

2016 OSP Grant Recommendations



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER PORTLAND

Overseas
Special
Projects

- 1. YEDID:** Since its establishment in 1997, YEDID has been leading the fight against poverty in Israel. Working through a nationwide network of 17 Citizen Rights Centers, its mission is to empower Israelis to become self-sufficient and active members of society by promoting social and economic justice. YEDID's unique model helps people to learn to help themselves using three innovative approaches: social and legal assistance, community empowerment initiatives, and national advocacy for policy change. **Request: To expand YEDID's capacity to deploy, support and train volunteers and enhance its services to better meet the needs of the residents of Kiryat Malachi.**
Recommendation: \$10,000
- 2. Tel Aviv Sexual Assault Crisis Center:** The crisis center was founded in 1978 by the Tel Aviv branch of the Israeli Feminist Movement, evolving in 1982 into an independent, non-profit organization. The center was the first such entity in Israel and remains the largest in its field. In the past few years, it has handled over 10,000 calls annually, approximately 33% of all calls received by all the sexual assault crisis centers in Israel. The population served by the Tel Aviv Center is approximately 1.8 million, some 22% of the entire population of Israel. To date, its education programs have reached over 100,000 teens, women and men from all sectors of Israeli society—Jewish, Arab, secular and religious. The center has three main roles: providing immediate crisis intervention services to survivors of sexual assault, raising public awareness, and initiating essential social change through extensive educational outreach programs. **Request: To continue support of "Fear Not, for Thou Shalt Not be Ashamed," a comprehensive program of courses, groups, and activities geared toward ultra-orthodox (Haredi) communities.**
Recommendation: \$10,000
- 3. Shiur Acher ("A Different Lesson"):** Founded in 2002 to develop meaningful civic involvement in the Israeli public school system, Shiur Acher works to expand opportunities for children throughout the country by connecting schools with volunteers who provide original, high-quality supplemental education. Shiur Acher in Arabic is an educational enrichment program that empowers disadvantaged Arab children and youth and develops meaningful civic



involvement and volunteerism in schools belonging to Arab communities nationwide. The program creates a living bridge between working professionals and disadvantaged school children, exposing the children to new fields of interest and encouraging them to dream and explore new horizons and possibilities.

Request: To help expand the scope of Shiur Acher's work and visibility in Arab society by establishing additional courses, recruiting new volunteers and building meaningful partnerships with other stakeholders.

Recommendation: \$15,000

- 4. Krembo Wings:** Founded in 2002, Krembo Wings is Israel's only youth movement for children with special needs, enabling children with severe psychological, motor and cognitive disabilities to enjoy the benefit of a structured social environment with their able-bodied peers. At present, Krembo Wings operates several branches throughout Israel (including Karmiel, Lod, and Safed funded in part by the Federation). Each week, it welcomes over 4,000 young people with and without disabilities aged 7-21 from all cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds, who often have no opportunity for social interaction outside of the formal education system, and are not eligible to participate in other youth movements because of their severe disabilities. The weekly social activities are carried out by over 2,400 dedicated able-bodied youth counselors, between the ages of 14-18, who come from the same local areas as the special needs participants. All counselors undergo comprehensive training that prepares them for the challenging task of working with children with special needs. **Request: To expand the program by opening a branch in Kiryat Malachi. Recommendation: \$20,000**
- 5. Upper Galilee Rape Crisis Center:** The center in Kiryat Shmona is one of ten existing centers in Israel. Opened 20 years ago, it covers the northern region of the country, from Metula to the Sea of Galilee. The center's mission is to provide assistance to victims of sexual violence and educate to fight the phenomenon of sexual violence by teaching respectful behavior, instilling positive attitudes, increasing public awareness and changing public opinion, thereby preventing such violence. The center now functions 24/7, 52 weeks a year, with over 80 volunteers, emphasizing education and outreach as well as service to victims, including a 24-hour hot line. It works closely with other organizations and

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professionals, recruits and trains new volunteers regularly, and operates very extensive educational programs. **Request: To continue training new volunteers to answer the center's Hot Line, escort victims (to the police or court) and provide educational services. Recommendation: \$10,000**

6. **Ofanim:** Ofanim is a social-change NGO founded in 2004 that provides extracurricular enrichment in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to children living in peripheral communities in northern and southern Israel. Ofanim has grown from serving several hundred children per year from all sectors of Israeli society—Jewish and Arab, religious and secular, native-born and new immigrants—to 1400 annually. There are six core programs: The World of Scientists, Young Doctors, Comics and Computerized Animation, App and Up, Gaming, and Robotics. Program goals include nurturing the children's critical-thinking skills and igniting their imaginations, developing their social and leadership skills, and motivating them to succeed in school and to pursue higher education in STEM fields. **Request: General support that will cover the program cost for approximately 10 participants in one of Ofanim's programs. Recommendation: \$10,000**

7. **The Women's Courtyard:** Founded in 2003 by local women, the Women's Courtyard is a grassroots multicultural initiative that provides support and assistance for girls and young women in distress and at-risk between the ages of 13-25 throughout Israel. The Courtyard tends to the acute physical, financial, social and emotional needs of this neglected and seemingly invisible population. In Kiryat Malachi, the Courtyard's Open Space is the heart of its activities and includes a variety of drop-in services: hot meals are provided three times weekly and other forms of immediate humanitarian aid are offered (emergency monetary assistance, medication, clothes and counseling). There are also ongoing activities and workshops, including a jewelry-making class, yoga, and more. **Request: To continue the expansion of the scope of services at the courtyard in Kiryat Malachi, increasing the number of girls participating and developing more educational and employment opportunities for them. Recommendation: \$15,000**