



## Summary of Activities - 2017

The Galila Foundation's philanthropic activities in the northern Galilee is based on our initiating and operating programs & projects that will improve the quality of life for the multi-ethnic populations living in urban and rural communities across our northern border region. We strive to attract specific initiatives that are successfully operated by accountable non-profit organizations based in the center of the country, to be implemented in our region - for the benefit of communities and residents living in the northern towns and villages.

None of our contribution would be possible without the dedication, support and partnership of our select group of donors, supporters and friends, who believe in Galila and the foundation's commitment and contribution to improving the quality of daily life for residents across our region. We are truly grateful and indeed blessed by their continued support of the philanthropic impact of Galila - the Northern Galilee Development Foundation.

As we begin the New Year, we are honored to present this comprehensive summary of our numerous activities during 2017.



Yael Barlev – Director  
Ofra Karasanti - Chair

## Social Entrepreneurship Programs - Galila Fellows

The “Galila Fellows” initiative was established 5 years ago as a joint social venture between the Galila and Beren Foundations whose goal is to nurture, support and empower social initiatives focused on the Galilee region of northern Israel.

The “Fellows” include: Shaul Zohar – Tennis Academy; Vered Osman – Docu Village; Osnat Ur – Zionism/Education; Yossi Gimon – Erez College; Nili Gal-Yam – Gifted Children Education; Micha Simbalista – Nirim Association; Sarit Zehavi – ALMA Security Education & Research; Sharona Shalev-Mayer – Adrenalin Runners; Efrat Noy – Hukuk Organic Farm.

Galila also engaged in joint collaborations with country-wide organizations looking to expand their activities in the northern regions in Israel. Together, we develop high-impact programs suited to the region’s communities: Our collaborations included Yoav Ben Basat – Doctors “Choosing Galilee” program; Eli Kelerman – ‘Joy to the Kids’ (“Simcha Layeled”) Hospital activities; Ariel Ben David – ‘Hazalah’ Emergency Medical Response; Yoel Zilbermen – ‘The New Guardians’.



Adam & Ellen Beren meet with the Galila Fellows – July 2017

### ♥ Tennis Academy in the Galilee

One of Israel's veteran tennis coaches, Shaul Zohar, a resident of Kiryat Shmona, initiated his Tennis Academy program this year. His vision is to help special kids – living with mental and developmental challenges - overcome their disabilities, using the discipline and fun of tennis as a learning tool. As an educator, he uses his tennis sessions as a means to teach his students social skills and values, as well as



to build up self-confidence and self-assurance. Shaul developed the 'Special Olympics' project at the 'Renanim' school for special needs children in his town, as well as teaching a coaching course at the 'Ohello' College, raising the next generation of tennis instructors in the Galilee region. He also runs a tennis empowerment training program for the teens in Kibbutz Kfar Giladi.

### ♥ The Galilee 'Docu Leaders' Program

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year of this special program, initiated and run by documentary film-maker Vered Osman, who lives in the Western Galilee's Kibbutz Eilon. This one-of-its-kind program brings together 20 teens from communities across the Galilee and provides the instruction and guidance on the creation of documentary films that are dedicated to their vision of daily life in the border region. The



aim of this project is to enable young, potential film makers with the ability to engage in documentary film making and to promote the concept that, given the same professional guidance, Israel's periphery region can produce leading Israeli film professionals.

Their end-of-year productions are screened in schools and community centers all over the Galilee and some are submitted for participation in global documentary film festivals. This year, for the second time, one of the Docu Leaders short films was screened at a prestigious film festival in New York.

<https://galila.org/he/%D7%A7%D7%A8%D7%9F-%D7%91%D7%A8%D7%9F/>

## ♥ Holocaust & Values Education at the "Amirim" School, Kfar Veradim.

The 'fifth question' is a values-education project linking Jewish identity and 'being Israeli' with the historic lessons from the Holocaust era. The initiator of this program and "Galila Fellow", Osnat Ur, considered this unique program for the 11th and 12th grade Israeli high school educational trips to Poland.



This enrichment program, based on lectures, workshops, field trips, active participation in holocaust memorial ceremonies and meetings with holocaust and ghetto survivors, prepares the young Israeli school teen with the tools to better engage with those issues and dilemmas relating to their Jewish and Israeli identity, as well as his/her responsibility in becoming pro-active leaders/educators on the importance of carrying the beacon of memory and sharing the personal testaments of those who survived the holocaust era with their peer groups and the younger Israeli generation.

