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Dear Friends,

With the war in Israel entering its 15th month, I imagine that, like me, you have felt helpless at times. We see the country's best and brightest putting themselves in the line of fire while we sit here in relative safety.

But the help that our charity has been able to give, thanks to your generosity, has shown there are meaningful ways to make a difference, even from afar.

So far, we have provided critical aid to our children, alumni, and staff. Your donations have funded additional trauma therapy for children, essential support for graduates in the IDF, and additional staff to cover for those in reserve duty.

Our graduates don't often have families in Israel that can support them, but our Youth Villages are their home for life, whenever they need it. During the war, with so many of our graduates serving in the IDF, the support provided by the Youth Villages has surpassed anything we have seen before. We are proud to have been able to ensure that the dedicated staff have the financial resources required to meet those needs, whether it be equipment to accommodate a new disability, or simply a stipend to buy food for their children.

But financial support is only one aspect of what you are giving our children. I cannot overstate how much it means them to know that they are not alone. At a time when Israelis feel isolated and ostracised, our young people get enormous strength knowing that people in England are behind them.

Thank you for your unwavering support for our at-risk children and for helping to secure the future of Israel. Your support is truly making a difference. May we see brighter days ahead.

*Daliah Mehdi*

Daliah Mehdi  
Chief Executive



# Aloney Yitzchak

At Aloney Yitzchak, our students find purpose and solace through meaningful work on the farm. Especially during uncertain times, engaging with plants and animals fosters a deep connection to nature and community.

The farm is alive with activity. With the end of papaya season, the pitaya (dragon fruit) blossoms are in full bloom, and we will soon be harvesting tomatoes. In the barn, breeding season is underway, and in the chicken coop, dining hall leftovers are repurposed as eco-friendly hen feed.

This season's highlight is the olive harvest, a cherished tradition that strengthens our bond with the land. From cultivation to pressing, our homemade olive oil is a labour of love and community pride.



## Aloney Yitzchak Bakery

Thanks to a generous donor in London, we have established our own bakery where students bake delicious treats for IDF soldiers around the country.

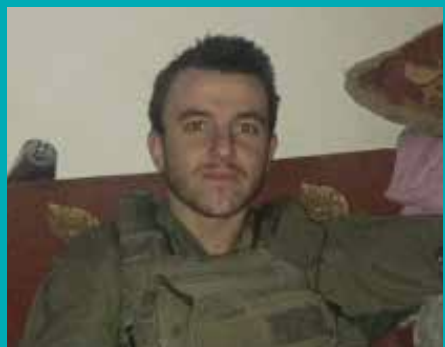


## Honouring the Memory of Nazar Itkin z"l

We mourn the loss of Master Sergeant Nazar Itkin z"l, a beloved graduate and a hero who tragically fell in Lebanon.

Nazar immigrated to Israel from Ukraine and spent six transformative years with us at Aloney Yitzchak.

A talented athlete, Nazar was the driving force behind the Youth Village's cycling team, leading it to notable achievements in its very first year. After graduating in 2021, he joined the elite Egoz unit, where he served with distinction.



# Talpiot

Despite these challenging times and some devastating personal losses, life in the Talpiot Youth Village continues with dedication and purpose. We have worked tirelessly to maintain a sense of normalcy for the children, ensuring that essential elements of their lives - school, engaging activities, volunteer initiatives, and therapy sessions - proceed uninterrupted. Stability and support have been vital for our children.

## A Heartbreaking Loss: Remembering Eliav Avitbul ז"ל

We began the new year with difficult news. Many of our staff were called back to military service during Rosh Hashana. Sadly, we faced a profound loss of our cherished House Father, Eliav Avitbul ז"ל. Eliav leaves behind his wife, three beautiful young children, and the many children whose lives he enriched at Talpiot.

Eliav was much more than a House Father at Talpiot; he was a pillar of strength and compassion for six years. A mentor and father figure to twelve teenage boys and a source of guidance to all the children in our Residential Care Units, Eliav was known for his boundless kindness and wisdom. He inspired every child to aim high and reach their fullest potential. His passing is a tremendous loss for his young family, Talpiot and the whole of Am Yisrael.

To honour Eliav's memory and continue his legacy, every family unit has taken

on a segment of the *Shvil Yisrael* (Israel Trail), a national hiking route that Eliav had walked with his family unit four years ago.

**The spirit of Talpiot remains strong, even in the face of adversity, as we continue to nurture, guide, and inspire the next generation.**



# Yemin Orde

Though the past year has been marked by loss and uncertainty, Yemin Orde continues to stand as a beacon of hope. We are facing our challenges by uniting together.

Tragically, our colleague, **Aynaw Mamo**, the school's attendance officer, was seriously injured twice in the same area, once while serving in Gaza and once in Lebanon. We are providing close support to his family.

As our school principal, **Uri Deutsch**, who heartbreakingly lost his son Yehonatan in a terror attack before the school year began, has so poignantly said:

**“We have no other land, no other nation, no other place. This is our home, and therefore we will prevail by helping and supporting one another.”**

We've adapted to a “new normal,” maintaining stability for our youth. The school year is in full swing, therapeutic services are providing vital support,



while the Eco-Farm offers a serene space, helping our youth bond with each other and Israel.

