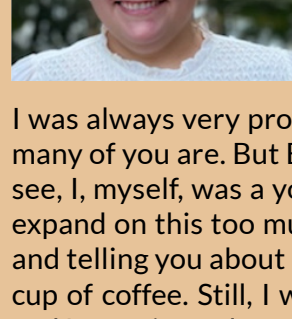


## NEWSLETTER WINTER 2022

### Greetings from Our Chief Operating Officer



It is a true joy to write to you all for the first time. Many of you already know me, but I'd love to introduce myself to those I haven't had the pleasure to meet at our annual benefit or speak with over the phone. My name is Liora Attias, and I've been with ELEM for nine years.

I was always very proud of being a part of ELEM, as I know so many of you are. But ELEM, for me, was coming full circle. You see, I, myself, was a youth-at-risk when I was younger. I won't expand on this too much here; I prefer meeting you in person and telling you about my story face-to-face, accompanied by a cup of coffee. Still, I will say this: I experienced homelessness, and I experienced teen pregnancy. I thought there was nowhere to turn to, that it was the end. But there WAS somewhere to turn to, and it WASN'T the end. In Israel, that somewhere is ELEM for 12,500 youths annually. And thanks to like-minded organizations, I could turn my life around here in the U.S.

When you donate and support ELEM, you might think, "I can give a donation of such and such value". But let me tell you from first-hand experience, the value of your support can't be measured, the result is priceless, and the gratitude is life-long. You can't quantify hope.

It's the festival of lights, so let's serve as the light at the end of a dark tunnel that so many Israeli youths travel.

Happy Chanukah to you and yours,

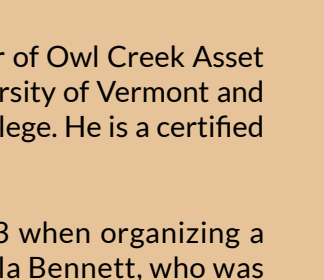
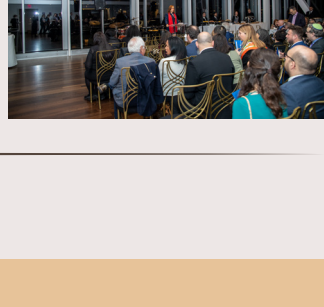
*Liora Attias*  
Liora Attias,  
COO

## Events

After three long years, we were so happy to see everyone in person at our annual Ray of Hope benefit. We were thrilled to host Limor Bashiri, Manager of ELEM's Jerusalem Outreach Van, and listen to her incredible stories about working on the streets.

We also enjoyed hearing from Elisha Wiesel and Ambassador Asaf Zamir, laughing together thanks to Emmy Award Winner Judy Gold, and listening to wonderful music played by Elad Kabilio and MusicTalks.

We want to thank everyone who made this evening so special, including our VIP reception host, Pnina Tornai, as well as our Board members and staff, and above all - YOU! Our donors and supporters who showed up for the youth and young people we serve in Israel, whose lives we're all changing together, one day at a time, one battle after another.



We can't wait for our 40th anniversary in 2023! We hope you join and celebrate with us!

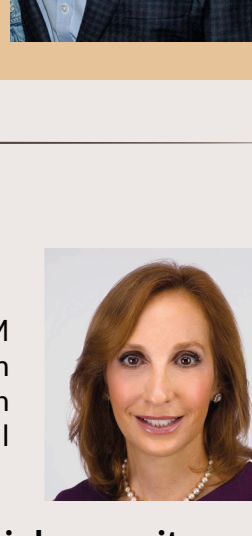
### Donor Spotlight - Dan Sapadin

Daniel Sapadin is the Chief Financial Officer of Owl Creek Asset Management. He graduated from the University of Vermont and received a master's degree from Baruch College. He is a certified public accountant.

Dan was first introduced to ELEM in 2003 when organizing a benefit in memory of his wife's friend, Marla Bennett, who was killed in a terror attack in Israel.

Dan shared why he found ELEM so special: "ELEM filled a void in Israeli services, helping Youth in Distress no matter who they are, be they Jewish, Muslim or Christian, gay or straight, religious or secular. The fact that ELEM doesn't wait for kids to come to them, but rather meet these kids where they are on the streets, sets them apart from other organizations."

He also emphasized the importance of our founder, Ann Bialkin: "I would like to lift up Ann Bialkin, without whose leadership and vision this work would not be possible. Thank you, Ann, for making such a difference to the children of Israel and for always being a good friend."

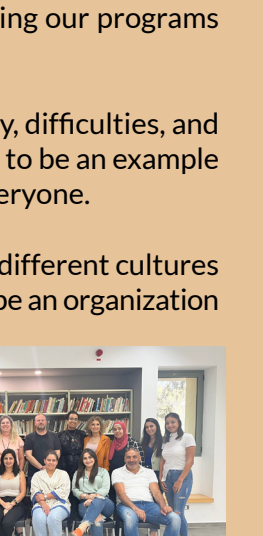


Thank you, Dan, for being one of our biggest supporters. You helped us save countless lives. To read Dan's full story [click here](#).

### Board spotlight

What is a ship without its captain?

This time, we'd like to highlight our leader, ELEM USA's president - Lenore Ruben. Lenore is a woman of actions, not just words, and she saw us through bad times and good times. Lenore - thank you for all that you do!



**"One of the reasons ELEM is so special to me is because its work is crucial for securing a strong and healthy future for the State of Israel."**

## News from Israel

### ELEM's New Arab Community Field in Action

A year ago, we launched ELEM's Arab Community Field. This October, for the first time, we held a professional development day for the field's employees. ELEM has been working with Arab youth for many years across all our programs. We are happy to now have a field dedicated to improving and expanding our programs and services to them.

