



Our home / our way / our future

Galila Foundation

For a Better Future

Summary of **2020**
A Year of Activity and Projects

Dear Friends and Partners,

The past year was one filled with shock and uncertainty – with the Covid 19 pandemic affecting all of us, organizations, and individuals alike.

During this particularly challenging time, our Foundation's work ranged from aiding the impoverished and those with specific needs during the peaks of this medical crisis. We also continued to develop partnerships and initiatives that go far to improve the quality of life for the residents of northern Israel. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn, to grow, to come together and cooperate with our donors, supporters, volunteers, and dear friends who continue to place their trust in our ability to seek out and implement new initiatives that make a tangible difference in the lives of so many. We are pleased to present you with this report highlighting all of our activities during 2020.

Yael Barlev, Executive Director

Ofra Karasanti, Chair



The Galila Foundation was established in 2005 by a group of volunteers, residents of the Galilee, who believed that regional changes must “come from within”. It falls to the residents who live their daily lives in this challenging area of northern Israel, to lead these changes with the aim of improving and advancing the quality of life.

The Foundation works to promote, lead, create and support projects in all areas of life with the overall goal of improving the lives for the residents of the northern periphery. We also work in cooperation with organizations and institutions with similar goals.

Areas of Activity:

Galila Fellows

This is Galila’s flagship program, through which the Foundation identifies social entrepreneurs and works with them from the idea stage through to implementation. The social initiatives cover all fields of life and together create a framework that advances the populations across the northern border communities.

Community

The Galilee is characterized by a variety of communities that together create a unique human mosaic in Israel. At Galila, we aid different communities in moving forward with initiatives and projects that are adapted to each community’s unique needs and character. To maximize their benefit, these projects and programs are run in cooperation with the relevant municipalities and social welfare agencies in all the communities.

Education and Welfare

The Foundation helps in advancing, operating and aiding projects in the field of education and welfare. The activity is conducted by working with the various educational institutions, in full cooperation with the local/municipal authorities. In addition, the Foundation operates a special emergency-aid funds for those in desperate and sudden need. This activity is also conducted together with the local authority’s social service departments. We believe that education builds community, builds a future, and aids in improving residents’ quality of life.

Diverse Population

The Foundation supports various projects and programs across the north that provide solutions and a response to the many particular needs of the region’s diverse population groups that have no response from any government ministry or agency. The programs the Foundation supports are many and varied, in line with the wide variety of populations in our region needing our support, and in accordance with the philanthropic resources that are granted to us each year, earmarked for this specific field of activity.

Holocaust Survivors

Holocaust survivors in the north have been supported by the Galila Foundation since we were founded in 2006. Since we believe it is our national responsibility to assist the Holocaust survivors who live among us for as long as and in whatever way they require, the Foundation runs a variety of aid and support programs aimed at easing many burdens in their lives.

This activity is conducted directly with the Holocaust survivors’ volunteer groups and we seek to cooperate with all the relevant organizations in this arena.





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Galila Fellows – A Program for Social Entrepreneurism

The Galila Fellows program was established in 2012 as a social initiative of the Galila Foundation in partnership with the Beren Fund. Its aim is to support, empower, and assist social entrepreneurs whose center of life and activity is based in the Galilee region of northern Israel.

The program identifies and extends professional as well as economic support to social entrepreneurs and their projects, with the common denominator of their working on a project/program enhancing the northern Galilee residents in a variety of fields: community, society, sport, education, health, etc.:

- Sharona Shalev-Mayer, founder, and CEO of the Galilean Human Mosaic project, in cooperation with the Adrenalin Running Club.*
- Shaul Zohar – founder of the Tennis Academy in the Galilee.*
- Yossi Gimon in Erez College's "Gateways to Industry" professional retraining program.*
- Nili Gal-Yam, supporting the enrichment program at the Shlomi Science Center.*
- Micah Simbalista, maintaining the Graduates' Home at the Nirim Youth Center.*
- Sarit Zahavi, founder and CEO of the Alma Education & Research Center.*
- Tira-El Cohen, in establishing the student's village at Kibbitz Misgav Am, in cooperation with her Kedma initiative.*
- Efrat Noy at the Kaima Organic Farm on Kibbutz Hukuk.*
- Vered Osman of the Docu-Leaders program, in cooperation with the Galilee Film Fund.*
- Keren Grinwald and Etti Brechenfeld of the 'We Grow' project, enhancing and supporting self-employed women across the Galilee region.*

Additionally, the Foundation continues to operate shared activities with national organizations keen in expanding their activities in the north and to develop programs that are suited to the special needs of the northern periphery residents. This inter-organization cooperation is at the heart of our work with the following organizations: United Hatzalah, the HaShomer HaHadash (New Guard) Association, and the Simcha LaYeled (Joy to the Child) Association.



