



Joining Together to Rescue Israelis in Crisis

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Fall-Winter
2024

NEWSLETTER

2024 - The Year of War - Post Oct 7th

Tragic stories of deaths, injuries, hostages, forced evacuations, missile strikes, and ongoing military actions are regular news items. However, the psychological impact of this protracted war is hardly mentioned. 520,000 Israelis are projected to experience PTSD as a result of October 7th and the ensuing war. Israelis, especially children, struggle to cope with their rising levels of stress, anxiety, fear, and trauma.

JOIN Israel's network of services continue to stabilize and alleviate the caustic effects of the prolonged tensions.

JOIN Emergency Response Effort

- **JOIN Therapy** - subsidizes trauma counseling and group therapy for children and adults affected by the war.
- **School Decompression** - a new project to process raw emotions and build resilience in 20 schools.
- **Our Own Way** community and at-risk youth initiative - supported evacuees from the Gaza border and later helped reestablish their lives amidst ongoing danger and trauma.
- **JOIN Lifeline** - meeting the special needs of the elderly due to the war.



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- **JOIN Big Brother/Sister** - grounds emotional trauma of vulnerable youth in Ofakim.
- **Afterschool activity groups** - offer an outlet for youth near Gaza.
- JOIN supplies specific and unmet **needs of soldiers** on the frontline.

JOIN Israel: small social investments that build and restore capacity, creating enormous impacts!



Building:

- **Education:** academically enriches 25 schools
- **Children:** JOIN Day Camp, Big Brothers/Sisters
- **Families:** Jerusalem Soup Kitchen
- **Communities:** Our Own Way in Sderot

Restoring:

- **Mental health** restores productive lives.
- **JOIN Lifeline: elderly emergency aid** restores self-sufficiency with dignity.
- **Pitronot** resolves **legal and financial** quagmires so families can manage.



New Projects in 2024:

- **School Decompression** - see left column
- **Food with Dignity** - through a generous kick-off donation from **Rick and Debi Smilow**, elderly experiencing food insecurity in three Southern cities are getting the help they need.



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Family Services by the Numbers (10 months)





Aspen Film and JOIN Israel hosted a screening of the documentary Vishniac. The event included a reception at Galerie Maximillian and was followed by a post-film conversation with Beth Kean and Susan Wrubel to fund the Aspen JOIN Lifeline city.




Vishniac Aspen




Sunset Benefit

JOIN celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut with a Night of Unity at Elsie Rooftop. The night featured keynote speaker Shai Davidai, comedian Talia Reese, and a performance by Shahar Regev, hosted by **Anna & Yoni Knoll**. Guests also bid on exquisite art donated by Jewish and Israeli artists.





JOIN Israel hosted the NYC premiere of Guns & Moses, a high-octane mystery thriller, at the renowned Angelika Film Center. The fundraiser included a panel discussion with director Salvador Litvak, actress Gabrielle Ruiz, and moderator Lisa Rozner. The event was followed by an elaborate VIP dessert reception. Proceeds from the event supported PTSD and trauma counseling to terror victims in Israel.



Guns & Moses





Vodka & Latke

Young Leadership:

Young leaders gathered in Greenwich Village to enjoy Hanukkah themed cocktails, a latke bar and sufganiyot to spread some light amidst the darkness. They raised funds to aid victims of terror in Sderot and Ofakim. Support for the Young Leadership Chapter is provided by **The Keswin Family Foundation**.





The Young Leadership Chapter held its annual Summer Soiree at Ansä Coffee, featuring signature espresso martinis. The fundraiser was headlined by viral influencer and actor Zach Sage Fox, raising funds for victims of October 7th.



Summer Soiree

- **Early Marriage Intervention:** JOIN ran a course to identify problems in young marriages that are likely to metastasize into big, hard to solve problems years later.
- **Outdoor Training,** informal education through group exercises, expanded to two schools per week.



- **Medical Track:** 3-year pre-med study and hospital experience for excelling Petach Tivka High School students, through the support of **Melissa Sussman**.
- **Amicable Solutions:** divorce mediation for 40 destitute families, saving innumerable expenses and devastating infighting, through the support of **Baruch and Ariel Glaubach**.

From the Frontlines:

LifeLine: Faina faced a tumultuous aliya from Ethiopia. Two years ago, her husband took his own life, and was found hanging by her youngest son. Without her older two children serving in the army, Faina was emotionally broken and financially broke. Then pipes in her very old apartment burst, ruining her home and belongings, and damaging her neighbor's apartment below. Her water was shut off for a month(!). After a cheap repair the pipes burst again and her water was turned off for another three months! LifeLine enabled a proper repair.

Pitronot: Daniella had a large family and stayed at home while her husband worked to support them. Everything changed one morning when her husband was arrested and sentenced to four years in prison. At 44, Daniella had no job skills, no understanding of managing money, and no savings. Her children responded poorly, developing health and emotional issues. Without family to turn to for help, she felt completely lost.

JOIN Israel stepped in to assist Daniella and her family. We raised significant funds to cover their immediate needs, and helped her enroll in a professional course and find employment. We provided therapy and educational support tailored for each child. We restructured and renegotiated her debts. Today, Daniella and her family are managing and supporting themselves. They are deeply grateful to JOIN Israel for helping them through their challenging time.



Welcome to Board of Directors



Natalie Eisen

Natalie is a Real Estate Broker in New York City and a founding partner of the Adrian | Natalie Team. Natalie lives in Brooklyn Heights with her husband and son, and is excited to champion JOIN Therapy.



Selig Sechzer

Selig Sechzer, PhD, has had a distinguished career in economics and risk management for top financial institutions, including BlackRock and Merrill Lynch. Selig is eager to champion JOIN Educational Consulting.

2024 Tax Season Ends Soon

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www.joinisrael.org

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Amanda Wilpon and Adam Koepfel
Catherine Weingarten and Jason Levick
Shani Debby and Moti Iluz

Welcome to

Young Leadership Board Members,
Aryeh Rephun and Zach Tanenbaum



IN APPRECIATION

JOIN Israel gratefully acknowledges the following contributors whose generous donations reached us by December 1, 2024



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