



During these difficult times, I find myself seeking out positive stories. I want to share this one with you.

As you may know, my father Sion z"l continued to volunteer and support our Youth Villages after he retired as our Executive Director. He was particularly proud to have funded the establishment of the Ohel Rachamim synagogue at Neve Hadassah in 2006, named for his late father.

Last year a very generous donation from our Life Patron, Adrienne Sussman MBE, allowed us to renovate the courtyard outside the synagogue. This has provided an inviting space to hold weekly discussions of the Torah portion, as well as holiday celebrations and other community gatherings. To honour their many years of working together, Adrienne chose to name the courtyard "Sion's Garden". Ebenezer Operation Exodus continued their incredible support for our children this year by funding the Bar Mitzvah programme at Neve Hadassah.

For most of these children, coming from the former Soviet Union, this is their first exposure to the beauty, joy and deep meaning of Judaism. Together with our donors, we are helping to forge their Jewish identities, creating the next generation of Israelis and Jews who will carry our traditions forward to their children and grandchildren.

Seeing the photos of our children celebrating their Bar Mitzvah, and seeing the strands of three impactful donations woven together, truly gives me hope for the future.

Thank you for being part of this special mission. We are making a difference!

Wishing you a wonderful summer

Daliah Mehdi

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Chief Executive



Talpiot

Since the start of the war, Talpiot Youth Village has faced many challenges along with the entire nation. In these uncertain times, the emotional wellbeing of our children, starting from age five, requires special care and close attention.

Our dedicated staff work tirelessly to support each child, offering personalised attention and therapeutic care when needed. Despite the difficult circumstances, our students continue to show remarkable resilience. They actively participate in village life and understand the importance of maintaining routine and stability.

One of the more difficult moments is when counsellors or house parents are called to IDF reserve duty. These departures, especially in light of the loss of our beloved staff members Avichai and Eliav z"l, understandably trigger fear and anxiety. Each situation is met with extra care, conversation, and support to help the children regain a sense of calm. We invest great efforts and resources in this area and they indeed bear fruit.



Meet Adam

Adam came to Talpiot when he was five, struggling mentally and physically. Over the years, with love and guidance, he transformed - eventually becoming our youth representative and now Chairperson of the Youth Council of Children's Villages in Israel. He even spoke before the Knesset, sharing his journey and highlighting the how vital the Youth Village was for him to overcome his adversity.



Aloney Yitzchak

Tikkun Olam - Acts of Light in a Time of Darkness

This past year, amid war and uncertainty, the Youth of Aloney Yitzchak rose with strength and selflessness. They baked for soldiers, helped farmers in the South, cared for the elderly, and delivered food to families in need - proving that even in darkness, compassion shines.



These children who have been through unimaginable hardship themselves didn't just respond - they inspired. And with that same generous spirit, they will continue to lead, uplift, and bring light to the nation of Israel. We are so proud of you!

Meet Angelina Blokhina

Meet Angelina, an 11th-grade Na'ale student and true warrior. After escaping the war in Ukraine, she found a new home at Aloney Yitzchak Youth Village, where she thrives academically and trains as a top-level Taekwondo fighter. Despite a dislocated shoulder during the finals of a national competition,



Angelina chose to fight on - twice. Her resilience, fuelled by the unwavering support of her host family, Valda and Elior (Village alumni!), the dedicated staff, and her family in Ukraine, shows the power of our community.

Angelina's strength and spirit are a testament to what students at Aloney Yitzchak can achieve despite their past.

Etgar Journey: where Challenge becomes Transformation

Etgar Journey is a powerful rite of passage for 12th graders at Aloney Yitzchak Youth Village. Now in its 17th year, it challenges students physically, mentally, and emotionally, as they trek 67 km from Carmel back to their Village, carrying a flag honouring all those fallen in the Swords of Iron war. Entirely student-led, teams manage everything - they support each other, overcome obstacles, and discover inner strength. They dedicated this journey to Israel's fallen and reflected on growth, resilience, and unity.

Neve Hadassah

At Neve Hadassah Youth Village, we're committed to more than just providing a safe home - we're building futures.

"Tachles" (Tech Track) prepares students for elite IDF tech units and future careers in high-tech. It's more than technical training — it's a path to purpose, confidence, and independence.



Excellence in Action:

Over the past four years, four graduates received Israel's Presidential Award of Excellence - three young women and one young man. Our matriculation rate climbed to 82% last year, thanks in part to our strong cyber programme, setting



students up for military and academic success.

Girls Shabbat is a beloved tradition dedicated to empowering our female students. While the boys are away, the Village becomes a nurturing space just for the girls. Led by female staff, these weekends include jeep tours, self-defence, car maintenance, yoga, shared meals, and inspiring talks with Olympic athletes through the "Athena" program. The Friday night pyjama party offers a safe space for honest conversations about their hopes, fears, and dreams.