Adrenaline - the 'human mosaic' of the Galilee

The Galilean Human Mosaic is a social program that, through sport, brings the Galilee's various communities together for social, educational, and communal encounters. Participants in the program learn to recognize the similarities as well as the differences among Jews, Druze, Christians, Muslims, secular and religious, residents of villages, towns, moshavim and kibbutzim, who altogether form the human mosaic that is the Galilee region. The past year of activity was one of change in Sharona Shalev-Mayer's work. Her initiative grew and expanded to become a registered and approved non-profit association, to broaden its social and sporting activities across the region.

Sharona's work creates social bonds that use sport to connect the Galilee's remarkable human mosaic. This year, the traditional Christmas Run, although not cancelled, was adapted to the Covid 19 limitations, while Adrenaline members volunteered on the social initiatives developed benefiting Holocaust survivors in our region.



The Galilee Tennis Academy

Shaul Zohar, one of Israel's top tennis trainers and a Kiryat Shemona resident, is the founder of the Galilee Tennis Academy. Shaul's vision is to make tennis accessible to residents of the periphery and to share it, not only as a sport, but as a way of life that provides lessons for education and values. This project has been highly acclaimed over the years and 2020 was the third year in which Shaul led the successful programs for the special-needs students at the Renanim Regional School for Special Needs children, based in the northern town of Kiryat Shemona.

While the Covid 19 period has been challenging for all of us, it has been especially so for Renanim's special-needs children. In his personable way, Shaul knew how to suitably adapt the program in line with the Covid 19 restrictions and was able to keep them active and vibrant - even during the current crisis. Shaul's work on behalf of the residents of the Upper Galilee has gained admiration from residents, municipal agencies, schoolteachers, and families of these special children. Shaul possesses a passionate and sensitive personality and serves as a role model for so many in the community.



"Gateway to Industry" Re-Training Center – Erez College

Erez College is a center for vocational/professional training that, in recent years, has been run by our social entrepreneur, Yossi Gimon. Since adopting this role, Yossi has turned the college training center into a distinctive place that highlights and exemplifies the world of modern industry based in the north of Israel. The center enables people who are looking for a professional future in industry to gain the training that will help them find jobs at any one of the Galilee's dozens of industrial plants. At the same time, these plants use the center to train workers, thereby maintaining standards and remaining up to date with the developing world of technology.



The Covid 19 period required the Center to find creative solutions in training workers while dealing with the pandemic lockdowns and new demands from the industries. None of this weakened the resolve of the Center's director, who continued to enable many more Galilee residents to ensure their economic viability by retraining into the developing world of modern industry. Our support for Erez College represents support for employment in the north and for the Galilee's industry.

Programs for Gifted and Outstanding Students – The Science & Knowledge Center in Shlomi

The Science & Knowledge Center for Gifted and Outstanding Students in Shlomi is directed by our entrepreneur Dr. Nili Gal-Yam. Through her work in the Galila Fellows program, Nili initiated and operates "Hiking the Galilee" an alumni program, in addition to the program for outstanding students. In March 2020, the Covid 19 crisis brought the Center's work to a halt and dozens of students who had benefited from its social encounters were forced to find alternative solutions.



Graduates' House – Nirim Youth Village

Micah Simbalista, director of the Nirim Youth Village in the coastal village of Bustan HaGalil, established the Graduates' Home as part of the social initiative he is advancing.

The young people who arrive at Nirim under court order, and as a last resort, meet the dedicated staff there who are focused on taking advantage of this last opportunity they will have to move on and live a normative life.