## ♥ The 'New Guardians: 'Work and Safeguard'

The New Guardians "Ha'shomer Ha'chadash" organization represent the core values of Zionism, devotion to and love of the State and the land it inhabits and actively endeavors to disseminate these core values to the younger generation in Israel and overseas. The cooperative effort between Galila and Ha'shomer has helped to develop the "Northern Exposure" program, meant to present the philosophy and values of "Ha'shomer Ha'chadash" to the high school students living in the Galilee region.



The students take a day away from the indoor classroom and experience a day of volunteering in a rural, isolated farm, while learning about the roots of Zionism and its devotion for to the land of Israel. This informal, experiential education platform is a perfect launch-pad for Israeli high-school students to re-connect with core Israeli and Jewish values, in their formative years.

## ♥ **"Gateway to Industry" program - Erez College**

Yossi Gimon, Director of "Erez College" located in the border town of Shlomi, initiated the "Gateway to Industry" program for the second consecutive year. This creative program was designed with the goal of introducing the many employment possibilities that currently exist for the residents of the North, in factories and industrial companies located across the Western Galilee. The goal is to crack the known stigmas and associated prejudice impacting the younger residents on their path of choosing a future profession and career.



The program is composed of: integration lectures, personalized mentoring, experiencing the industrial-production processes through practical workshops and tours to factories across the Galilee region. The introduction to the region's modern industrial world presents new employment opportunities for those who would not have previously considered working in industry due to the negative reputation or from a lack of knowledge about the modernization and sophistication in gaining a long-term career in an industrial setting.

We at the Galila Foundation consider this creative program a change-agent for developing the community and promoting the northern region, by increasing available employment opportunities and attracting new populations to the periphery regions of northern Israel. For these important goals, Galila has chosen to sponsor Yossi's vision and the Erez College and support this venture for many new groups during this coming year.

## ♥ **Programs of Excellence for Gifted Children**

Dr. Nili Gal Yam, School Principal of the Science & Knowledge Center for Gifted Children in Shlomi, is a member of the 'Galila fellows' program since its initiation. Within the framework of her social initiatives, Nili chose to promote youth programs which will help to shape the next generation of Galilean leaders.



The first among these is the "Excellence program" for gifted students. Over 80 children from the vicinity of Shlomi, Ma'alot, Nahariya, and local Western Galilee villages and Kibbutzim have studied during this year at the Center for Excellence which is located at the Science and Enlightenment center in the border town of Shlomi.

The children arrive at the center during the afternoon hours and learn various group courses such as: ecology, science fiction writing, economics, logics, entrepreneurship, law and art. The advanced curriculum at this Center enriches the children's lives and expands their minds by introducing them to themes and fields they would not have been able to study in any other educational school framework.

### ♥ Alumni program- Tour of the Galilee

The second initiative of Dr. Nili Gal-Yam originated from the growing need for providing the graduates of the Excellence center with opportunities to enjoy academic, social and educational activities during their High school years, because the Ministry of Education's Excellence program ends at the beginning of High school.



The program is a regional initiative for the graduates from several centers for gifted children located across the Galilee and targets the preservation of the unique social atmosphere of the gifted youths. Within the curriculum of the program, there are several seminars in various academic subjects which give the youth opportunities to associate, learn and discuss current relevant issues from their lives. These meetups enable the development of the teens' unique skills as they continue their path through the educational system.

### ♥ The Nirim youth village - Graduate's Home

Another member of the 'Galila Fellows' program is Micha Simbalista, the director of the youth village "Nirim" located at Bustan Ha'Galil in the Western Galilee coastline.



There are many youth villages in Israel, all are loyally devoted to the cause of helping endangered youth, but Nirim stands out amongst them. The vision of the village Director is what pushes the youth living at the village into a path of excellence and to the attainment of the high personal and academic goals which Micha sets for them.

The youth, who are directed to the village by a decree of the courts, engage with a devoted staff-team, who are all focused in successfully realizing the troubled teen's last chance for a normative life. During their years at the village, the youth complete their High school graduate diploma and then enlist for a 'meaningful service' in the IDF.

As most of the Nirim teens come from impoverished and dysfunctional homes, Micha identified the need to provide the Nirim graduates, those serving in the IDF and also those who have completed their military service, with a home to come to.

