

BALTIMORE-ASHKELON FUNDED PROJECTS 2019-2020

The Baltimore-Ashkelon Partnership had connected our communities for over 15 years through collaborative projects that build long-lasting and meaningful relationships and a great love for Israel and the Jewish people. The Associated also invests in programs in Ashkelon that take care of people in need, and ensure a vibrant and strong community in Ashkelon.

Growing Connections in Ashkelon

Ashkelon Lacrosse Club

\$14,525

Israel Lacrosse Association

The Ashkelon Lacrosse Club uses the sport of lacrosse to teach life skills and English to youth in Ashkelon. The program offers visitors from Baltimore the opportunity to volunteer, compete and learn together with youth in Ashkelon through a common language and shared love of lacrosse.

Cultural Connections*

\$24,050

Baltimore-Ashkelon Partnership

Over the course of two years, Baltimore and Ashkelon community members will deepen their understanding of each other as individuals and as a community. Participants will explore Jewish culture, tradition and community building to foster a strong sense of Jewish identity and peoplehood.

Baltimore Ashkelon Youth Initiative

\$1,500

Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel (ECYP)

During summer 2019, the teen participants of the Elijah Cummings Youth Program spent a weekend in Ashkelon building relationships with their Ashkelon peers through home hospitality and group activities.

Beyachad*

\$20,000

Young Adult Center in Ashkelon/Limmud/Baltimore-Ashkelon Partnership

Young adults from Baltimore and Ashkelon will participate in a year-long program to deepen their own Jewish identity and connections with other young adults. The program will include a weeklong *mifgash* (exchange) in Ashkelon for participants from Baltimore and Ashkelon to learn from each other and explore their Jewish identity together.

Diller Teen Fellows

\$69,500

*Diller Teen Fellows/JCC of Greater Baltimore (JCC)/
Baltimore-Ashkelon Partnership*

Diller Teen Fellows is a one-year immersive leadership program inviting a select group of teens to step up, lead their communities and repair the world. The funds support Diller cohorts of 20 teens in Ashkelon and Baltimore.

G2*

\$36,625

*Center for Jewish Education (CJE)/The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)/
Municipality of Ashkelon*

This year-long initiative will provide a platform for grandparents to engage with their pre-teen grandchildren to explore, experience, and share their relationships to family, local community, Israel and the Jewish people. The program will take place in Baltimore and Ashkelon and will include connections with the global Jewish community and a joint travel experience for all cohorts to visit and explore Israel together.

HaZamir Youth Choir in Ashkelon

\$23,000

*HaZamir Choir Baltimore/HaZamir Choir Ashkelon/
HaZamir Choir International*

In its sixth year, HaZamir Ashkelon choir participants will continue to connect with their peers in HaZamir Baltimore throughout the year, as well as to travel to Baltimore and New York City for the 2020 International HaZamir Festival and to participate in a joint performance in Baltimore.

Israel Connect

\$11,900

Israel Connect/Edward A. Myerberg Center

Through the Israel Connect program, in partnership with the Edward A. Myerberg Center, retirees in Baltimore will work with high school students in Ashkelon to help them improve their English fluency. Pairs of Baltimore volunteers and Ashkelon students will meet weekly by video conference to speak English and learn together about Israel and their Jewish heritage.

PJ ABC/Sifriyat Pajama **\$20,000**

Center for Jewish Education (CJE)/ Municipality of Ashkelon

Capitalizing on the popular PJ Library and Sifriyat Pajama programs, PJ ABC connects families who are raising young children in each community through shared experiences, second language enrichment, Jewish values and volunteerism.

Shevet Achim **\$49,900**

*Center for Jewish Education (CJE)/Municipality of Ashkelon/
The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)*

Now in its sixth year, Shevet Achim partners five schools in each community for a three-year twinning program to enhance students' connection to Jewish peoplehood and Israel. Students in each of the school partnerships will create a joint project during the program.

Social Innovation Fellowship **\$6,000**

JCC of Greater Baltimore (JCC)/Baltimore-Ashkelon Partnership

In Partnership with 4Front, Baltimore's comprehensive teen initiative, the Social Innovation Fellowship is a hands-on entrepreneurship program that inspires and empowers Jewish teens to engage in *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), as well as to foster connections with teens in Baltimore and Ashkelon to model the value of global Jewish responsibility.

TALMA: The Baltimore-Ashkelon Partnership **\$37,500**

*TALMA: The Israel Program for Excellence in English/
Municipality of Ashkelon*

In summer 2019, TALMA brought a cohort of 15 teachers from Baltimore to Ashkelon to teach English in local elementary schools. Each Baltimore teacher was paired with a co-teacher from Ashkelon to enrich the professional experience, help students advance and deepen their connection to Israeli culture and society.

