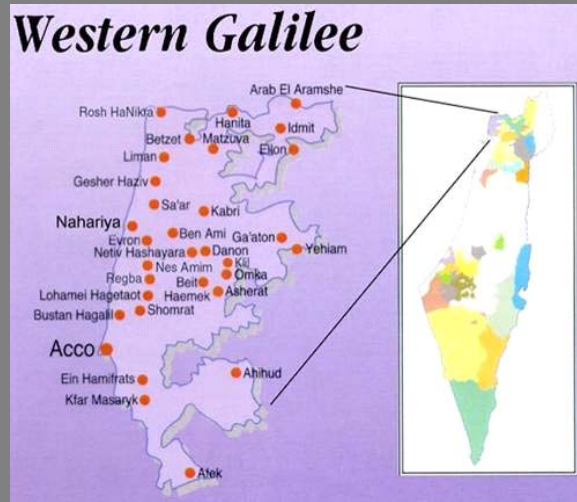


Partnership with Israel



The Western Galilee Region

Last summer the Western Galilee Region, our Partnership with Israel area, faced 33 days of rocket fire. This presentation will illustrate how we're using some of our Israel Emergency Campaign (IEC) dollars to help the Western Galilee recover from the devastating affects of war.

Jan Goldstein and Zoë Riekes traveled to Israel in March of 2007. The reason for the trip was to distribute \$4.7 million in IEC funds which came from the 14 communities of our Central Region Consortium Partnership. Zoë, chair of the consortium, along with Michael Papo, Jan's colleague and co-professional responsible for the operations of the Partnership, as well as representatives from Dallas and San Antonio, participated on the allocations mission. Of the \$4.7 million available to distribute about \$400,000 was raised in Omaha. With these dollars we were able to fund more than 50 projects we visited.

It's important to remember that our area was one most affected by the war. With Partnership we have the ability to track our money and give donors something with which they can identify. We have confidence in our Partners and in the Jewish Agency that runs the Partnership programs, but our 14 communities together have created a new, functional process for allocating the money.

Our criteria for funding is based on:

- Related to crisis
- Long-term, strategic impact
- Leverages other dollars

14 U.S. Partner Communities

- Akron
- Canton
- Dallas
- Dayton
- Des Moines
- Fort Worth
- Indianapolis
- Louisville
- Northwest Indiana
- Omaha
- San Antonio
- South Bend
- Toledo
- Youngstown

Combined Annual Allocation to Partnership - \$600,000
Israel Emergency Campaign Allocation - \$4.5 million

Why Partnership works

Partnership gives us the opportunity to understand what people at the grass roots level want and need.

Partnership speaks to needs from the bottom up (not top-down leadership), even when we work with the mayors who are looking to fund projects they can't get funded through Israeli government ministries.

We work together to create bonds between Israelis and American Jews. This is repeatedly exemplified by the constant expressions of gratitude we hear at a time when we sometimes also hear about how Israelis don't always know what American Jewry is doing to help within the country.

Our US Partner Communities are listed above. Together, we raised \$4.7 million specifically for our Partnership through our respective Israel Emergency Campaigns.

Command Centers

Matte Asher & Acco



War and Crisis Preparedness – Strengthening Community Infrastructure

Command Centers:

Acco - \$240,000 funded

Matte Asher - \$120,000 funded

Our consortium is breaking new ground for the country with a prototype 911Center which enables rural and urban municipalities of both Acco and Matte Asher to cope with local issues. Beginning in 2004 with our first IEC campaign money we provided them with capability to police their own communities during war time. The centers enable them to spot falling ketushayas for miles. In peace time they can identify crime as its happening. We allocated money to purchase high-tech security cameras for entrances of communities.

On the bus ride to the airport, Zoë received a call of thanks from the mayor of Matte Asher for our efforts in reducing crime by significant amounts in the area. In Acco, this “911 Center” just recently opened, and to date it has already reduced urban crime 87% due to security cameras we provided.