The Galila Foundation chose to assist Micha in the fulfilment of his vision of creating a Graduates Home in the Nirim village building for the graduates a bridge for their complete integration in society as functioning citizens. The Graduates' Home is a last step in the graduate's long journey from a life of crime to a normative productive life as citizens.

### ♥ **ALMA – Education & Research on Israel's northern security challenges**

Lt. Colonel (res.) Sarit Zehavi joined the 'Galila Fellows' program in 2015, in her capacity as a social entrepreneur in analyzing and educating "Israel's security challenges along her northern borders" as well as promoting the Galilee to individuals, groups, and opinion makers – particularly from overseas.



Sarit personally guides tour groups, VIP delegations, politicians, journalists and individuals from all over the world in a captivating journey of learning and understanding the complexities of life across the northern border region.

Lt. Colonel (res.) Sarit Zehavi served for 14 years in the research department of the IDF intelligence core and at the IDF Northern Command, and is an MA graduate in Middle Eastern studies. She guides the participants through an enthralling experience depicting the current security challenges the Israeli northern citizens are facing within the complex times we live in.

The reputation of this new Educational and Research Institute has evolved dramatically over the past year and in November 2017 Sarit was invited to brief US, Congressmen/women, Senators and foreign policy aides at the Capitol in Washington DC.

Sarit Zehavi will also be presenting a virtual tour of Israel's northern borders on central stage at the AIPAC Annual Conference, scheduled for March 2018 in Washington DC.

The Galila foundation via the 'Galila Fellows' program is supporting Sarit and her ALMA non-profit entity by developing the operation and personnel setup as well as providing her with the mentorship and guidance to ensure her organizations' long-term sustainability and expansion. There is little doubt that Sarit Zehavi and her ALMA initiative will become a leading globally-recognized entity providing real-time data and updates on Israel's complex security issues on its northern borders with Lebanon and Syria.

## ♥ "Simcha LaYeled" (Joy to The Child) at the Western Galilee Hospital

The "Shimcha La'yeled" organization operates in hospitals around Israel for the benefit of long-term hospitalized children, with the goal of easing their suffering as much as possible. Eli Kelerman, the CEO of the organization approved our request for a joint venture, under which "Shimcha La'yeled's work and activities now reach hospitals in northern Israel.



"Shimcha La'yeled"'s activities at the Western Galilee Medical Center and "Ziv" hospitals consist of staff and volunteers who care for long-term hospitalized children, several times each week. In addition, there are various events for the benefit of the young patients and their families, such as holiday parties, organized field-trips, and activities that enliven their stay at the hospital, by providing an abundance of captivating events to distract their minds and uplift their spirits to happier prospects. The slogan of "Shimcha La'yeled" is: together we will replace pain with a smile. The Galila Foundation will happily continue to support this cause for the benefit of the hospitalized children and their families living in the Galilee region of northern Israel.

## ♥ Adrenaline – a human mosaic of the Galilee

Sharona Shalev-Mayer founded the "Adrenaline" Running club 3 years ago, and social-activist background and her entrepreneurial spirit have, in a relatively short period, turned the club into a social platform bringing together the diverse communities living together in the Western Galilee.



Sharona joined the 'Galila Fellows' program and thanks to this supportive platform, she created a regional/social program which brings together the various communities in the Galilee for social and communal gathering, in which they informally interact and learn to recognize the similarities and differences between the Jewish, Druze, Christians, Muslims, secular and religious - citizens of those rural villages, urban towns and pioneering Kibbutzim who together, make up the human mosaic of the Galilee.

As part of Sharona's initiative, and in addition to the ongoing activities, she organizes several special events throughout the year, during which the public is exposed to the unique social fabric of the running club. One of these events is the annual "Christmas Run", a community run held in the Christian village of Me'ilya in the Western Galilee.

The fun-run, which takes place around the Holiday time of Christmas and Hanukkah, brings together thousands of residents from the entire Galilee region, together with runners from all over Israel. The race/run concludes with a 'merry' event in the village square.