Over the years at this village, many young people have completed their studies with a matriculation certificate and have been drafted for meaningful service in the IDF. As soon as they are conscripted, the government funding ceases, and the young men and women become "independent" and need to carry on without any government support. Therefore, their needs have stimulated Nirim to provide its graduates – those soldiers who have been conscripted and even those who have been discharged at the end of their compulsory military service – a place they can come 'home' and to get away from their abusive and unsuitable family homes.

The Galila Foundation supports the Graduates' House as a warm and secure home to which the youth village's graduates can return. For them, it serves as a "bridge" following their army service and until they can integrate into society, fully and normatively, as ordinary citizens. The Foundation's support for the activities of the Graduates' House enables dozens of graduates to complete their journey in the best way possible and to embark on life with a "toolbox" full of all they need to integrate normatively into society.



Alma Research & Education Center on Israel's Security Challenges in the North

Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi joined the Galila Fellows program in 2015 as a social entrepreneur working in the field of “hasbara” (advocacy) and promoting the Galilee to groups, individuals, and opinion leaders in Israel and overseas. In 2018, Sarit established Alma, an educational research institute that publishes articles, conducts research, and participates in panels and lectures in Israel and globally. Alma's work is cited by various news and institution outlets, who depend on Alma's communicated materials relating to Israel's volatile northern borders with Lebanon and Syria.



The Covid 19 crisis put a sudden halt to visiting groups, delegations, and individuals, both Israeli and global. Sarit, a lieutenant colonel in the IDF reserves, who served in the IDF Northern Command's Intelligence Corps. Research Department, was forced to deal with a new reality in which the updates relating to ongoing security challenges in the north needed to be disseminated to the world solely through visual and social media. Together with the Center's researchers, Sarit developed an online lectures series, videos, and interactive simulations and panels – providing real-time solutions to Alma's need to communicate with its global audience about evolving security issues in the north.

Student Village in Misgav Am, in Cooperation with Kedma

'Kedma' is the social initiative of a young woman named Tira-El Cohen, who decided to restore relevance to the value of Zionist settlement in the 21st century.



The organization that Tira-El established deals with creating “fulfillment frameworks” for young people in the rural settlements of Israel's frontier areas. The young people study and work in the peripheral academic colleges and there is an optimistic prediction that after they complete their studies, the graduates will choose to stay in the area and strengthen its settlement along the borders of northern Israel.

Galila has partnered with Kedma in setting up a student village in the remote border Kibbutz, Misgav Am, in the Upper Galilee. The student village makes a significant contribution to this isolated, hill-top kibbutz. By participating in kibbutz life, the students make a significant impact on the community's way of life, on the range and quality of activities that take place there, and they naturally generate a young, fresh, and creative spirit in this Kibbutz.

The period of Covid 19 demonstrated the great need for the presence of young people in the mountain communities of the Upper Galilee. These students have helped this aging community considerably and their contribution throughout the crisis again proved to everyone the vital contribution of this project to the welfare and very existence of this remote border community.

The Kaima Farm in Hukuk – An Organic Educational Farm

Efrat Noy moved from Jerusalem to Kibbutz Hukuk, on the banks of the Lake Kinneret and established the Kaima Organic Agricultural Farm on the kibbutz together with her friends. The Farm's organic produce is sold to residents of the region at prices that will, in the future, be able to financially sustain the Farm and its workers. The crops, which are seasonal, are picked from the field every week, packed at the local packing facility, and sold in baskets to area residents.



It seems like a healthy and simple initiative. However, the implementation of this idea is far more challenging. The Farm's educational goal is to employ young people aged 15-18 who have dropped out of all other educational frameworks and for whom this Farm is has become a home away from home. The young men and women who work on the Farm are all categorized as "youth at risk" and the hard, agricultural work is, for them, their last opportunity to enter normative life. The Farm's managers are also psych-therapists by training and the overall goal is to enable these young people to work at the Farm for a period, after which they will be able to find their way into a more normative life as productive and well-adjusted citizens.

The Covid 19 period has been extremely challenging to the program. The ability for these troubled teens to come and work on the Farm has helped the youths to deal with the Covid 19 crisis and all its accompanying uncertainties. The fledgling Farm is dealing with numerous challenges and Galila is working closely with Efrat and her staff to find the most suitable platform for its future activity.