Since this summer’s crisis, it has been determined that more cameras are needed, particularly in times of crisis.

Acco Command Center Van



\$300,000 for the Matte Asher and Acco Command Centers

This is Matte Asher's mobile van unit. We also funded a \$20,000 night surveillance camera which can spot falling Ketushayas and terrorist activity from many kilometers away.

Community Center



Community Center - \$150,000 funded

The threat of war always exists in our region. Balancing this threat with programs that create quality of community life, is what the Jewish Community Centers system in Israel does.

In the event of war, the JCC's are where people go if they need shelter. During the war the JCC staff arranged trips for the kids to go to the center of the country for safety. Through general IEC dollars they arranged activities for those who couldn't leave – especially the youngest ones. These facilities became distribution places for shelter supplies.

What we saw was a critical need to support year-round programs that could be adapted if needed in times of difficulty – programs in gymnastics, dance, youth leadership, arts and music. Using the services of young adults performing their National Army Service, the government partners with the JCC's to create vibrant Jewish life for residents. Avi Hatchual, JCC Director told us, “If we can't run great activities, people won't stay to face the threat. We have here the most beautiful beaches, the highest taxes – and ketushaya rockets...”

Above you see Zoë and Jan standing in front of a case at the Acco Center, where the beautiful “boats of wishes” - designed by our own Friedel kids and later finished by the Omaha October Mission participants - are permanently displayed.

Western Galilee Hospital



Western Galilee Hospital - \$2.2 million funded

At the heart of our Partnership is our long-time partner and giant in the Western Galilee Region – the Nahariya Hospital. This regional hospital is a place of hope, where over 6200 Israeli babies are born each year. It provides services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and its staff and patients represent the diversity of the people who live in the region.

During the war, the 400 bed underground facility was a front line for wounded Israeli soldiers and civilians. The hospital suffered a direct ketushaya hit which bombed out the ophthalmology unit and patient area which you see in the picture above. Amongst the needs today for this Western Galilee anchor is to rebuild the Emergency Services Department, both above and below ground for optimum care of trauma victims as well as daily emergencies. The total cost for reconstruction is about \$25 million, of which the government has asked for help with \$5-6 million from our Partnerships and others.

We are proud of the efforts of our communities – led by Indianapolis and Dallas Federations to insure that we have the dollars to leverage the total needed to make the ER department a reality. Our Partnership is taking the lead to make this happen. And, in our meeting with Deputy Director Dr. Moshe Daniels, he finished our meeting with this, “Knowing how much people in the States care and are with us is the most important of all.”

Fire Truck



Fire Truck - \$150,000 funded

In this fire truck you see Omahan Joe Kirshenbaum, trying out the latest 'mini pumper' style vehicle. We are purchasing this truck to serve the Matte Asher area. The cost is \$150,000, which will make a tremendous difference to the people in this rural area. The dilemma during last summer's crisis was having to save people over homes and orchards, so going to the urban areas always has been the first priority. With the addition of this second vehicle, now both areas can get the attention they need and residents in the North won't have to watch helplessly as their livelihood goes up in smoke each time a Ketushaya falls.

Rebuilding & Strengthening The North



Manof Boarding School

Meeting the Needs of At-Risk Populations - \$20,000 funded

Projects that rebuild and strengthen the North are a top priority. Social services, caring for vulnerable populations, special needs kids and the Ethiopian community are those most focused on. We heard repeatedly about the disappointment in the government and what they did not do before, during and after the war. The fear and trauma of waiting for the next war is pervasive.

Shown above is Manof, a three-year boarding school for high school age students at risk of dropping out of society. Manof is a lovely 150 year old hotel, converted into a school for kids from dysfunctional families. Many can't read or write, but with the help of a caring staff last year they achieved an 80% matriculation success rate, and most go on to the Army. Through activities like raising animals and horticulture, kids are engaged in activities that prepare them to re-enter society.