## Supporting Our Graduates Serving in the IDF

Since 7 October, we have reached out to all 700 graduates serving in the IDF, with about 300 in mandatory service and the remainder in reserves. We also proactively contacted older graduates living in border communities to check in and offer emotional support, and technical assistance.



**Malash Ambao**, a graduate studying law and a combat soldier in the Nahal Brigade, who served 200 days in reserve duty over the past year, as he speaks from the Northern border with his Graduate Liaison from Yemin Orde.

# Neve Hadassah



## Neve Hadassah's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Challenge Trip

This year marked the 16th annual Challenge Trip, a transformative experience designed to deepen the sense of connection and belonging among our 12th-grade students - to themselves, their peers, the Neve Hadassah community, and Israel.

We started early, reaching the Western Wall at 6.30am, where we held an emotional ceremony in honour of the hostages in Gaza.

From there, we set out on an 11-kilometer trek near Ein Gedi, ending at the Dead Sea. That evening, around the campfire, the group shared reflections on their personal values.

On the second day, during a 21-kilometer hike, one of our students injured his leg. His friends carried him on a stretcher for 6 kilometres before he was transported to the hospital. Luckily, he is recovering well, but this incident highlighted the group's remarkable devotion and teamwork.

**On the final day, we climbed Masada in time for a breathtaking sunrise. At the top, we came together to reaffirm our commitment - much like the people of Masada 2,000 years ago and the Israeli army today - to remain a free people in our homeland.**

The trip concluded with a 7 kilometre walk from Kibbutz Yakum back to Neve Hadassah, where we were enthusiastically welcomed by all the students and staff.

The campers described the Challenge Trip as an unforgettable experience, filled with fun, growth, and meaning. It stands as a testament to the strength of their character, their bond to each other, and their connection to Israel.

# T.O.M.

The Tom Youth Village has launched its fifth annual “Preparation for Life” program for 12th graders, focusing on essential life skills often overlooked in traditional education. The program covers financial literacy, workforce readiness, healthy relationships, Israeli identity, and interpersonal skills, running throughout the school year.

The program’s opening day at the Leadership Center in Ariel featured high-altitude challenges to foster teamwork, trust, and resilience.



One student reflected:

**“At first, we thought it was just an adventure park. But climbing an eight-meter pole to jump onto a trapeze showed me more. I was terrified, but with my friends’ encouragement, I succeeded - and the sense of accomplishment was incredible. Throughout the day, we tackled challenges as a team, strengthening communication and trust. Leadership qualities emerged as we supported each other, and I realised I can achieve anything with determination and good friends.”**

As the year unfolds, students undergo remarkable transformations, confronting challenges with courage and openness. They are encouraged to seek support, share struggles, and address traumas rather than suppress them. By the program’s end, they internalise a powerful message: resilience, determination, and hard work can help them overcome any obstacle and achieve their dreams.



# Mechina

## Fostering Resilience Amid Trauma

The impact of the war has been felt in every corner of Israeli society, and the Yemin Orde Young Men's Leadership Program in the northern front-line town of Hatzor Haglilit is no exception.

As is the case every year, a significant percentage of the young men came from Israel's hard-hit southern region, including the cities of Sderot, Ashkelon and Ofakim. Tragically, some of them lost close friends and family members on 7 October. Recognising the immense emotional toll on these youth, our staff understood the urgency to provide extra support.

Eyal and his team immediately mobilised the participants to engage in *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) in the local community, understanding that the act of giving would contribute to their resilience.

**“Providing assistance to others, precisely in the midst of the national crisis, helped them to overcome personal difficulties, shake off the shock they were feeling, and discover inner strength through doing and contributing.”** explains Eyal.



Volunteering in Hatzor Haglilit

# Village Way Educational Initiatives



## Developing new initiatives for those who have been displaced or directly impacted by the war

Following the tragic events of 7 October, we mobilised our Educational Institute staff to help educators and children who have been directly impacted by the war and have adapted our content to address the specific needs of those who have been displaced.

To date, we have developed the following new initiatives:

- Dedicated leadership programs in the North and South for principals and educators, incorporating new content developed specifically to address war-related needs.
- “Pathfinders - My Victory Album”: Writing a personal “victory” album for teenagers from evacuated communities.
- Creating encouragement posters, postcards, holiday cards, proposals for emergency/situationally relevant activities with students, texts for group study, and more.
- Training for the Defence Forces (Education Corps) currently working with evacuees.
- A marathon preparation session for the Bible matriculation exam for over 100 teenagers evacuated to Ein Gedi. Five days of learning that were also used to strengthen emotional resilience, as well as a subsequent leadership seminar for these teens.
- One-year abbreviated program for schools that applied and asked for guidance due to the war and the needs of the youth in these communities.
- *Reclaiming the Spirit* seminars for educators in Northern and Southern Israel.