

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021

Greetings from Our President



Dear friends,

We're nearing the end of 2021 with its many obstacles and some wonderful moments. One such special moment was our annual Ray of Hope benefit which was held in October. With your help, we've raised over \$500,000. Your generous contributions will help us change the lives of at-risk youth for the better in 2022.

At the event we provided an intimate look at stories of some of our former youth. These brave young people overcame homelessness, sexual assault, and drug addiction at a very young age. You can see their stories on our website and social media platforms.

ELEM is headed into another challenging year. We plan to grow our digital presence significantly, because we know that's where the youth spend most of their time nowadays. Here are some of our biggest achievements in 2021.

- ELEM launched an emergency pandemic program in collaboration with the Ministry of Welfare in more than 80 cities to locate at-risk youth who ran away from home.
- Our ELEM Digital program was expanded and relaunched as a major new field to address the needs of the fast-growing online arena.
- We introduced a new program for young mothers at-risk, a demographic that often falls between the cracks.
- Our program for young people and youth in prostitution is now working 24/7 and includes weekend sleeping arrangements.

We're so very proud of our hard work, and we make this pledge to you - we'll keep working tirelessly to take at-risk youth in Israel Off the Streets and on to Life!

Happy new year everyone!


Lenore Ruben
President

Ray of Hope Benefit 2021

Thank you to everyone who attended and told us that it was an unforgettable night! We are looking forward to having you at future events! You can see selected videos from the event on our website at www.elem.org.



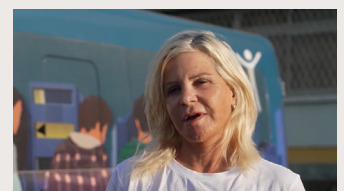
Diana Golbi & Alon Tamir



Rona Lee Shimon



Ola & Sefi Cohen



Ayelet Rahav

Introducing New Board Member Johanna Bialkin

We are thrilled to announce our new board member, Johanna Bialkin. Johanna is a New York native living in the Bay Area in California. After a successful career in advertising and time spent in the non-profit sphere, she combined her love for people and creating beautiful spaces by launching Aldea Home & Baby in September 2005, which now has locations in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Johanna is the daughter of ELEM founder Ann Bialkin.

Read more about Johanna on our website.



News from Israel

Chanukah Celebration with the President

Earlier this month, Israeli President Isaac Herzog joined us in Jerusalem for a special Menorah lighting with ELEM youth, staff, and volunteers. He heard stories from young people whose lives have been changed for the better by ELEM.

“Each one of you can make your dreams come true,” Herzog said. “We’re seeing people every day who start at the bottom and climb to places of influence and leadership. What you’re doing is incredible and I know I’ll be hearing about you all. You’re very inspiring.”



A New Coffee & Small Talk Center in the North

We’re happy to announce that we’ve recently opened a new branch of Coffee and Small Talk/Hafuch in Nahariya. At this after school drop-in center youth can talk with staff and volunteers about their issues, play games and instruments, drink a hot cup of coffee and eat some snacks. It’s designed like a coffee shop and feels like a home. This new center located in a central city in the north will allow us to serve a whole new demographic and provide additional services in Northern Israel, an area which is, sadly, oftentimes neglected.



The Latest Member of our Hafuch Family

Fighting to Change Policy



Representatives from ELEM recently spoke before Knesset committees. One of our visits was to discuss youth psychiatric hospitalizations. The second was to address the hardships that victims of sexual violence face when they report an attack. We believe that departments specializing in sexual violence should be established within the police, at the Attorney General’s office, and inside the courts. ELEM will keep fighting both on the streets and on the floor of the legislative branch in order to improve the lives of young people at-risk.

Staff and Youth at the Knesset to Speak in Front of the Health Committee



Staff Member Spotlight

“For me, ELEM is something that takes thousands of little lights and turns them into one big hope.”

-Shiri Porat, a supervisor at ELEM’s “From Dependence to Independence” program in Northern Israel

Success Stories

We’re proud of our former Holon Outreach Van youth, Diana Golbi. She won *Israeli Idol* a few years ago and has been busy ever since. She is starring every night in one of the most successful musicals in Israel, *Zero Motivation*, has two upcoming TV shows, and is constantly writing new music. Most recently, Diana performed at our annual benefit, live from Tel Aviv. It wasn’t the first time she performed for us and we’re certain it won’t be the last!



Moshe Ezran is a former ELEM youth and a participant in the reality show *Game of Chefs*. He recently won one of the show’s missions!

“I did it!” he said. “It’s amazing to know that I’m the best at something. I can’t even describe the feeling with words.”

Moshe came to ELEM when he was 13 after years of drug use.

He joined a vocational program of ours in which restaurants employed at-risk youth in order to help them overcome obstacles. He went on quite a journey and today he’s an incredible chef!



Mazel Tov Corner

Huge congrats to this year’s LifeSaver Award recipient - Fran Drescher. Fran joined us at our annual benefit to celebrate ELEM’s work. She shines as a positive light in the world, and we were honored to have her with us.

Art by Youth

ELEM recognizes the importance of self-expression and the therapeutic properties of channeling feelings through art. That’s why we always encourage our youth to explore their creativity.



Street Art by the Girls from The Friendship House - Our Shelter in Jerusalem for Homeless Girls

Do you work for a matchmaker?

Many companies can double or even triple your gift to ELEM.
Find out instantly by visiting elem.org/donate or by contacting Liora Attias, Director of Operations, at (212) 787-3337 for more information.

Give A Gift

If you would like to make a gift to support ELEM you can visit elem.org, or mail a check to:
ELEM/Youth in Distress in Israel, 121 West 36th Street, Suite 329
New York, NY 10018



Support ELEM With A Click Of A Button On AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is now available in the Amazon Shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones. AmazonSmile lets you support a non-profit of your choice as you do your regular shopping! For every dollar spent, Amazon contributes to your NGO of choice. You can select ELEM!

Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

- Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
- Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'
- Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process









Join “Friends of ELEM”

We know you love seeing our great work helping Israel’s distressed youth. We would be honored if you became a “Friend of ELEM,” by becoming a yearly donor of \$1,000 or more. Friends receive "in the know" information, exclusive direct information from Israel, participation in quarterly Zoom calls with Israel and more.

Get Involved

Consider making a donation. No amount is too small. Our children greatly appreciate anything you can give. If you want to volunteer in the USA or if you’re visiting Israel and want to see us in action, contact us at info@elem.org. Get your child involved in a mitzvah project or create a fund to honor someone special.

Contact & Follow us:

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-  212.787.3337
-  INFO@ELEM.ORG
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