped by this group, whose members have indicated a desire to keep up their efforts even after they return home.

The Heart of Be'er

Shiran Ben David



Volunteers at the Be'er Yaakov community center, the Heart of Be'er, began working to help soldiers on the first day of the war through donations of equipment, rides, and preparing food. At first this help was sporadic but as the need grew, they decided to come regularly on Fridays to the Urim Junction to distribute homemade schnitzel sandwiches to soldiers on their way to or from Gaza.

Demand grew, and in order to make sure no soldier would be disappointed, Be'er Yaakov residents initiated the "building-giving program," in which volunteers come to different buildings in the city and run games and activities for kids, and "in return" building residents donate food, snacks, and money for the purchase of supplies so that volunteers can prepare and distribute sandwiches to over 1000 soldiers each Friday.

250 volunteers participate in this program, which has already spread to neighboring cities such as Rishon LeZion, Ramle, Lod, and Holon, and has provided for over 15,000 soldiers. In addition to building residents, restaurant owners have also joined the initiative and donated delicious hot meals of couscous, kibbeh, and other classic homemade Israeli dishes, in order to give soldiers a taste of home as they return to the front lines.



Music Operations Center

Hadas Bell



The Music Operations Center is a community-based project that aims to use music as a means of providing support and comfort to all those in need, including citizens, soldiers, those directly injured or affected by the war, and those simply in need of relief from the great stress many are experiencing at this time. The project brings together about 850 musicians from around the country, as well as producers, sound specialists, event coordinators, and production managers.

Musicians active in this project go each day to army bases, staging grounds, and centers and hotels housing families evacuated from their homes, to play for the people there, connect, heal, and lift their spirits. These could be singers, musicians, orchestras, or any combination thereof. The project also has an active Facebook page on which requests can be made for musicians to come to various places.

Music, and culture in general, has an important role to play in the emotional healing process following trauma, and they can strengthen emotional resilience and relieve tension and anxiety. In the context of this project, 186 musical events have taken place around the country. These have helped thousands of people feel better, at least for a few hours, and take another step in the long process toward complete recovery.





War kitchen

Vered Paran

Like many others, this entrepreneur's business has been entirely redirected to emergency services since October 8th. Vered Peren is a trained chef who operates a studio and runs cooking workshops in Haifa. Since the outbreak of the war, she has, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, turned her studio into a center for providing food.

Volunteers arrive at the studio, cook hot meals, and deliver them, including to active soldiers stationed in the city, bereaved families, wounded soldiers and their families in the city's hospitals, families who have been evacuated from their homes and are currently in Haifa, and city residents who have lost their sources of livelihood and struggle to provide for themselves.

There is also an option to pick up food on site, and since this is a renown cooking studio, the needy who take advantage of this service are spared the embarrassment of going to a soup kitchen or another social services center. This is a community-based project that supports local residents. Approximately 300 servings of cakes, breads, and salads and dips are produced daily, and this number is doubled on Fridays. In all, over 17,500 soldiers and citizens have benefited from the War Kitchen.



Covenant of Steel

Lotfi Aladin and Dr. Ramzi Halabi, Yad Labanim for Druze

Covenant of Steel strengthens the covenant between the Druze community and the Jewish people. The Druze division of Yad Labanim, which runs this project, cares for bereaved Druze families and memorializes fallen soldiers from the community. In this project, it introduces bereaved Druze and Jewish families to each other. The goal is to help families that have become bereaved since October 7th by arranging for them to be supported by veteran bereaved families.

Families that have more experience dealing with the pain of bereavement visit newly bereaved families, both Jewish and Druze, in order to provide support. They bring a small gift, but most importantly, they come with an open heart and a listening ear, which is what these families need most at this difficult time.

Thirty veteran bereaved families participate in this program, half of them are Jewish and the other half are Druze. They visit 50 newly bereaved families all over Israel on specific days. This project provides desperately needed support for families, connects different communities and cultures, and creates and strengthens interpersonal connections between Jews and Druze through an act of communal togetherness.



Support for Women Victims of Violence

Tamar Schwartz and Yael Tzubari

Against the backdrop of the national emergency and the severe trauma experienced by Israeli society, there has been a sharp increase in the reported cases of domestic violence. The entrepreneurs, from Women's Spirit, a nonprofit that supports women victims of violence, saw that the number of requests for help was growing as the war continued.

The organization works with women with PTSD and helps them to create relationships based on trust, and to acquire tools with which they and their children will exit the cycle of violence. In times of uncertainty and material insecurity, there is a real concern that those women will return to violent relationships and the endless cycle of violence. The endless flood of unbearable images and videos from the war has left them in shock and retraumatized.

The work is carried out by dozens of social workers and volunteer mentors specially trained to work with women with PTSD. They work in collaboration with the local communities, with the aim of producing a comprehensive response for the patients. In addition, they have implemented a model of volunteering within the community, in which women accompany women from the same community, which produces resilience, cohesion, and mutual responsibility.



Iron Bot

Dor Saban

After the attack on October 7, we witnessed the most impressive civil mobilization that the State of Israel has ever known. The multitude of initiatives was phenomenal, but it also created confusion, especially among the citizens who needed assistance and did not know where to turn.

In order to streamline the process, alumni of the 8200 IDF intelligence unit developed a technological solution for citizens in need of assistance. Using a smart bot that incorporates artificial intelligence, the system allows any person to request help with a particular issue, and from there it forwards each request to the appropriate initiative according to specific problem and geographical area. The system also registers volunteers with relevant initiatives given their expertise and geographical area.

Over 100,000 calls were answered during the days of the war through the system, which is connected to more than 400 civilian operations centers. The system also asked users to leave feedback, to verify that their issue was indeed solved. Everything is handled automatically, saving precious time and introducing clarity amidst the uncertainty.

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