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[TRANSCRIPT]

HOSTS: Let's say hello and good morning to Nava Bark, President of ELEM Israel. Hello, ma'am.

NAVA: Good morning.

HOSTS: Before we tackle the Corona head on, tell us a little about the at-risk youth ELEM serves year-round.

NAVA: ELEM has been helping at-risk youth for over 34 years now, 21,000 youths a year, who face different hardships on the entire risk spectrum. Family crisis, roaming the streets, disconnect from certain establishments, all the way to extreme risk, like alcohol addiction, drug addiction, homelessness, prostitution. We're there for them with 82 programs all across the country, in more than 40 locations.

HOSTS: And that includes Outreach Vans that go out at night to the darkest corners of the cities.

NAVA: That's right. We're locating the youth, in the cities, at parks, everywhere they may be. We create initial connection with them on location, to provide them with both immediate emergency support, and also refer them to welfare services, and to our centers as well, so we can maintain a continuous relationship.

HOSTS: And at this point one must ask, and forgive me if the question is too simplistic, but these kids on the streets during the Corona crisis, where are they? Do they remain on the street or do they isolate at a home somewhere? Where are they?

NAVA: So I can tell you right away that indeed, this reality of the Corona crisis brought about hardships that suffocate the youth. Some of our programs can't remain open, the afternoon centers, and the youth went back home, went home, you know, for all of us home is a safe, protective space, for them it's a place that feels threatening, suffocating, and there's been an increase in violence at home, and sexual abuse, anxiety, financial hardships. ELEM still finds them on the street, we continue to work and reach out to them, be it on the phone, or online, sometimes a personal meeting, but within the guidelines and restrictions. So some of them run to the street, they run away from home, which for them is a violent place where they can be harmed, and we're there for them, every way we can.

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HOSTS: And you are now in the midst of a crisis too, you as an organization?

NAVA: Yes. Look, this crisis hurt many of the voluntary sector organizations, and I can speak for ELEM, that we're expecting a devastating decrease in income and donations. In a tough financial reality, it's hard to turn to businesses and expect that they'll stand by you, which is why there are some wonderful initiatives by emergency funds, that we turn to and with their help we try to help the youth, and ELEM itself is planning accordingly. We put some workers on unpaid leave, we cut salaries. We're constantly making adjustments for limited periods of time, to see how to move forward. But this is a crisis of the entire voluntary sector, and I expect that the government as well wake up and launch a support fund for the voluntary sector.

HOSTS: Nava, could you please explain to us the voluntary sector crisis? You say it's going to be very hard to turn to businesses and ask for future support. We all understand that. But did you, or someone else from the organization, get phone calls from retuning donors who said, "listen, not right now. We're halting all transfer of funds that we already committed to."

NAVA: We've seen both of these things happen. First of all, we put on hold a big campaign which we always do right before Independence Day, and which usually brings in 2 Million NIS (Approx. \$570K – ELEM USA,) and as of now we do not see it happening. But I have to tell you that some of our returning donors stood by our side and said – we're giving you the money and increasing the sum. While others said that right now isn't the time to turn to them, and we absolutely get it, which is why this initiative of "Matching From the Heart," is so important at the moment.

HOSTS: So let's explain what this initiative is. You're basically saying "donate..." you're calling upon the public to donate, and you have the support of big philanthropists or funds that say – every Shekel donated by the public, will be matched.

NAVA: Right, it's a great initiative, as you said, of a few philanthropist funds that came together and asked the public to donate their Social Insurance stimulus grant, only if they choose to do so, only if they can afford it, not all of it, it can also be a portion of it, but what's important here is the fact that every donation made by the people will be doubled and used for demographics that need it. Marginalized groups, so there are 11 NGOs, ELEM is among them, Women Spirit, centers that support victims of social

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violence, and more. And indeed, up to this point they managed to raise 2.5 Million NIS (approx. \$713K – ELEM USA) and once you double it, it's 5 Million NIS (approx. \$1.4M – ELEM USA) and that's tremendous help. And at this moment in time I really do want to turn to all the citizens, to those who can, to those who choose to donate even a small amount, it'll be doubled and we'll receive it. You can go to the "Matching From the Heart" website and choose the NGO you wish to donate to, and make a donation. You can also choose to split the donation equally among all the participating NGOs.

HOSTS: So really, you're very much aiming to reach to a lot of Israelis who got that stimulus grant of 500 NIS (approx. \$143 – ELEM USA) per child and can fortunately spare that money at this point, and you're saying, listen, there are those who need it more. "Instead of my child who doesn't need that money, there's a child who deeply needs that money."

NAVA: That's exactly right. And it's that place of solidarity for all of us, only those who can spare it and think that while they deserved that grant, they can double it by donating to others. This is the time to come together, and as you can see the result is that many people step up, and I hope to see more of that.

HOSTS: Every Shekel you donate will be matched. Nava Bark, President of ELEM, thank you for your time.

NAVA: Thank you.