Tweens Read **\$15,000**

Center for Jewish Education (CJE)/ Municipality of Ashkelon

A cohort of 20 teens in both communities will connect around their love of reading. Using the PJ Our Way chapter books, the tweens and their families will have the opportunity to participate in facilitated conversations about the books and the Jewish values depicted.

Tri-Community Programs (Baltimore-Ashkelon-Odesa)

Maryland Teen Summer Camp Experience
Baltimore-Ashkelon Partnership **\$10,000**
Baltimore Odessa Partnership **\$10,000**

Camps Airy and Louise

During Summer 2019, the grant provided need-based scholarships to children in Odessa and Ashkelon to Camps Airy and Louise and assisted in recruiting and providing chaperones for their travel. During their time at summer camp, the campers formed meaningful and lasting connections to campers from Baltimore and around the world, as well as developing strong Jewish identities and gaining exposure to the American Jewish community.

Reverse Shaliach Program*
Baltimore-Ashkelon Partnership **\$30,000**
Baltimore-Odesa Partnership **\$30,000**

JDC Entwine/Baltimore-Ashkelon Partnership/Baltimore-Odesa Partnership

The Global Jewish Service Corps (JSC) will place a recent college graduate in a one-year service program where he/she will spend time in Baltimore's partnership cities, Ashkelon and Odessa. This individual will serve as a Baltimore emissary in our partnership cities, helping to bridge our three communities. The Fellow will be the catalyst for change — creating innovative programs that respond to specific Jewish community needs.

Providing Support & Community Building

AMEN Teen Volunteers **\$60,000**
Municipality of Ashkelon

The AMEN Teen Volunteers project, which has received numerous national prizes in Israel, has made a significant impact in Ashkelon, supporting over 7,300 teens volunteering in Ashkelon on a weekly basis.

Equal Opportunity Neve Haroe Youth Village* **\$10,000**
Youth Villages for Advancement and Excellence

The Neve Haroe Youth Village is home to 70 at-risk children ages 6-18, many of whom have learning disabilities. This program provides children with remedial instruction to help their reading comprehension and ability to express themselves verbally and through writing to increase their chances of obtaining a significant certificate at the end of their high school years.

* new grant

Ma'avarim*Shlavim***\$10,000**

Ma'avarim provides academic support for ultra-Orthodox students in the areas of math, computer science and English in two schools in Ashkelon. Through the additional support, these students gain admission to matriculation-track high schools, the first step on the path to better employment and societal integration.

SPACE - Scholastic Assistance Program*Ethiopian National Project (ENP)***\$20,000**

The School Performance and Community Empowerment (SPACE) Scholastic Assistance Program provides supplementary hours of educational support and individualized academic assessments, along with a holistic set of additional extra-curricular activities, workshops and nutritious meals to over 360 students in Ashkelon.

Start-up Now*Unistream***\$20,000**

Start-up Now is an innovative one-year program that trains youth from underprivileged and low-income backgrounds to become business and social entrepreneurs, encouraging sustainability, self-reliance and inclusion in the work force.

Tel Ran Hi-Tech Computer Programming Course**The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)***\$12,000**

The Jewish Agency, in conjunction with Tel Ran Computer Solutions Ltd., established the Tel Ran Computer Program, a unique program designed to encourage individuals from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) to immigrate to Israel by providing them with tools for successful absorption and subsequent employment in the field of hi-tech. This specialized track, taking place at the Barnea Absorption Center in Ashkelon, supports young adults ages 25-40 who are proficient in English and who have completed their undergraduate degrees.

Therapeutic Group Homes for Ashkelon's Children and Youth At-Risk*Orr Shalom***\$5,000**

Orr Shalom serves some of the most abused and neglected youth who are removed from their homes by Israeli social welfare. A comprehensive staff of social workers and psychologists work to provide these youth with a safe and loving environment in a unique model of group homes in Ashkelon.

Young Adult Center**Municipality of Ashkelon***\$14,000**

The Young Adult Center supports the transition for Ashkelon young adults as they move from youth to adulthood by motivating them to advance their education and learn professional skills, providing a mentorship program and creating a hub for technological initiatives.

Youth of Light*Patrizio Paoletti Foundation for Development in Israel/Meitar***\$5,000**

Youth of Light trains youth-at-risk attending the Meitar Community Center to facilitate candle-making workshops for visiting groups, including visitors from Baltimore. By running these workshops and teaching others, the teens gain self-confidence and a personal sense of accomplishment.

ZAKA K-9 SAR Training for Youth At-Risk**ZAKA- Search and Rescue***\$15,000**

Zaka's K-9 Search and Rescue in Ashkelon will provide youth at-risk with the opportunity to work with dogs, training them for search and rescue and caring for them, to help participants build their self-confidence. After completing the two-year program, participants are awarded a Zaka Search and Rescue volunteer certificate, which helps them matriculate into the army and fosters upward socio-economic mobility following their service.