### ♥ **The Organic 'Therapy' Farming on Kibbutz Hukuk**

Kibbutz Hukuk member, Efrat Noy, along with her friends founded the sustainable agriculture farm located close to the shores of Sea of Galilee. 'Kaima' is an agriculture farm whose organic products are sold to the region's population. The crops are seasonal and organic which, on a weekly basis, are gathered from the fields, packed at the local



packing house and sold in 'baskets' to the Galilee residents. Allegedly this is a wholesome, healthy and simple concept. In practice, it is more of a challenge, because the educational goal of the farm is to employ teens 15-18 years of age, who have dropped out from the formal education system and, replacing vagrancy and social isolation have found a 'home' that welcomes and provides them with an opportunity to re-engage with society. The teenage boys and girls working at the farm are high-risk category and the hard agriculture work at the farm is a way means for them to attain a normative life. The farm managers are also trained therapists and the project's primary goal is to enable these teens to work at the farm for a period of time, during which they can find their way into a more normative life and eventually enlisting for a service in IDF. The work is intense physical agricultural labor, every day and in every kind of weather condition, and together with the teens – the support providers work and discuss the teens' challenges on an individual and on a group basis.

As a part of the 'Galila Fellows' program support we provide, we also work with Efrat on the farm's business plan and help her develop new markets for their produce as well as help their sustainability by advising them on resource development opportunities and strategies.

## Education and Empowerment

### ♥ "CATS" Seminar for Youth Leadership

The “Children as Actors for Transforming Society” program is aimed at young people coming together from all over the world, with the primary aim of changing the face of the younger members of society, by discussing shared values and other social volunteering initiatives.



The program was created in 2013 as a joint venture of several foundations who work together with the purpose of benefiting children from around the world. The philosophy behind this program is to create an open forum shared by youths from around the world, on the premise of equality between them, for the empowerment of social involvement and creating common tools for activities in the community.

The seminar takes place every year at Lake Geneva, Switzerland. The Galila Foundation, which initiates empowerment programs for Galilean youth, joined this program, and each year funds a delegation comprised of a select group of youths from the Western Galilee to represent Israel at this prestigious and important global seminar. The teens undergo a comprehensive training program before their departure and return very motivated to volunteer in the community and work to develop programs serving the younger generation living in the Galilee region of northern Israel.

This important leadership development project not only supports Israel’s global efforts in ‘hasbara’ – explaining our position on many issues, but also provides an authentic platform for these young teens to ‘make Israel’s case’ to hundreds of teens and future leaders coming from countries all over the world.

### ♥ Summer Camp – My Piece of the Puzzle

A summer camp adventure for children with special needs who study in special educational systems in the Galilee, in which at-risk youths are also integrated, is a special project of "My Piece of the Puzzle". The summer camp is a unique project in which youths who come from different worlds are integrated with the common goal of achieving the potential within each girl and boy. The enthralling week takes place at the Jordan River Village, contributed to an extraordinary experience for these challenged populations who feel "they don't belong".



The integration of at-risk students together with youths with special needs, has developed an educational model, together with a sense of self-acceptance and confidence, alongside enjoyment and freedom from the routine of daily life. The Galila Foundation is delighted with the opportunity to support such an important venture taking place here in the Galilee.

### ♥ **Professional Cooking Course – for the teens of Kiryat Bialik**

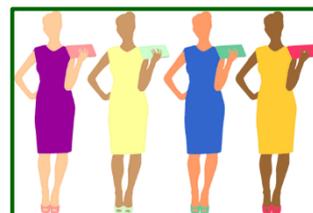
A sumptuous festive meal was served at the final session of the cooking course of the teenagers from "Kidum No'ar" (Youth Advancement). The course, which took place for the second time, is the result of a social educational initiative of the program's director Sharon Weiss and the Chef Yaron Chen. The teens who study at "Kidum No'ar" required an additional framework which will create their new employment opportunity and will enable their positive integration within society.



The course, which was composed of 10 class meetings dealing with all aspects of the kitchen, empowered the teens to acquire the skills needed for working in a professional kitchen, thus enabling their work-integration in catering companies, in restaurants and the food industry. The course is funded by the Galila Foundation, courtesy of a designated donation from the HOT Trust.

### ♥ **Women's Health - Educational Lectures**

As part of the ongoing activities for the community, a series of educational lectures for women on health, preventive medicine and the importance of early detection of breast cancer, took place at the Regional Councils of Matte Asher and Ma'ale Yosef in the Western Galilee throughout this year.



The lectures were delivered by physicians with specified expertise in these fields of medicine. The Galila Foundation support enabled the expansion of communal health awareness and provided important information on women's health for the benefit of the Galilee residents.