Docu-Leaders – Galilee Film Fund

Vered Osman, director and talented filmmaker, led the Docu-Leaders project this year. This is a one-of-its-kind program in Israel and takes place within the framework of the Galilee Film Fund.

The project selects some 20 youths from all parts of the Galilee with the common goal of creating short documentary films that reflect their worlds and the issues that concern them as adolescents. Later, these films are screened at schools in communities across the Galilee, with the young creators meeting with the school audiences to share thier experiences as they produced their films.

Production of the films stopped in March with the outbreak of the pandemic, thereby preventing the project from holding the screening phase and from distributing the films to the public. We are certain that these young creators will find their voices and share their personal content with the wider world.



We Grow

We Grow is a social initiative that was created to change the existing reality in networking in the western Galilee, as well as to enable the formation of a practical, personal, productive, and high-quality connection between professional women from all backgrounds and ethnicities from across the Galilee region.



The We Grow initiative is an internet platform that brings together, under one (virtual) roof, self-employed women, and women business owners in the region. Its website enables them to connect easily and efficiently with one another to promote their businesses. The women can get to know one another's work through the site, arrange personal meetings, create collaborations, and hold brainstorming sessions, content meetings, etc. In addition, the platform facilitates the creation of a community that works together to promote and enrich the world of self-employed women in the Galilee.

More than 700 women are currently registered on the existing platform. They have decided to promote their businesses in a modern efficient way, in which all have equal standing.

The Galila Foundation has chosen to support this social project and considers it the right way to positively impact the hundreds of self-employed women in the Galilee. They will benefit from a "home" that will provide them with training, support, and ongoing eye-level assistance and guidance – all with the singular aim of helping them to achieve professional and economic fulfillment.

The Galila Foundation believes that, as this initiative grows and develops, it will provide significant help to self-employed women in the Galilee, by building an ethical and productive professional community of women. Expanding the activity will serve to leverage the Galilee's small businesses and improve the quality of life of the participants in the initiative.

United Hatzalah

The Galila Foundation continues its cooperation with United Hatzalah with the aim of strengthening the organization's life-saving activity in the region.

Through this cooperation, the Galila Foundation funds a course for volunteer medics who have joined the organization and have enlisted in the Galilees' life-saving medic teams.

The medics' course expanded its training period to 180 hours (about 1 week) and includes targeted training, such as a first-aid courses, field experience, dealing with emergencies by phone and providing emergency medical responses until an ambulance and/or treatment team arrive at the scene. Simply put, this course can enable groups of residents and volunteers to literally save lives.

United Hatzalah's goal is to reach a wounded or injured person within 90 seconds (about 1 and a half minutes) of receiving the emergency call – this to increase the chances of saving lives. This is an extremely ambitious goal for a peripheral region, especially given the lack of professionally trained volunteers that has been the situation until United Hatzalah, in partnership with Galila, were able to remedy this by initiating and operating training courses across the north of Israel.

The courses that were opened this year in Karmiel and Nahariya take us another step closer to the ultimate goal of this program – saving many lives. Course graduates who have successfully passed the rigorous selection process, join the United Hatzalah's volunteer teams whose contribution to the residents of the Galilee region is insurmountable and an especially important addition to the rural Galilee regions.



“To Work It and Keep It” – A Project of HaShomer HaHadash (The New Guardian)

Thousands of volunteers participated this year in the volunteer's agricultural program, designed for schools in the north. The program is a joint initiative of the Galila Foundation and HaShomer HaHadash and aims to bring the organization's work to students in schools in the north, and to encourage them to become familiar with the agriculture that exists in the region where they live, and at the same time to help the Galilee's farmers who are in desperate need of more working hands.



The volunteer days are an enormous success, ethically, educationally, and practically. Young people who live in the north get to know the agricultural sector, its role and significance to all our lives. At the same time, the Galilee farmers have come to understand that they are not alone in their campaign to maintain agriculture in the region and that the young generation growing up in their region are prepared to enlist and help in what is a crucial national mission.

The Covid 19 pandemic shut down all the schools, including this important activity. However, HaShomer HaHadash continues with its work to ensure security for Israel's farmers.