Here you see the beautiful grounds as well as a classroom which suffered rocket damage. They want to rebuild this as a functional bomb shelter (government funds \$12,000; Partnership funds \$20,000) to make it into a Therapeutic Arts Center. This dual function will hopefully insure that shelters will never reach the level of decay that they have upon entering the conflict.

Shelters



Shelters in the North

Shelters like this were the homes to children and adults for 33 consecutive days. Today, you'll see air conditioners and other additives our IEC dollars helped fund quickly during the war, but it's certainly not enough. These places must be rebuilt. People sleeping for days on thin foam mats and holes in the floor which serve as toilets have to be changed. Making shelters functional after years of neglect, is a goal we saw throughout the places we visited

Gareem Ometz - Acco



Partnership Funds - \$105,000

Gareem Ometz, Acco - \$105,000 funded

Gareem Ometz is an organization of young religious families, who have come to Acco from all over Israel and are dedicated to rebuilding the Acco community and the Jewish population. The Jewish population of Acco has declined severely over the years and tensions have escalated since the war. But this group operates special projects like food distribution, which feeds both Jews and non-Jews. Shown above are 7th and 8th graders who were about to go collecting money in the neighborhood to help needy families with their Passover meal. Here, in one of the schools Gareem Ometz works with in the city, our group helped them to start their collection with 2000 shekels to kick off the food drive. Gareem Ometz will be hosting Rabbi Gross and the Beth Israel Mission to Israel this month.

Like so many others, the people we talked with from here wanted to tell us about the attack on Simchat Torah, where Jews were accosted by some of the Arab population while singing and dancing not far from the synagogue. The war has greatly strained the once model for Jewish-Arab relations for the country. But these young people are dedicating their lives to rebuilding the community and Jewish life.

Midrashet - Acco



Midrashet, Acco - \$20,000 funded

Midrashet is another example of post-war recovery programs. This is a place of study for young women in Acco who come from all over Israel to study Torah. They live offsite, either attending a college nearby or doing their National Community Service in the city. A young woman named Elisheva spoke to the group. Ellie, as she calls herself, teaches in the local high school for her National Service. This is what she told me.

“We’re here to affirm to you that we want to be here, learning Torah. It was scary during the war, and now we keep hearing that another will come. But we now feel a part of the city of Akko, even though it’s not easy. Now, we work in the community, study during the day and most of us do National Service. We are living and celebrating Judaism and we are learning here how to have a Jewish house. We’ve come to help build Jewish Acco.”

I was very moved later that afternoon, when Ellie took me aside and told me, “This is where the war is going to be and I’m going to be here. It’s scary, but I’m not leaving!”

House-on-Wheels & Kivunim



House-on-Wheels & Kivunim - \$80,000 funded

House-on-Wheels & Kivunim are programs which teach handicap skills to developmentally challenged youth, to enable them to live and fully function in society. While House-on-Wheels meets the needs of school-age kids, Kivunim is a program for kids after high school graduation. The biggest problem for older kids is that after high school, there is no place for them. Without places like Kivunim, they stay at home in front of the TV. These young people need to be taught employable skills and are then prepared for placement in National Service.

There was a serious problem during the war for these individuals because their shelters, aside from being deplorable, are also not handicap accessible. The kids couldn't get back to their homes because the rockets and sirens were minutes apart. Remember, this area sustained 800 rockets during the conflict. We granted money to create a shelter for this organization that works with 140 Arab & Jewish kids. Volunteer driven, they need to help purchase a special wheelchair adapted vehicle to better transport the kids.

Partnership with Israel

Putting a Face on Judaism



www.jewishomaha.org/partnership

Partnership – Your Personal Connection to Israel

I hope this has given you a better perspective on what our Partnership with Israel is doing for Klal Yisrael and the wonderful projects funded by our Israel Emergency Campaign dollars. Ten years after it's inception, our Partnership with Israel has greatly surpassed all expectations, with many exciting things yet to come. To learn more about Partnership, visit www.jewishomaha.org/partnership.