We recently hosted our annual **Bar and Bat mitzvah** celebration for all our children of age. We began with meaningful aliyot to the Torah, followed by a joyful procession through the Youth Village, and concluded with a heartfelt ceremony over lunch. It was a truly unforgettable day for all our children, their families and our dedicated staff. With your continued support, these programs thrive - turning challenges into opportunities, and youth into leaders. Together, we're shaping a stronger, brighter future for Israel.



Yemin Orde

Even in a year of war and uncertainty, Yemin Orde's unwavering commitment to education shines brightly.

Transforming Learning

Classes in Math and English now happen daily in small, focused groups, allowing students to build confidence. Afternoons are filled with enrichment (sports, art, and vocational tracks) to allow each child to find their passion.

The STEM program now empowers 75 students with mentorship and career prep for elite IDF units and Israel's tech sector. In a standout moment, 11th graders designed Hebrew-speaking AI bots, merging creativity with language skills. At an English TED-style event, new immigrant Matvey Kuznetsov won "Best Speaker" - a triumph of courage and self-expression.



Hands-On Healing

The eco-farm offers more than just agriculture. Students tend bees, plant heritage trees, and practice mindfulness - building patience, pride, and inner peace.



In art, youth shine in music, ceramics, and the Tel Aviv Museum's "Art Advocates" programme, finding healing through creativity.

Heart-Led Leadership

At Yemin Orde, giving back is part of growing up. Students volunteer in hospitals and nursing homes, even organising a joyful weekend for children with disabilities. A student leadership team drives positive change - most recently, hosting a Bar Mitzvah for underprivileged peers.

Graduates Day

When 130 alumni returned for Graduates Day, one message echoed loudest - from Yablo Zegiy, now a mechanical engineering student and elite IDF veteran:

**"Dream big.
Embrace challenges.
Believe in yourself."**

**At Yemin Orde, that's
not just a message.
It's a way of life.**

T.O.M.

Leadership in Action

In a year shaped by war, TOM Youth Village continues to empower its students to rise above challenges and lead with purpose.

Their goal is not only to learn how to lead, but to connect to the reality on the ground by meeting and helping people facing hardship. A recent two-day leadership seminar in Kiryat Shmona brought this mission to life.

Twenty students planned and led the seminar - from designing activities to managing logistics. This hands-on involvement fostered responsibility and teamwork. They began at Koach Fortress, learning about historical bravery and leadership. At Nahal Kedesh, they engaged in an exercise that built trust - hiking in pairs where one student was blindfolded whilst the other guided them.



The Power of Rebuilding

In Kiryat Shmona, on the border with Lebanon, the group encountered a damaged apartment hit by rocket shrapnel. Shocked by the destruction,



the students rolled up their sleeves - cleaning, painting, and restoring the space for future use. Encouragement and appreciation from locals fuelled their efforts, deepening their sense of purpose.

Social Action

That evening, students met with a local community leader who shared stories of life under fire and the role of community action. The next day, Rabbi Noam Sassi, TOM's director, led a discussion on leadership. The students also visited a local school in Kiryat Shmona to run a Passover activity for displaced children, and played soccer with them, spreading joy where it was needed most.

Empowered to Make a Difference

This seminar is a reflection of what TOM Youth Village stands for: nurturing leadership, compassion, and resilience. By connecting theory with action, TOM gives its students the tools to lead, and the heart to care. These Youth return with a mission: to continue making a difference in their communities and beyond.

Mechina

Yemin Orde Young Men's Leadership Program: Building Resilience and Reclaiming the Spirit

There are 68 young men participating in the Yemin Orde Young Men's Leadership Program this year, which marks the 25th year since the mechina was established.

In the face of ongoing national challenges, the group has demonstrated remarkable determination, embracing opportunities to explore identity, leadership, and community with sincerity and purpose. "The group is diverse and motivated. It's a strong group and they have really surprised us," Mechina Director Eyal Eldar shares.

Participants have taken part in a wide range of meaningful experiences—from emotionally charged treks in the Negev to deep reflections on personal and cultural identity. Highlights include Identity Week, during which each young man explored his heritage and shared the unique traditions of his background, and the powerful celebration of the Ethiopian Jewish holiday of Sigd,



where participants led ceremonies and educational sessions, fostering a sense of unity.

Leadership development remains central to the programme, and the young men have risen to the challenge—taking initiative, leading discussions, and confronting emotional realities. One unforgettable experience took place during Southern Week, where participants met IDF commanders, visited sites impacted by the October 7th attacks, and honoured fallen Mechina graduate Michael Lizmi z"l, who was killed while defending the residents of Ofakim.

Daily life at the Mechina continues to be shaped by the emotional impact of national events. Staff have taken great care in supporting the young men through difficult moments, creating space for honest dialogue while nurturing hope. To further support current participants, graduates, and staff, additional wellbeing initiatives and safe discussion spaces have been introduced. Such initiatives are helping these young men to find their voice, build resilience, and emerge as compassionate, thoughtful leaders as they prepare for meaningful military service and the civilian life that follows.

IsraElite – Womens Mechina

As social gaps widen between those who have and those who do not, programmes like IsraElite are more essential than ever. Based in Kibbutz Kiryat Anavim, just outside Jerusalem, the programme welcomed its 11th cohort: 23 diverse, resilient young women this year.