Activity at the Western Galilee and Ziv Hospitals – Joy for the Child

The Joy to the Child organization works with children who are hospitalized for extended periods. Its goal is to lighten – however slightly – the burden on the families and to ease the suffering of the children.



The organization's activity at the Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya and the Ziv Hospital in Safed includes intensive efforts by volunteers and girls in national service who work several times a week with children who are in hospital for extended periods of time. The energetic volunteers also put on a variety of events, including holiday parties, organized trips, and fun days.

This year, we expanded our partnership and purchased a purposefully designed “Food Trolley” for the children and the volunteers. The volunteers' activity has since moved to digital media during the pandemic and we are now anticipating the return of the young volunteers in the hospital wards, just as soon as the situation allows.





In the Community

The Galilee is characterized by a diversity of communities that together make up a unique human mosaic. We at Galila support these communities to advance initiatives and projects that are adapted in the best feasible way to each community's needs and specific culture and character.

To maximize what they can achieve for the community's benefit, the projects are run in cooperation with the relevant agencies and non-profit organizations in the various communities.



Control Center in the Beit HaKerem Communities Cluster

As part of its work for the community, the Beit HaKerem Cluster established a regional control center this year to support environmental enforcement activity. The project is the result of an initiative by the "Maoz HaTsafon" program and the Beit HaKerem Communities Cluster.

The regional control center is intended to allow for use of advanced technology and a connection to field cameras that have analysis and identification capabilities. This enables the identification of problematic incidents on the one hand and to also serve as a call-center for residents.

With the Covid 19 crisis, some of the Cluster's local authorities found themselves without suitable infrastructure for responding to residents' calls during this crisis. Accelerating the center's activities and expanding its staff enabled better responding and provision of information -- in Arabic as well as in Hebrew -- regarding changing Covid 19 related issues, particularly for the region's businesses.

The Galila Foundation, working in close cooperation with the "Maoz HaTsafon" program, is pleased to support activities that serve the diverse communities in the north.



Upgrading Playgrounds in the North

Ten years after we established playgrounds in many rural and isolated communities along Israel's northern border, we have returned to upgrade the surfaces and install shading facilities. Six playgrounds received giant sunshades and synthetic grass this year. The upgrade was made possible thanks to a donation from the Joseph & Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds.

Advancing the Soccer Sector, Kfar Kama

Kfar Kama is a Cherkassy settlement in the Lower Galilee. The youth are educated in the village and all are drafted for meaningful service in the IDF.

To bring these young people closer to Israeli society from an early age, an initiative is underway to strengthen soccer in the village. The project is part of a wider program that facilitates meetings with other residents from nearby communities. The project is run by the village's education department and is funded by the Altshuler-Shaham Foundation as part of its contribution to the community.



Renovating and Updating the Library and Learning Center in Kfar Kama

The Galila Foundation is a partner in the renovation of a restored building in the Cherkassy village, Kfar Kama. The building serves as the municipal library and learning center for the village's entire community of schoolchildren and students. The project is an initiative by the local authority in cooperation with several bodies, including Israel's Pais National Lottery and an American foundation that donates to the advancement of education in Israel.



Refurbishing & Updating an Exhibit at the Kibbutz Hanita Museum

The Tower and Stockade Museum is located at the heart of Kibbutz Hanita. In a stone house on the top of a mountain that overlooks the stunning Western Galilee vista, the museum presents the story of the daring establishment of Hanita as a national operation and part of the broader Tower and Stockade settlements initiative. The museum includes an exhibit of original photographs, weapons and work tools and a film about Hanita's establishment and its first years as a kibbutz.



This year, the museum was renovated and made accessible, while its exhibits were upgraded and adapted to 21st century visitors. As part of the project, the Galila Foundation joined with a US based foundation, the museum's staff, and the kibbutz leadership to preserve the fascinating history of this pioneer settlement in the Galilee.

Shinuy Kivun – “Changing Direction”

Shinuy Kivun (“Changing Direction”) is a community organization founded with the goal of helping move the Galilee region forward to a better future. The organization was established by young people from Kiryat Shemona and works in many ways to strengthen weakened communities in the northern periphery by helping them think differently and to envisage a better future for their young community members.