We strive to provide ample space for the identity, difficulties, and characteristics of the Arab community. We hope to be an example of co-existence in a society that has room for everyone.

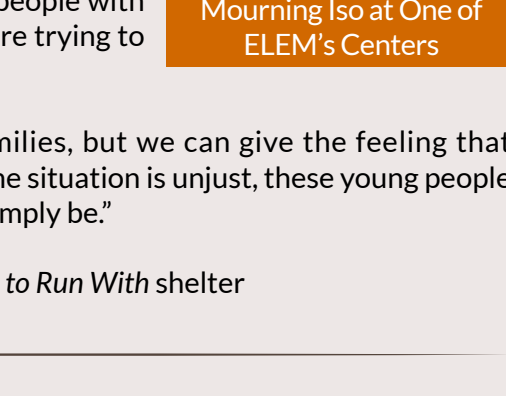
ELEM's goal is to include in our programs all the different cultures and identities that make up Israeli society, and to be an organization that gives room for differences without encouraging separation. While distress sees no color, shape, gender or sector, it requires us to adapt to the needs of each demographic we serve. We understand their traditions, mores and taboos and respect the colorful tapestry of cultures that is Israel.

ELEM Arab Society Field Employees During Training



### Tuning In

"Edge Radio" is a project that is part of our Extreme Risk Field. Staff members together with each program's youth produce a podcast for internal use. The podcasts are a tool for healing and empowerment by giving young people at-risk a chance to be heard. In a workshop we held in November led by Hadas Tzur and Nir Leist, ELEM volunteers who launched The Heart/ Haleb 24/7 Radio, program staff were given training on how to operate the project.

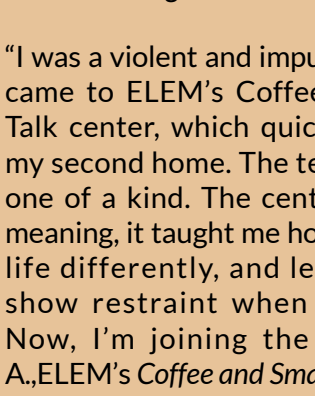


Someone to Run With Staff in Training

### A New Employment Preparatory Initiative

In November we launched an employment preparatory initiative in Shfaram for Arab youth in the Youth Protection Services centers in North Israel. The initiative is a joint effort between ELEM, government agencies and other organizations.

Our goal is to provide youth with a variety of tools, skills and resources that will help them gain independence, such as employment skills, professional Hebrew language skills, career opportunities and a sense of competence.



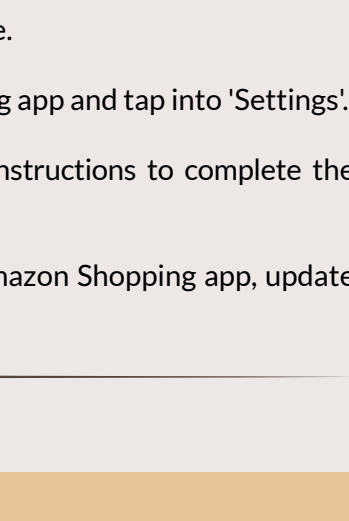
Employment Preparatory Launch

As part of the initiative, youth who take part in ELEM's Dependence to Independence program, will be given an employment plan that will include integration in employment centers throughout the country.

### Mourning Iso at One of ELEM's Centers

ELEM mourns the loss of Ahmed (Iso) Hacham Hamed Abu-Marhia, 25, who was kidnapped and brutally murdered in October, allegedly because of his sexual orientation.

In the past two years, staff and volunteers from ELEM's shelter, *Someone to Run With*, have been assisting Iso. His murder is a reminder that there are hundreds of young people with no safe space, young people who are trying to survive under threat.



Mourning Iso at One of ELEM's Centers

"We can't be a substitute for families, but we can give the feeling that somewhere in the world, even if the situation is unjust, these young people are seen and are given a place to simply be."

- Ofir Zweig, counselor at *Someone to Run With* shelter

### Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

We want to wish all our partners and supporters a Happy Holiday Season. May this time bring you and your family happiness. Here are some joyful stories from youth that bring light to our lives.

"I got accepted to college! Before I came to ELEM, I couldn't imagine a different life. I've been through a lot, and I couldn't see a happy ending to my story. With the guidance I received from the staff at ELEM's Outreach Van, I realized that I could overcome the difficulties. I'm reaching new heights I've never dreamed of." - A., ELEM's *Outreach Van*

"WOW! I got a High-Tech Job! From the age of 12, I lived mainly on the streets, exposed to drugs, alcohol, and had to survive. Until I realized that this was not how I wanted to live. I went back to school, graduated, and then got married. When I learned about ELEM's Young Mothers Program, it was the height of covid. I was unemployed, pregnant, and experiencing financial difficulties. With the help of the personal support in the program, I get the benefits I am entitled to, and I can send my son to kindergarten. I was accepted to a professional training program, and I am going to work for a big company. With ELEM, I am building my future." - S., ELEM's *Young Mothers Program*

"I was a violent and impulsive child. I came to ELEM's Coffee and Small Talk center, which quickly became my second home. The team there is one of a kind. The center gave me meaning, it taught me how to look at life differently, and learn how to show restraint when necessary. Now, I'm joining the military!" - A., ELEM's *Coffee and Small Talk center*



### This Holiday Season Please Support ELEM With A Click Of A Button On AmazonSmile

You can donate to ELEM just by using AmazonSmile, which 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.

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, update your app.

### 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 \$5,000 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](mailto: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

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