



GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I sat in front of a blank page, wondering how to write these greetings.

So much has happened with ELEM since I last wrote to you, but it all pales in comparison to what our Israeli brothers and sisters are facing.

We celebrated 40 years of lifesaving work this past October. Our annual benefit took place days after the events of October 7th. Our colleagues in Israel made it clear they wanted - **needed** - us to go on with the event.

Our work has never been more crucial, our fundraising efforts never more urgent. Virtually an entire generation became youth at risk due to the Oct. 7 attacks and the war. I'm not being hyperbolic. The numbers coming out looking at depression among Israeli youth these days are staggering. And no wonder.

While I'm writing this, Israel is very much still at war, and ELEM has been seeing hundreds of youth nightly at special pop-up spaces we now operate in towns hosting displaced Israelis from areas around Gaza and Northern Israel. That includes thousands of youths.

Some of the youth we see are nothing short of survivors. They have witnessed friends killed at a party, family members dragged into Gaza, parents murdered while protecting them. It's a whole new world when it comes to treating these youth at risk. Even youth that weren't immediately affected are likely to know someone who was. Not to mention that all of Israel is still dealing with rocket fire.

In this newsletter, we'll share our extraordinary work, and it'll become clear, once again, why we call ELEM a lifesaving organization.

We also want to tell you about our 40th anniversary event, as so many of you helped us raise immediately needed funds that are already being used in Israel.

Thank you for your committed support and for helping the youth in Israel during such an unprecedented time.

Stay safe, and have a peaceful new year.

Lenore Ruben, President

ELEM USA UPDATES

WE ARE IN OUR FOURTH DECADE

It was truly special, amid such trying times, to come together as a community and celebrate our 40th Anniversary Ray of Hope gala on October 12th in New York City. The funds raised that evening were used to provide immediate support to our current war-related efforts in Israel. Many celebrities and headliners sent us their congratulations. You'll probably recognize a few!



Our Outreach Van Parked at the Venue



Young Ambassador Emily Huang Sharing About Working with ELEM



The String Angels Performing Hatikva



LifeSaver Award Recipients, Dan and Sara Sapadin, with Russell Glass, Son of Legacy Award Winner Bobbie Glass Z”L

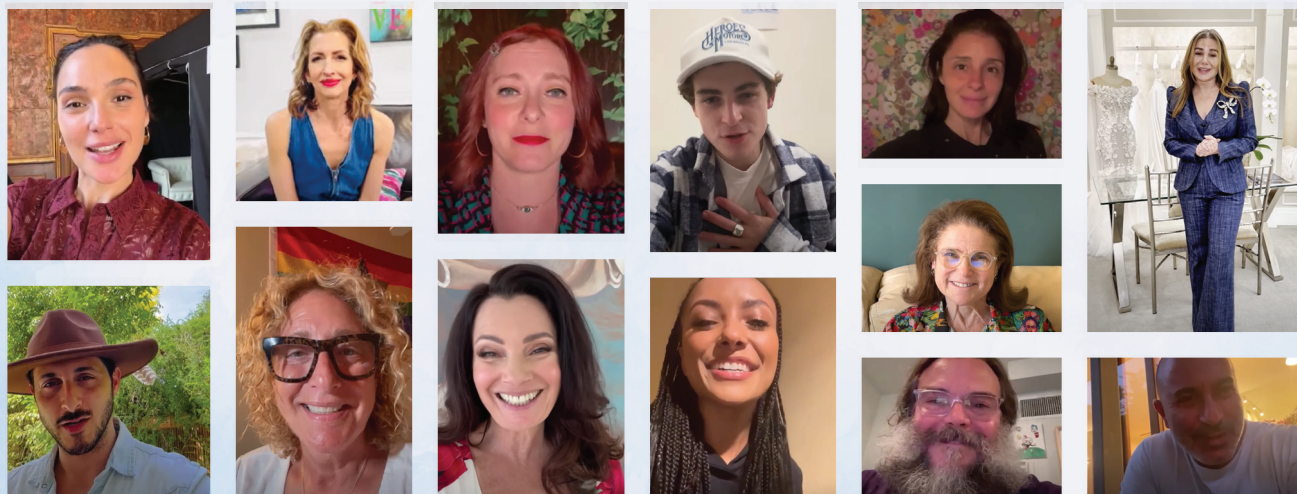


Founder Ann Bialkin With the Legacy Award



Board Member Frances Katz Upon Receiving the Legacy Award

We gave a special Legacy Award to our founder, Ann Bialkin, as well as to our board members of 40 years - Frances Katz and Bobbie Glass Z”L. This year’s LifeSaver award was given to our dear friends, Dan and Sara Sapadin, who moved us with their words of hope, as well as Gal Gadot, who’s been a staunch advocate for ELEM. Our Youth Ambassador, Emily Huang told us about the atmosphere on campus these days, as well as about her late friend, Isabella, to whom she dedicated the fundraising she’s been doing for ELEM.