The organization was forced to adapt itself to the Covid 19 pandemic and to the lockdowns. With activity in public spaces prohibited, they turned to the digital world, where last year they organized a virtual conference about establishing a university in the north. The Galila Foundation provided the organization with a philanthropic platform for its work and encourages their excellent work on behalf of residents of the north.

H3 Lab

H3 Lab is a social startup project that combines the social with the technological. The project's goal is to enable people who require medical monitoring to undergo it in their own homes without the need for prolonged hospitalization. The project includes development of a device that is operated by a trained professional and that can transfer the required medical tests readings to the healthcare providers while the patient remains in the comfort of his/her home.



The outbreak of the pandemic last year accelerated the development of this social initiative by the people at H3 Lab. Several partners participate in the project, the healthcare system among them. The Galila Foundation is pleased to be part of this initiative, by providing a platform for philanthropic support.

My Israel

In 2020, the Galila Foundation continued its cooperation with the My Israel organization, whose vision and mission are to advance social projects – especially those that are welfare related – in the periphery regions of Israel. The program is an initiative of new immigrants from the UK who decided to contribute to Israeli society by opening the door – via an array of media options – to British charitable donations. The organization uses various platforms to raise funds for projects in which Galila is a partner. The cooperation between the organizations enabled an increase in the funding available for various social projects that benefit residents of the north.

The logo for My Israel, featuring the word "myisrael." in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.

Safed Emergency Room

Sieff Hospital in Safed is continually upgrading and developing the healthcare it provides to residents of the north. This year, we fulfilled the desire of Dr. Dana, the outstanding director of the children's emergency room. Dr. Dana wanted to decorate the children's emergency room with murals to give the space a brighter atmosphere for the children patients. She found the artist to carry out the work and Galila secured a donation to fund this initiative. The result: The Children's Emergency Room at Sieff Hospital is more inviting and pleasant for the children it serves and their families.





The COVID-19 Crisis

Among the challenges that the COVID-19 period has brought is its effect on the financial situation of the population. The Galila Foundation rose to this challenge by providing much-needed assistance to various projects.

- ***Adoptive Family*** - The government distributed grants to all of Israel's residents, without regard to actual needs. Many families who received the grants chose to donate them to families in dire need of additional financial support. Galila provided a platform for these donations and with the funds raised, we purchased and distributed shopping vouchers every weekend to a select group of impoverished families with no other means to support themselves.
- ***Ahava ("Love") Home, Kiryat Bialik*** - The children living in the Ahava home were forced to spend the lockdowns confined to the home's property, without being able to go out for air. Dozens of children were shut up in the home's crowded houses during the long Covid 19 lockdown days. To help them pass the time as pleasantly as possible, the Galila Foundation bought the children outdoor sports equipment, ping-pong tables, baskets and basketballs, soccer goalposts, as well as board games.
- ***Ziv Medical Center, Safed, and the Western Galilee Hospital, Nahariya*** -The medical staff at these two hospitals worked day and night caring for Covid 19 patients from the north. During the lockdowns, children of the staff members were forced to come to the hospitals since they could not remain at home unsupervised. Thanks to a generous donation, Galila purchased play equipment, television sets and computer games for these children, thereby joining in the national effort to assist those working on the front lines to battle Covid 19.
- ***Purchase of technological equipment, Maalot*** - Many of the families whose children have had to study from home lacked the financial means to buy them the tablets or laptops needed for remote learning. To help these families, we undertook an initiative, in collaboration with the Maalot municipality, and other bodies that enabled us to provide the children of Maalot with tablets with which they can connect for remote learning during the long days studying from home.



Education

The Galila Foundation helps to promote, run, and assist projects in education and welfare, out of a belief that education builds community, builds the future, and enhances the quality of life for the residents. We work on these activities with various educational institutions and in cooperation with the local municipal authorities. The Foundation also operates assistance funds for those in need, working in full cooperation with municipal social welfare departments.



The Galim School for Children with Special Needs

Galim is the regional school for children with special needs aged six to 12. The school's success lies in the fact that many of its students go on to integrate into normative educational frameworks, something that would not be possible without the benefit of studying in Galim's unique program.

Various donations to the school enable Galim's educational director to create innovative programs. These are optimally adapted to the children's needs and that benefit both children and staff. This year, Galim students – who studied during the Covid 19 crisis too – benefited from the donation of dozens of computers and tablets.



