

NEWSLETTER FALL 2022

Greetings from Our President



Hello everyone and Shana Tovah!

As a new Jewish year starts, we're full of optimism about bettering the lives of at-risk youth in Israel, although there is a lot of work to be done. The long-term effects of isolation from the pandemic, economic woes due to the high cost of living, the recent escalation of violence and uncertainty of the government have all added to the difficulties faced daily by ELEM youth. Add to this the necessary divergence of funds to help the suffering Ukrainian people in recent months has all worked together to yield an ELEM youth population that is even more desperate.

Despite all of this, we at ELEM remain optimistic as we know that with your help, there are proven methods that we can employ to help alleviate the despair. Please be part of the solution.

To this end we are gearing up for our annual Ray of Hope benefit, which is just weeks away with a fantastic line up. You will find additional details about the event and our wonderful speakers and entertainment below. What a great way to start the new year!

2022 has had its many challenges. This has led ELEM to use a lot of ingenuity and innovation to face the hardships head-on, but we couldn't have done this without you. And for this, I give you my deepest, heartfelt thanks.

As you read about ELEM's successes and proud achievements, please bear in mind how valued your support is to the Israeli youth and to the state of Israel.

Wishing you all health and prosperity. Shana Tovah!

With Deepest gratitude,

Lenore Ruben
President

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Events

Please join us for ELEM's in-person annual Ray of Hope Benefit, taking place **November 3rd on New York City's Upper East Side!**

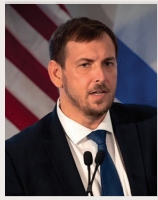
Our Keynote speaker will be Elisha Wiesel, son of the late Elie Wiesel. You will hear from Ambassador Asaf Zamir, Consul General in New York and award-winning comedian and actress Judy Gold will be back to make you laugh (this time in person!). Elad Kabilio, acclaimed cellist and founder of MusicTalks, and his merry band of music makers will get you up and dancing, and we'll have a VIP reception, hosted by the fabulous *Say Yes to the Dress*' Pnina Tornai!

We're looking forward to seeing you all!

For more details and registration, [click here](#).



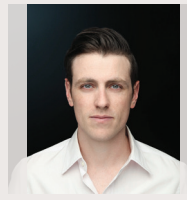
Elisha Wiesel



Ambassador
Asaf Zamir



Judy Gold



Elad Kabilio &
MusicTalks artists



Pnina Tornai

Intern & Ambassador Spotlight - Emily Huang

Emily is a high school senior from Southern California. In addition to appreciating her Chinese culture, growing up she developed a deep interest in Jewish culture and Israel that led her to become an intern for ELEM. During that time, Emily's best friend Isabella was battling cancer and sadly passed away not long before her 18th birthday. To honor Isabella, Emily and her two friends Julia Tyck and Francesca Lascano became ELEM's first ambassadors and established the Isabella Saeedy Memorial Fund with donations benefiting ELEM youth. Following the footsteps of these remarkable young women, we hope to expand our Ambassador Initiative with more people who are passionate about our cause!

To make a contribution to the Isabella Saeedy Memorial Fund [click here](#).

Interested in becoming an ELEM Ambassador? Contact cdrachman@elem.org



Celebrating a
Beautiful Life Cut
Short

News from Israel

Fun Times

Youth experiencing homelessness rarely get to enjoy fun outings that we all take for granted. Recently, three young men from our shelter, *Someone to Run With*, got to enjoy a basketball game between two of Israel's leading teams, Maccabi Tel Aviv and Galil Gilboa. Experiencing the excitement of the game was unforgettable for these youths. The smiles and joy in their eyes spoke louder than words. And sharing the experience with an ELEM staff member helped them all bond.



ELEM youth having a ball at
the game!

The First of Its Kind

In early August, we opened the very first center in Israel for teenage boys who experienced sexual violence. The center, located in Jerusalem, serves youth from ages 13 to 18. There is no other program like this in Israel.

Much like our program *A Real Home* for young women who experienced sexual abuse in their childhood, the center in Jerusalem is very welcoming and relies on the social interaction of a community in which the youth feel empowered by each other's presence.



Our new Center in Jerusalem

Even though statistically, boys and girls are just as likely to experience sexual violence, when boys reach the age of 12 they are less likely to seek help. **There's only one boy in treatment for every seven or eight girls.**

We're proud to present the *Orshina center*. Orshina is the Hebrew/Aramaic name for the phoenix, and we hope to help many youths rise from the ashes.

Mazel Tov Corner

Seven boys who've been attending our *Lighthouse center* in Acre have graduated from high school. They came to ELEM facing hardships and with criminal records, but we believed and never gave up on them!

We are so proud of our incredible youth who deal with many difficulties, and we're in awe of our staff and volunteers at the centers who mentored the boys for years. What a success!



Officially high school grads



Presidential seal of approval

Gal Shalom has been volunteering with Haifa's Outreach Van for the past five years. He recently received a special certificate of excellence from the President of Israel given to university students for their social contributions. Mazel Tov, Gal! Well deserved!

International Week of the Deaf

The last week of September is International Week of the Deaf, and we want to share Yoav's special story with you. Yoav used to attend ELEM's *Lighthouse Mix center* as an at-risk youth. He received the support and guidance he needed. Now Yoav is paying it forward by volunteering at the Mix center. Not only that, Yoav connected to one of the youths who attends the center who, just like Yoav, has deaf parents. The two bonded over their similar backgrounds and communicated using sign language!

Watch Yoav's story [here](#).



Art by Youth

Our Ramle-Lod Outreach Van team and youth got creative!

To provide a solution for the youth's lack of routine during the summer break, the van team partnered with the Ramle municipality for a fun graffiti workshop around the city. The youth definitely made their city more colorful, while also finding new ways to express themselves.



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.

ELEM/Youth in Distress in Israel Officers

Ann Bialkin, Chair

Lenore Ruben, President

Lori Gosset, Vice President

Alon Harnoy, Treasurer

ELEM  **עלם**
YOUTH IN DISTRESS IN ISRAEL