We have created a special 40th Anniversary edition newsletter highlighting our 40 years of groundbreaking work. If you haven’t had the chance to read it, you can do so by [clicking here](#).

DONOR SPOTLIGHT - ELEM-USA'S BOARD

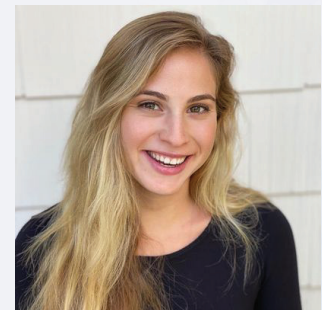


We thank ELEM-USA's Board of Directors for coming together during our benefit to celebrate ELEM's 40 years of groundbreaking efforts and celebrate ELEM's strong leadership, especially during such challenging times. Your leadership, passion, and expertise have been the driving force behind our accomplishments.

This is the group that will carry us into the future. We're excited to launch a new decade of lifesaving work with this excellent group of visionaries.

AMBASSADORS SPOTLIGHT

Meet Mayrav, a dedicated Israeli-American medical student who aspires to become an emergency physician. During her psychiatry clinical rotation, she compassionately served vulnerable youth, particularly those in Southern Israel living under the constant threat of rocket fire. Motivated by the impact of war on Israeli youth, she initiated a fundraising campaign for ELEM. As she prepares to return to Israel, Mayrav is eager to play a more active role in supporting the Israeli youth affected by trauma.



Moriah is a volunteer with ELEM in New York City and a Vice President at Goldman Sachs. Six years ago, Moriah was looking for ways to get involved with nonprofits that supported Israel. She grew up spending summers in Israel, but with a full-time job, she wasn't able to continue those long vacations so it was important to her to find meaningful ways to stay connected to the country and the people. It was then that Moriah heard of an opportunity to volunteer at ELEM's Gala. Learning about all the amazing and vital work ELEM does, Moriah was inspired and motivated and has been involved with ELEM ever since. "Now more than ever, ELEM's services for kids in Israel is essential work - for their futures and ours."

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

ELEM POP-UPS PROVIDE CRITICAL TRAUMA CARE



Our Vans Will Continue To Serve
As A Beacon Of Hope.

In the aftermath of the October 7th massacre, entire communities were evacuated. In unfamiliar temporary housing, the youth of these communities face even greater insecurity about their future while still dealing with the horror they experienced. ELEM's *Outreach Vans* have launched multiple pop-up spaces in evacuation sites, creating informal, safe spaces for youth to get initial trauma care, talk, and vent.

Sadly, two of the vans that could have been in use at those sites were destroyed by Hamas at the Nova music festival.

With two vans lost and additional pop-up locations opening, we must replenish our fleet of vans. Please support this effort through our [emergency campaign](#).

OUR HEROES

Our employees are always there for youth in distress, but now, many have been called to serve on a different front. Currently, 18 ELEM employees have been drafted for reserve duty, and 22 employees have a partner who was drafted.

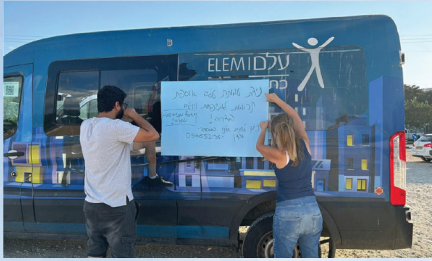
The absence of these employees is difficult for some of our youth, who need consistency and continuity. During this time, other employees and volunteers have stepped in to support the youth while we recruit additional staff.

We are all waiting for the safe return of those who were called to serve.



Chedva From Our Shelter for Young Women and Ori, From Orshina Center for the Treatment of Young Men who Experienced Sexual Violence, in Reserves

LEAD WITH COMPASSION



Yarden, the manager of ELEM's *Outreach Van* in Netanya, along with our volunteers and youth, traveled the city collecting products and donations for families and soldiers in the south and brought them to designated collection points. We couldn't be more proud of our team and youth for showing compassion even during this extremely tough period!

MAZEL TOV CORNER

Reese is a teenager, but she's already had a successful track record in fundraising. She launched her charity, "Created with Compassion," when she was only 10 years old! Through CWC, Reese sells treats and donates the profits. We are so grateful for her and her friends Lila and Chloe, who set up a booth at Temple Sinai in Roslyn, NY, to raise money for ELEM. Their delicious-looking cookies brought in \$400!

There is nothing that moves us more than seeing youth helping other youth, especially at a time of crisis. Reese, you inspire us!



