

Second Round of Israel Relief Fund Grants Made Ahead of Chanukah



by Yurianna Mikolay, Executive Director Ocean Reef Community Foundation

While researching our Israel Relief Fund project helping the survivors of the Kibbutz Be'eri massacre, I came across a photo of a blackened, mangled menorah in the wreckage of one of the burned homes. It was striking, and a grim reminder that so many families would mark the start

of Chanukah on December 7, two months after the horrific October 7 attacks, missing their murdered and kidnapped family members and, often, the comforts of home.

To date, the Ocean Reef community has donated more than \$500,000 to the Israel Relief Fund. Our first \$300,000 in donations for humanitarian aid previously announced went out quickly to our three partner organizations. A second slate of \$120,000 in grants to the same partners has now gone out ahead of the start of Chanukah, with some special designations related to the holiday, as follows.

American Friends of Magen David Adom - \$10,000

This gift provides more general support of the Israeli equivalent of the Red Cross' mission to support blood supply and EMT/paramedics

for injured civilians, bringing total support to \$35,000.

The Isaiah Projects - \$10,000

The additional \$10,000 brings total grants to \$85,000, with original amount going to help survivors of the Kibbutz Be'eri massacre. Half of our latest donation will fund two Chanukah events to uplift families with parents who are away serving in the military on the front lines of the war. Each gathering will host 50 families (175 people).

Greater Miami Jewish Federation - \$100,000

Our additional distribution of \$100,000 brings our total grants to GMJF to \$300,000, and includes measured grants to two initiatives helping families displaced by the war observe Chanukah together, with the majority going to the previously supported Israel Emergency Fund offering a broad scope of humanitarian aid.

GMJF has a sister community in Israel called Yerucham where a large number of families who have been displaced due to the destruction of their homes and communities are now living. Part of our gift will make Chanukah gatherings and observances possible for the children relocated to Yerucham.

Miami is now a "host community" for 220 affected

Israeli families seeking respite from the war. The GMJF Israeli Division is coordinating services for the families, including finding temporary housing, arranging counseling and medical treatment for children and adults, and opening day schools and JCC's to the children. GMJF is underwriting the cost of Chanukah celebrations for this community and part of our donation will help to provide gift cards, allowing them to purchase what they need for their family traditions.

Our Chanukah grants are offered in the spirit of the Festival of Light, with the hope that a little light will make a difference at a dark time.

To make a tax-deductible donation to support the Israel Relief Fund, mail checks made payable to the Ocean Reef Community Foundation with "Israel" in the memo line to 35 Ocean Reef Drive, Ste. 148, Key Largo, FL 33037. For more information, please contact the Foundation at 305-367-4707 or ymikolay@oceanreef.com.

Your support of the All Charities Weekend strengthens entities, like the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, that enhance Ocean Reef Club's Unique Way of Life and enables the Ocean Reef Community Foundation to provide for thousands in Key Largo, Homestead and Florida City. Call 305-367-5996 to learn more.