Meitar School

Located in the northern coastal village of Bustan HaGalil, Meitar is a regional school for children with complex mental health problems. This year, we helped the school install a shaded outdoor shelter for the play area in the school's yard.



Early Childhood Education, Maalot

The Ma'alot municipality created a partnership with an Israeli donor who understood the importance of investing in early-childhood education. Together with the local education department, an enrichment program was developed for children and staff that operates throughout the school year. There is no question that investing in early-childhood education is significant and leads to a better future for the young participants in this program.



Group Activities for Children

This year, we helped in funding after-school classes and group activities for children whose families cannot afford such enrichment. This assistance was made possible thanks to a designated donation from an American donor.

The Korczak Education Center

The Korczak Center – established voluntarily by two educators, Batia Gilad and Dr. Avi Tsur – expanded its work this year and hosted groups and provided educational activities, all in the spirit of legendary educator Janusz Korczak. In addition, staff members run fascinating workshops for school staff and various educational teams, as well as educators who come from overseas, to train them in educating according to Korczak's philosophy.



Shvil HaLev – The Hearts Trail

Shvil HaLev (“The Hearts Trail”) is an educational and enrichment program for Ethiopian Israeli youth. Through this program, a variety of social activities take place with the aim of creating a full and natural connection between the youths and Israeli society, as well as to bridge the gaps that still characterize the community 30 years after the Ethiopian immigration to Israel.



Assistance Funds for Families and Individuals

The Northern Assistance Fund

For several years, the Galila Foundation has been managing a regional assistance fund for residents of the western Galilee. Once a month, the local authorities' welfare departments send us requests for approval by the Fund's aid committee, whose members serve as volunteers. Every year, the Fund helps dozens of economically distressed families, children, youth, the elderly and single-parent families.

Hesed Fund

The vision of the Hesed Fund is to bring together 'good people' who can help other 'good people' who need assistance. The Fund was established voluntarily by a wonderful group of Ma'alot residents who manage the many requests that they receive for aid to those in need, including new immigrants, the elderly, Holocaust survivors – anybody who is in crisis and needs immediate help. For each request, the group tries to find donors to gift amounts that, while not large, often save families from economic collapse. Every donation to the Fund is directed to a specific request from a person in need and is handled with accountability and sensitivity. The Galila Foundation manages the Fund for the volunteers at no additional cost and without any compensation.



Special Needs Communities

The Galila Foundation supports various projects that provide aid or otherwise respond to the many needs among the diverse populations across the north. The Foundation supports many projects that are varied, in keeping with the diversity of the populations who need support and based on the annual budget raised from philanthropic sources for this purpose.



Ozen LaLev – The Attentive Hearts Project

Ozen LaLev is a social project that was initiated and is run by Dr. Sharon Lovesh. The Galila Foundation formed a collaboration with Ozen LaLev, aimed at expanding the activities this moving program offers to include people with special needs, part of the process to empower both them and the wider community.

Ozen LaLev's activity is unique in Israel. The project trains volunteers from populations that are considered "disadvantaged" (people with limited mobility, blind people and those who are vision or hearing impaired, those who are chronically ill, and elderly people, among others). This project trains these volunteers to provide emotional support and works with them as they go out and ensure that every person in the community has a supportive shoulder and an attentive and accessible ear, as well as providing social and emotional tools, including rousing lectures that change people's thinking and their direction in life.



The "My Piece of the Puzzle" Summer Camp

The 'My Piece of the Puzzle' project operates a summer camp for children with special needs, together with youth-at-risk with the goal of creating a meeting between two populations who have been marginalized.

The summer program was held in the village of Nahar HaYarden. Combining the youth-at-risk and youth with special needs – and using the educational model developed by "My Piece of the Puzzle" that fosters a sense of capability, acceptance, and self-confidence, alongside fun and a break from routine – together created an exceptional experience for these groups.

The Galila Foundation was pleased to have the opportunity to support such a values-based and important project, taking place in the Galilee.



"Yes and No" Riding Group

This year we began a collaboration with the Gal-Naim North organization to encourage volunteering in the community and to help in running a sports activity program for people with special needs.