### ♥ **Youth club - "Hamachsan Hakatom" (The Orange warehouse) at Shlomi**

A collaborative effort between (the town of) Shlomi's community center, a donor from the U.S. and the Galila Foundation has formulated the creation of the Orange Warehouse ("Hamachsan Hakatom").



"Hamachsen Hakatom" is a youth club located in the industrial zone of the Shlomi border town, and was founded for providing youth with a safe and supervised place to meet and engage in social activities.

The project was initiated by the local community center, and the teens can enjoy their free time in organized activities during evenings and weekends, as an alternative from loitering and participating in acts of vagrancy in the town's streets.

The local council renovated the complex, and the community center provided the personnel and some of the equipment. The Galila Foundation purchased the remainder of the required equipment for the full benefit and enjoyment of the teens at this safe haven in the town of Shlomi.

## Welfare, Education, and Community

### ♥ "Wings" Summer Day Camp

As it has done for the past three years, The Galila Foundation again supported the "Wings" summer day camp, designed for children with special needs and enabling them to participate in an educational, fun and liberating experience. The camp also provides the parents and families with a much-needed respite from the daily-care of their special needs child and allows them to 'switch-off' as well as to focus their attention on the other family members during this week.



The day camp is an initiative of Merom HaGalil community center, and the children with special needs who participated come from varied educational backgrounds and suffer from various health challenges such as: physical and organic disabilities, mental-developmental disability (retardation) and being on the autistic spectrum. In the Merom HaGalil communities there are 95 individuals with special needs between the ages of 3-21. 35 of them come from low income families, supported by the council's welfare department.

During the summer day camp which was mostly operated by local teens and volunteers, the participants enjoyed attractive activities in the format of a "mobile day camp".

At the camp's conclusion, we are pleased to report that all of the intended objectives were met: providing support during the long summer vacation to children with special needs as well as to their parents. The Merom HaGalil community center expanded its sphere of activity to new populations, integration of those with special needs in the center's activities and in the community, and expansion of the disciplines of volunteering for local teens and adults alike.

Perhaps the most important benefit of this camp was the pure joy on the faces of the kids, who got to get out of their homes, leave their loneliness behind and participate in an engaging and fun activity, which was led by local youths of Merom HaGalil.

### ♥ Lunch program for Ethiopian children, Tzur Shalom

Hundreds of immigrant children from families coming from have settled into the city of Kiryat Bialik in recent years. Many of these immigrant families are impoverished and struggle to integrate into the Israeli society, due to the many differences and gaps (cultural, mental, educational, financial, etc.). As a result, the families are unable to cope with the various hardships they face, in addition to providing all of their kids with all they require on a daily basis.



The Kiryat Bialik Municipality committed itself to supporting these children by providing them with informal care and education systems during the afternoon hours. However, due to insufficient funds, these kids received only a minimal lunch and basic activities and supervision. This year, due to the vast budget cuts impacting the municipalities, Kiryat Bialik cannot carry the financial load and provide even the minimal support and hence it required assistance.

The Galila Foundation secured a donation from the Sobell Foundation (England) which values the importance of a warm meal as a basic and vital element for the children's health. With this donation, Galila now sponsors healthy, cooked meals at the designated club-house for over 100 immigrant children, after which they continue on to other enrichment activities: preparing their school homework, social games and outdoor activities, etc.

### ♥ **Cake Design and Decoration Course for girls at the "Warm Home"**

Among our activities for the girls of the "Warm Home" ("HaBayit HaCham"), The Galila Foundation opened a professional training course in baking and cake design / decoration. The course teaches these teenage girls to bake cakes and decorate them, so that they will be sold for events such as: birthdays, parties and other celebrations. The course was thought by a professional pastry chef specializing in this field, and the students' results and products were a delight to the eyes as well as being extremely tasty! This professional training project for the teenage girls fulfills several objectives: it teaches them the value of physical work, it helps develop their self-esteem and competence and enables them to earn some pocket money. More than anything, this project shows them the path towards leading a productive and normative life.



Over the years, we at Galila see the many advantages and added benefits in sponsoring these kinds of training courses. Indeed, this baking and cake design course not only enriches the girls' lives, but also fills them with a kind of 'sweetness'.