ART BY YOUTH

Our team and youth at The Heart/Halev Center created a wish tree to help deal with the events of the last couple of months. Each person chose a word that resonated with them, wrote it on a decorative note, and added it to the tree. Some of the words include "relax," "believe," and "friend."



IN MEMORIAM

On October 7th, ELEM lost four incredible volunteers.

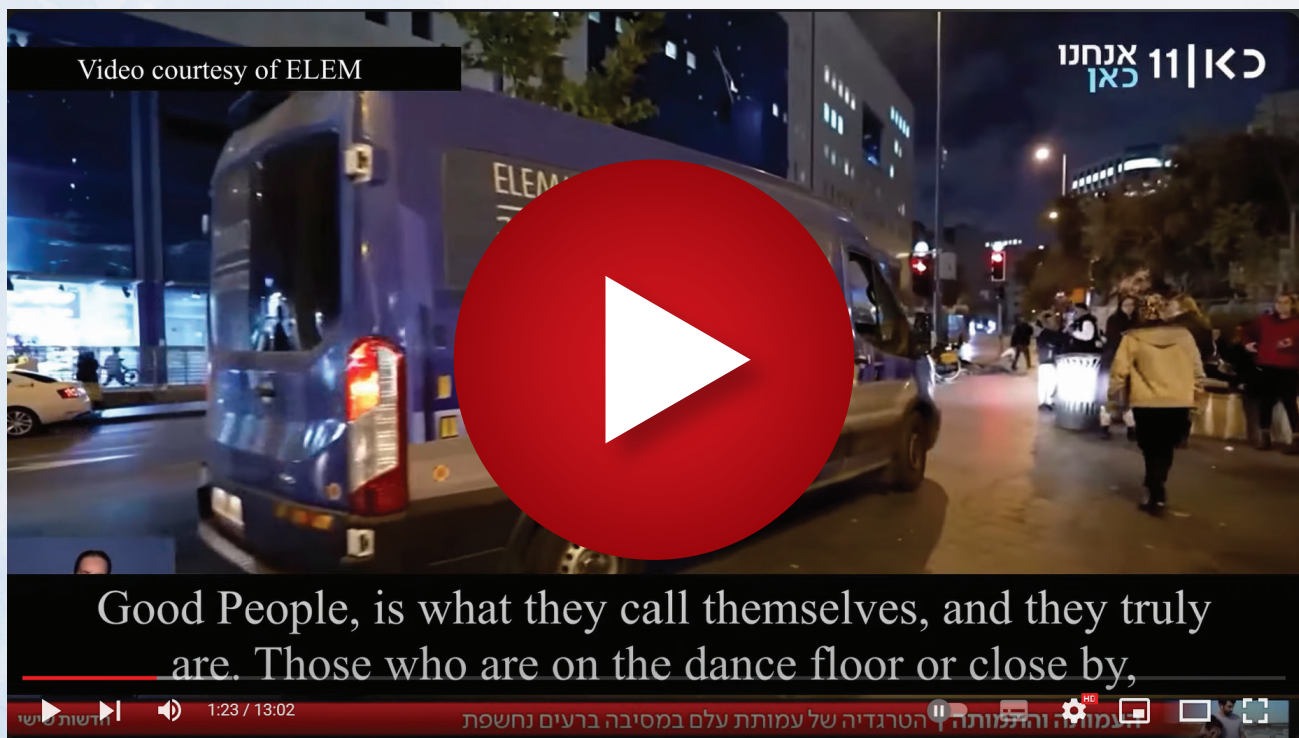
Yasmin Bira, who for over a year mentored a young mother at our *Young Mothers at Risk* program, was murdered along with the rest of her family in Kibbutz Be'eri.

Yonatan Richter, Lior Hadad, and Sigal Levy (who formerly worked as a manager at one of ELEM's *Outreach Vans*) were at the Nova Music Festival with our *Good People* Program. As part of the program, ELEM sends volunteers to outdoor rave parties in order to help youth in real-time who are distressed due to drug use, alcohol consumption, and violent interactions.

These volunteers went to the party to help young people and never came back. Eyewitnesses confirmed they helped people until the very last minute.

May all their memories be a blessing. They were very Good People indeed.

Below is the story of *Good People* at the Nova Festival, which aired on Israeli TV in November.



Thank you to ELEM-US' staff and volunteers for all the hard work throughout the year. You made a huge difference!

With gratitude to Liora, Scott, Ben, Alan, Miriam, Chen, Rotem and Kaya.









JOIN “FRIENDS OF ELEM”

We know you love seeing our great work helping Israel’s at risk 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 youths, staff and volunteers greatly appreciate your support. If you want to learn how you can get more involved, [click here](#). Get your child involved in a mitzvah project or create a fund to honor someone special.

CONTACT & FOLLOW US:

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