The activity of "Yes and No" includes operating and managing a riding group for blind and sighted people. At the Galila Foundation, we purchase the special equipment needed for the project, and enable the volunteers to work on behalf of the vision-impaired population who live in the area.



Life-Line Summer Camp

The Galila Foundation is proud to have donated, for the second year running, to this moving social and community project, initiated by Koby and Miriam Darkhi from the town of Kfar Veradim. The Life-Line summer camp for people with disabilities and special needs is entirely a donation to the community and an example of human kindness.

The Darkhi family open their home for a week to some 40 people with disabilities, together with their caregivers. During the week, the participants enjoy a wide variety of activities, lectures, workshops, and guided activities, all of which are donated by members of the community. In addition, the participants enjoy joint meals and meetings with community members of Kfar Veradim and the surrounding region.

The camp gives the participants' families a week of respite, during which they know that their loved ones are looked after, busy and surrounded by a loving community that cares for them.



Projects for the Wellbeing of Holocaust Survivors

The Galila Foundation has been supporting Holocaust survivors in the north since its inception. Believing that we have a national duty to aid Holocaust survivors who live among us for as long as they need us, the Galila Foundation operates a range of aid and support projects that are designed to make life easier, safer, and healthier for the survivors - in any way we can. This work is done directly with the survivors, as well as in cooperation with the relevant organizations in the field.



LaTet Project for Holocaust Survivors in the North

More than 700 apartments of Holocaust survivors have been renovated and refurbished through a joint project of Galila and the LaTet organization's 'Aid for Life' program. As part of this project, we visited hundreds of homes of Holocaust survivors who live in the most impoverished neighborhoods in northern cities and towns: Karmiel, Safed, Akko, Kiryat Bialik, Kiryat Haim, Kiryat Ata, Kiryat Yam and Shlomi.



Where necessary, we carried out repairs, made adaptations, installed safety equipment, purchase air conditioners, refrigerators, ovens, beds, and shower seats – anything that is needed to make the survivors' apartments places where they can live safely and with dignity.

We will continue with this project in the coming years as well and will endeavor to assist any survivor who needs our help.

Distributing Holiday Gifts to Holocaust Survivors in the North

As we do every year at the eve of the Rosh HaShana and Passover Jewish holidays, the Galila Foundation provided financial assistance to hundreds of Holocaust survivors in the northern communities of Akko, Nahariya, Shlomi, Karmiel, Maalot, Hazor and Safed.

As part of our activity on behalf of Holocaust survivors, volunteer-organized festive events were held in these cities. At the end of the events, each survivor received a holiday gift in the form of a gift card.

This assistance of several hundred shekels per person enabled the survivors to spend the holidays in relative comfort and in the knowledge that there are those who think about them and their welfare throughout the year and especially around the holidays.

Aid Fund for Holocaust Survivors in the North

For several years, the Galila Foundation has managed a regional aid fund for Holocaust survivors who live in the north. The Fund is intended to help the survivors to purchase items that they could not otherwise afford, such as medicines that are not covered by their health-care provider, treatments, safety equipment for the home and electrical appliances, among others.

Requests for assistance are sent to the Fund's aid committee by the local authorities' welfare departments or by other bodies that work with Holocaust survivors. The aid committee operates on a voluntary basis.

Grants are paid directly to the survivors and/or to suppliers to make the survivors' lives as comfortable as possible, by keeping bureaucracy to a minimum.



The Galila Foundation is committed to advancing and supporting projects that help to improve the quality of life of all residents of the north, whether they live in villages, moshavim or kibbutzim, or in the cities that are scattered across this region of Israel.

Our work at Galila is a privilege!

We feel blessed to have the ability to support, to encourage, to create and to work in cooperation with all the entrepreneurs, organizations, people, and programs that together are building an ethical and high-quality human and social mosaic that contributes to the challenging lives of those who live in the north.

Yael Barlev - Executive Director

Ofra Karasanti - Chair

Our Commitment | Our Passion | Our Blessing



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We invite you to donate to any of the Galila Foundation's activities or projects. Donations are recognized for tax purposes.



In the United States:

Please make checks payable to:

PEF Israel Endowment Funds,

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A letter should be attached to the check stating the following:

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Mailing address:

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Donations may also be made through JGive by scanning the QR code below.



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