### ♥ **"Galim" School**

The "Galim" school is a regional educational center for children with special needs in the ages of 6-12, and located in the designated complex near Kibbutz Ein Hamifratz in the Western Galilee. Children from all over the Galilee region come to this special school. Many of the students who graduate from "Galim" are then integrated back into the mainstream educational system, an integration that would have been impossible without their initial participation in the "Galim" format.



This year, the Galila Foundation, together with the assistance of local donors, renovated the specially-designed meeting room where the teachers meet their students individually, and we also purchased computer-tablets which eases and enhances the children's learning experiences.

### ♥ "Meitar" school

The Galila Foundation has previously supported the 'Meitar' regional school for children with special needs. The Foundation has donated equipment for the school's activity rooms, refurbished an acoustic-music room and also installed facilities for the playground. Supported by various donors, a shaded area was added to the playground, a gazebo was built in the yard, and this year, an aquarium was purchased and installed.



Every contribution Galila can access for this special school, improves the quality of lives of the children of 'Meitar', expands their world as well as our hearts.

### ♥ "Amirim" High School

The "Amirim" High school at Kfar Veradim had approached a local donor who equipped the open-space library, installed inside the school's main entrance. The donation enabled the school to create an alternative meeting place where the teachers and the students sit together for mutual social association and for an enriching 'cultural hour' activity about literature.



The Foundation has also initiated a themed educational program about Zionism at the school within the format of the yearly journey to Poland and also in the context of other partnerships.

### ♥ "Ziv" Special School

The 'special school' in the Ziv Medical Center in the City of Safed All the ward's hospitalized teens attend this school, as well as the students who come to the hospital for ongoing treatment and for day hospitalization.



The school's environment tries hard to adapt to the students' varied academic subjects, as well as to the numerous complex psychiatric ailments, the age differences and the cultural backgrounds and individual capabilities of the students. The school's staff strives to socialize the teens, who are often withdrawn, by engaging them in a variety of social activities and opportunities that enrich their worlds, uplift their lives, broaden their horizons and give them a sense of competence and hope.

The Galila Foundation assists by funding a variety of extra-curricular activities which take place during the school year and are not covered by the Ministry of Education.

### ♥ **The inclusive Galilee All-Stars team participates in the International ‘Mamanet’ tournament in Latvia**

This year, the Galila foundation supported a mixed ‘Mamanet’ team that included a number of mentally-challenged adults to participate in the International Catchball tournament held in Riga, Latvia. The “Bayit Bahores” Hostel was established in Kfar Veradim, aimed at integrating people with special needs into a normative community and developing human values of tolerance and acceptance of the other. The hostel is home to 24 young people aged 18+ with mild to moderate mental retardation.



The members of the Galilee All-Stars Mamanet team, who all live in the hostel, returned from the Riga tournament so excited and proud to have participated and officially represent the galilee in this tournament. It was an overwhelming sporting experience. The players participated in the training and games as equal partners and received generous amounts of support, love and warmth from all the athletes.

This inclusive venture, initiated by the women of the Kfar Veradim ‘Mamanet’ team, is a tremendous achievement and an authentic step towards integrating people with disabilities in all areas of life. The Galila Foundation is proud to be a central partner in this important and significant sporting/social event.

### ♥ **Western Galilee Assistance Fund**

Over the years, the Galila Foundation initiates and manages a regional aid-fund for the benefit the Western Galilee residents with specific financial challenges they are unable to resolve through any other channel.



All applications for support are transferred once a month by the Regional Council and Municipalities welfare departments for approval by the fund's allocations committee which is made up of volunteers from the region.

The fund is specifically directed at impoverished families facing financial difficulties, children, teens, seniors and single parent families.

### ♥ **The Sloviter Assistance Fund for Matte Asher**

With the longstanding support of a dedicated US donor who wished to direct his donations for the benefit of the Matte Asher regional council's residents, The Galila Foundation together with Matte Asher's welfare department staff operate this special fund.



Following a comprehensive research process of the best way to respond to emergency health and welfare incidents among the residents, a committee of Matte Asher professionals including social workers and health workers was founded, and they set the criteria by which the council's residents would be able to receive the required assistance, under the supervision of Matte Asher's Social Welfare Department.

### ♥ **The Rosh HaNikra Life Saving Trust**

A heartfelt community initiative by the residents of Kibbutz Rosh HaNikra, together with hundreds of locals from across the Western Galilee, the Rosh HaNikra 'Life Saving Trust' was created.