Led by veteran educator Hadas Azulay, the programme offers a transformative year of emotional, intellectual, and social growth. With a high staff-to-participant ratio, each young woman receives personalised support, enabling deep self-discovery and personal development. Despite the challenges of an ongoing war, the group has embraced the experience -traveling the country, exploring Israeli society, and engaging in weekly learning, skill-building, and Tikkun Olam (community service) initiatives.

These experiences have pushed participants beyond their comfort zones and helped them understand the impact they can have. The skills



and confidence they've gained will accompany them into military or national service - and into their adult lives as empowered contributors to Israeli society.

Among them is "R" from an ultra-Orthodox background. Arriving uncertain and disconnected, she began to change during a hike in southern Israel, where reading a map became a metaphor for finding her way in life. She is now thriving - connecting with others, embracing diversity, and stepping into her strength.

As Hadas says,

The girls fall down and get back up time and again... growing, supporting each other, and building something meaningful together."

IsraElite offers more than a programme - it's a space of healing, self-belief, and transformation.

Village Way Educational Initiatives



Even amidst war, Village Way Educational Initiatives continues to make a powerful impact across Israel.

Our flagship three-year integration programme is currently active in 85 educational communities, reaching 51,450 at-risk youth and 4,200 educators through our transformative Village Way methodology. Alongside this, we're developing new tools and programmes to meet the changing needs of students and educators.

As the first anniversary of the 7 October attacks approached, many educators in our network grappled with how to honour such a devastating event.

In response, we launched **Doing Good for Them** – a nationwide initiative rooted in Village Way principles of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and Tikkun HaLev (healing the heart).

The goal: to spark acts of kindness, unity and hope, honouring the victims and supporting those still suffering.

At its heart is a collaborative, open-access digital folder filled with resources, ideas and lesson plans from educators across Israel. The initiative is guided by three core principles:

Doing

Taking meaningful, practical action.

Good

Spreading hope, joy and connection.

For Them

Honouring those lost and supporting those who cannot act themselves.

We kicked off with a national online brainstorm attended by over 70 educators, followed by a call for proposals. We received 18 ideas – 17 of which were approved and funded.

From students delivering meals and baked goods to families of reservists, to a youth village organising a "Day of Giving", the projects reflect a wave of generosity and resilience. One moving project saw students and educators create a memorial dining hall to honour a fallen soldier – designed to reflect his values and spark educational dialogue. Perhaps most excitingly, several non-partner schools involved in the initiative have now expressed interest in adopting the Village Way model – extending our reach and deepening our national impact.

60 years of love, a gift for the future

When our trustee, Harvey Soning, and his wife Angela celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, they asked family and friends to donate to Youth Aliyah Child Rescue instead of buying presents.

The outpouring of love and appreciation shown to Harvey and Angela let them build a hair and beauty studio at Yemin Orde Youth Village.

This space allowed the establishment of a new programme in hair design and makeup that not only provided students with credits towards a formal matriculation certificate but also a professional diploma. This programme offers a valuable opportunity for students to gain practical skills in a field that is both in demand and costly to pursue outside of school.

By choosing to celebrate their special occasion in this way, Harvey and Angela have made a lasting investment in the next generation. We are deeply grateful for their decades of generosity and wish them many more years of happiness together.

If you want to include our children in an upcoming celebration, please get in touch and we will find the perfect project for you.



YOUTH
ALIYAH
CHILD RESCUE

**JAKE LOST HIS LIFE
PROTECTING OTHERS
LET'S GIVE LIFE CHANGING
OPPORTUNITIES IN HIS NAME**



We have established the **Jake Marlowe Memorial Scholarship** to honour the memory of British born Jake, who was murdered while working in security at the Nova Festival on 7 October.

Youth Aliyah Child rescue cares for thousands of at-risk children in our five Youth Villages in Israel. **Please help us to fully endow the Jake Marlowe Memorial Scholarship**, so that it can be given to a worthy recipient **every year**.

The first recipient, Ethiopian Israeli Awaka Melisa, has overcome profound adversity and looks forward to a brighter future. He is pictured below with Jake's incredible parents, Lisa and Michael Marlowe.

**HONOUR A HERO
EMPOWER ISRAEL'S YOUTH
SECURE ISRAEL'S TOMORROW**



**Be part of
the legacy**

**SCAN TO
DONATE**



YOUTH ALIYAH CHILD RESCUE

SIX WAYS TO STEP UP FOR AT RISK CHILDREN IN ISRAEL

- 1 Donate**
by phone or our website at
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- 2 Join**
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committee
- 3 Visit**
one of our Youth Aliyah Villages
when you are next in **Israel**
- 4 Remember**
Youth Aliyah Child Rescue in your
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You can choose how you want to
help - we'll support you all the way
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NORTH LONDON LOCATION

Early bird: £65

Table of 10: £650

Includes buy in & kosher dinner

SCAN TO BOOK



Early bird tickets available until Monday 30 June

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