The trust, which is managed by a group of local volunteers, is dedicated to financing medicines and treatments - not funded by the national health system - which can improve ailing patients' lives and promote longevity. Among the trust's earliest recipients was a local woman undergoing an experimental treatment - not covered by the national health system - for breast cancer, a treatment which eventually resulted in success and halted the disease.

### ♥ **Kfar Vradim's central children's playground**

The Galila Foundation funded the renovation of Kfar Vradim's central playground park, situated close to the main entrance of the village. The park and its adjacent sports facility were built more than a decade ago for the benefit of the local residents and for many visitors from neighboring communities in the region. The playground park is used as a regular gathering place for kids, teens and adults who come there throughout the day and during the evenings, to enjoy the facilities and the adjacent green spaces.



Over the years, as a result of heavy usage, the park needed to be renovated, as well as to provide overhead shading to meet present day safety regulations and also to provide an adequate solution for the large numbers of residents who frequently use this communal facility.

The Galila Foundation and the local council teamed together for the upgrading of the playground area, and under the supervision and execution of Kfar Vradim's local council Engineering Department, replaced the gravel on the playground with synthetic grass and installed a shaded zone which enables young families and children to remain there in comfort, during the hot hours of the summer season.

### ♥ Communal Carpentry shop

The Communal carpentry shop is a social venture initiated by Ofer Cohen, a lawyer by profession and a member of Kfar Vradim's local council. This creative project was developed together with the local council, the community centers association and the Galila Foundation, resulting in the undertaking of a unique project - the Communal woodwork (carpentry) shop.

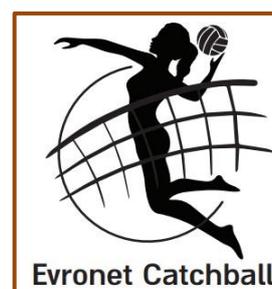


The renovation work on the space located adjacent to the community's youth center, was carried out by many volunteers, teens, city council and community center members. The carpentry shop will also function as a meeting place for local artists and amateur carpenters and will be used as a working space for artists as well as for carpentry workshop classes for all age groups.

The Galila Foundation assisted in the venture's creation and purchased the equipment required for its completion.

### ♥ "Evronet"

The "Mamanet" (catch ball) group of Evron – Evronet, is an active and dynamic group which enables women from the rural Matte Asher communities to train in catch ball and participate in the national "Mamanet" league. The teammates, who are all mothers who chose catch ball as their primary sport, have raised the funds which enabled the purchase of team-kits and supplies necessary for the group's participation in the regional league as well as participate in various tournaments all over Israel.



Galila Foundation is pleased to support this venture and to provide the managerial platform for the project.

### ♥ "Zachi"- Home Guard Unit – Meona

The personnel of "Zachi Civil Defense Unit" were recruited during the year 2014 as a response to heightened security tensions along the northern border, just 7 miles away.



The unit was created in collaboration with the Meona village managing committee and is under its supervision.

The team's goals are:

- 1) providing assistance to residents during emergencies such as earthquakes, terror attacks, war-situations etc.
- 2) Providing search and rescue capabilities to the local security unit in Meona, operating under the IDF command and acts as a preliminary response force to any disaster or security threat.

This communal initiative was backed by a donation from the Galila Foundation, provided for the acquisition of upgraded protective and rescue equipment, significantly enabling the unit to adequately carryout its duties.

### ♥ Krembo Wings ("Knafayim shel Krembo")

This year the Galila Foundation collaborated with the "Knafayim shel Krembo" (Krembo Wings) organization, a nationwide youth movement for children with special needs.



Galila's participation in this venture enabled the program to initiate in the Matte Asher region with over 30 special-needs kids and teens from the region that will enjoy the multi-level, year-long activities run by this award-winning organization and dramatically enhancing the daily lives of these challenged children and their families.

### ♥ "Ozen LaLev" (Alternative Hearts)

As a part of the Galila Foundation's activities for the empowerment of various populations in the Galilee, we collaborated with the "Ozen LaLev" foundation, expanding the variety of activities available to those residents with special needs. "Ozen LaLev"'s activities are of an exceptional nature. The foundation's personnel, together with



a group of volunteers - made up of people from sectors of society i.e. mobility challenged, hearing and sight impaired, at-risk populations, and reach out to anyone in the community who needs personal support or just someone to talk to during a crisis or a period of uncertainty. Through this special program, the 'receivers' now become the 'givers' in the community.

All of the special-needs volunteers undergo comprehensive workshops in the art of counselling and are also given personalized guidance to suit each participant's unique needs. The foundation's work enables each participant to become a support for others and it offers those who receive support in the community an uplifting and empowering experience, while simultaneously acquiring valuable social skills such as: giving, listening, empathy and giving support to others.

## Holocaust & WW2 Ghetto Survivors

### ♥ "Housing Renovations for Holocaust Survivors

A joint-project between the Galila Foundation and the "Siyua La'chaim" (aid for life) program of "Latet" organization, 150 apartments of holocaust and WW2 ghetto survivors have been renovated and equipped this year.



As part of this project, we visited and reviewed the living conditions of hundreds of holocaust & WW2 ghetto survivors residing at the northern towns of: Carmiel, Safed, Acre, Kiryat Bialik, Kiryat Haim, Kiryat Ata, Kiryat Yam and Shlomi.

We repaired leaks and electrical faults, installed safety equipment, bought and installed air-conditioning units and refrigerators, heaters, beds, chairs, and all that was necessary to make the survivors' apartments a place where they can live safely and honorably.

### ♥ Aiding Holocaust Survivors over the Jewish Holidays

This year, as in every year over the past eight years, at Rosh Ha'Shana (Jewish New Year) and Pesach (Passover), the Galila Foundation provides financial support to 400 holocaust and WW2 ghetto survivors from northern Israel towns including Carmiel, Safed, Acre, Shlomi, Nahariya, Ma'alot and Hatzor.



On the eve of the Jewish Holidays, we hold festive gatherings for all of our survivor-heroes - organized by groups of volunteers in the various cities. At the end of the joyous event we give each survivor, a holiday gift in the form of a gift-card. Receiving this assistance of several hundred shekels, enables these elderly and frail holocaust survivors to get through the holiday season with dignity and knowing there are those who think about them and care for them all year round, and especially during the holidays.

The Holocaust and WW2 ghetto survivors support projects are the flagship of the Galila Foundations work in the northern Galilee region of Israel. We are proud and honored to be able to support these heroes of the Jewish nation and to help improve their life quality, to the best of our ability.

### ♥ **The Senior Center for Holocaust Survivors at Shlomi**

For several years now, the Galila Foundation supports the Senior Center at Shlomi. The center is a welcoming home to 120 seniors that come three times a week for a nutritious meal and for social activities. One of this center's unique features is in its ingathering of so many different backgrounds into one community. It is a meeting place for holocaust survivors, immigrants from the former Soviet Union and those originating from North Africa, all veteran citizens and many original founders of the town Shlomi.



The success of the center and the joy it brings to the lives of the seniors has convinced the local council and the president of the HOT foundation to add another weekday of activities for the welfare of the seniors. Seeing the joyous expressions on the members' faces when they received this news is the best response we can ask for in helping this special community.

### ♥ **A Trust-Fund for the northern Galilee Holocaust Survivors**

During the past seven years, the Galila Foundation has managed a regional trust-fund targeting holocaust and WW2 ghetto survivors residing in urban and rural communities across the Galilee region of northern Israel. The trust-fund was created for aiding the holocaust and WW2 ghetto survivors in acquiring basic necessities they cannot financially afford such as: uninsured medication and treatments, safety equipment for their homes, electric appliances, etc.



The applicants' requests are processed by the municipality welfare departments' and/or other volunteer organizations caring for these holocaust survivors, and are transferred to the trust-fund's allocations committee, whose members are all volunteers. The grants are paid directly to the individual recipient or to the supplier, in an effort to ease the burden of those in need with a minimum of bureaucracy.



The Galila foundation is dedicated to providing assistance to those individuals and communities in need and we are determined to find new programs and projects that will improve the life quality of all residents who live in the urban and rural border communities spread across the northern Galilee region of Israel.

This is our life mission and our honorable work of being able to reach out and provide help to many others who are in need. Furthermore, we look to expand those programs and projects that are a source of pride to the residents of the Galilee region and help to shed the light of optimism and solidarity among us. We look forward to continuing with our philanthropic intervention next year and for many years to come.

It is our responsibility. It is our passion and it is our blessing.

Yael Barlev – Director

Ofra Karasanti – Chair

