



## STRENGTHENING ISRAELI SOCIETY 2018-19 GRANTS

### Promoting a Pluralistic, Democratic and Shared Society with Equal Opportunity in Israel

The Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund plays a leading role in strengthening Israeli society and securing its future by promoting pluralism, democracy, and equal opportunity for all of Israel’s citizens. This year, we have continued our strategic focus on shared society by bringing the various “tribes” of Israel (secular, religious, ultra-Orthodox, and Arab) into each other’s spheres for a more cohesive future, and have increased our efforts on working across sectors to create systemic and lasting change. We have also added Jewish religious pluralism in Israel as a focus of our work after the major shift in Israel-North American Jewish relations this year, with government decisions that communicated a lack of acceptance for diverse forms and expressions of Judaism.

Our partner organizations on the ground in Israel work to achieve system-wide social change through innovative, cross-boundary programs. Yet our role goes far beyond funding. We also work hand-in-hand with the organizations we support to enhance their capacity and ensure they leave a lasting impact on the lives of the people they serve. **24 programs received funding for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, totaling \$1,350,140.**

<i>Promoting a Shared Society for All of Israel’s Citizens</i>		<i>Grant Amount</i>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund: The Gvanim Program Network</b>            Federation’s flagship Gvanim program was founded in 2000 in response to the deep divisions in Israel symbolized by the assassination of Prime Minister Yizhak Rabin. The Gvanim program works to strengthen Israel’s democracy by creating a cadre of leaders who are invested in a shared, pluralistic vision for Israel’s future and work towards that vision within their own circles of influence. This grant is designed to continue the significant expansion of the current Gvanim program. In recent years the program has proven itself as an important response to one of the major challenges facing Israeli society today: structural, cultural and political segmentation. Israeli society is void of channels that connect one to the other, and lacks clear and common shared values. The expansion of the Gvanim program aims to reach targeted audiences to train people from all factions of Israel society to understand these challenges and address them from a multitude of perspectives. Based on the success of last year’s expansion, the Jewish Community Federation’s office in Israel will continue to expand the network and programming to more diversified arenas. This year, the Federation will also host a second cohort of “Israeli Gvanim,” which includes non-Jewish participants and represents Israeli society as a whole.</p>	<b>\$390,000</b>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Association for Change in Education: “Living Together”</b>            The grant is intended to support and enable the third year of operations of the Living Together Center – LTC (formerly the Living Together Initiative). This is a test year for the LTC's ability to establish itself in all aspects of its work, as an initiative whose activities and theory of change play a significant role in advancing the concept of living together in Israeli society. The LTC seeks to</p>	<b>\$60,000</b>

	<p>manifest change and improve the quality of “living together” and the feeling of solidarity among all groups in Israeli society. For the past year and a half (Sep. 2016 – March 2018), the Living Together Task Force, together with LTC staff, have been working on different implementation plans and projects that aim to promote the values, language and ideas of Living Together in Israeli society. These projects include activities in five fields: academia, education, culture, the public sphere and public awareness. This year will focus on piloting projects in academia and education while identifying, promoting and developing implementation in additional fields, in an ongoing feedback between the implementations and the theory.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Shaharit: Civic Capital Initiative – Social Change from the Bottom Up</b>  Shaharit's Civic Capital Initiative aims to create a vibrant democratic culture in Israeli society, beginning on the local level. In this culture, local residents realize that their social and civic good is intimately bound up in the desires and agendas of other residents from other local social, religious, and ethnic communities. They adopt a public discourse that embraces the differences between groups and work together to develop a common agenda for their locality's future. By building relationships between a diverse group of residents within the sphere that most directly affects their lives on a daily basis, Shaharit believes that they can begin to lower the barriers that exist between the different "bubbles" in Israeli society, all while engaging large numbers of diverse residents from a variety of identities in work to improve their communities.</p>	\$60,000
4.	<p><b>BINA: Masabacha (Masa Ba'Chevra HaYisraelit - Journey through Israeli Society)</b>  BINA's Masabacha programs create opportunities for positive interpersonal interactions among diverse individuals, with a focus on shared culture and interests. The intention is to create networks of Jewish-Israeli young leaders and teachers who, through their encounters with 'the other', better understand their own Jewish-Israeli identity and are prepared to speak out in their communities in support of a more tolerant, shared society. Primary participants are high school students, young adults and adults from diverse backgrounds across the socio-geographic-economic spectrum of Israeli Society, who typically have little to no interaction with members of sectors outside of their own, and often harbor negative preconceptions towards others. The Masabacha programs developed as a direct result of the Babazman – Urban Shared Society Initiative supported by the San Francisco Federation. During the 3-year grant period, BINA has undergone significant positive changes in its organizational culture and work, to include more cross-cultural thought and action.</p>	\$50,000
5.	<p><b>Hinam Center for Social Tolerance: General Operating Support</b>  The projects that the Hinam Center runs concern getting to know those different from you – like settlers, Arabs, Ethiopians, religious citizens, secular citizens, senior citizens and new immigrants. All of Hinam Center's tracks aim to reach their goal by introducing participants to the other, in the other's natural environment and in a deep and experiential way, over a significant length of time while emphasizing what the two sides have in common, their similarities and mutual interests. The resulting dialogue allows participants to really get to know one another, banishing ignorance, prejudice and fear.</p>	\$50,000
6.	<p><b>Rothschild Caesarea Foundation: Israeli Hope in Academia</b>  Academia plays a vital role in shaping the image and the future of Israel's society, leadership and economy. Therefore, it is imperative to create a new social collaboration in Israel through higher education – structuring a society that acknowledges its human diversity as an asset rather than a burden. The success of the program will be when talent and excellence in academia reflect all segments of Israeli society; all higher education students are exposed to core knowledge relevant to the new Israeli order; campuses become a shared, diverse and culturally competent environment</p>	\$45,000

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	<p>which enables one to maintain a range of identities; a national diversity and partnership is defined and all institutions aspire to meet the standard; and a new Israeli social and intellectual leadership arises which is diverse, open and socially aware. This grant will support the overall development, consulting and coordinating needed to create Israeli Hope in Academia. Specifically, a project coordinator consulting services for participating institutions, running workshops and diversity training sessions for student, administrative and academic leaders, hosting relevant conference sessions, conducting research mapping similar initiatives, etc.</p>	
7.	<p><b>The Institute for Democratic Education: Educational Leadership Works to Build Bridges – Halutz (Pioneer) Program for Shared Society</b></p> <p>The Halutz Program for Shared Society trains future educational leaders to build awareness of shared society while providing them with the tools to act as educational leaders and advance the possibility for shared life in Israel. Now in its tenth year, the Halutz program has 54 participating schools nationwide, with 250 pioneers (young teachers who have been trained for educational leadership and management) influencing over 2,000 teachers and about 20,000 pupils. They train the teachers through program activities like regional study days, group meetings, field trips, national conferences and study sessions with individual schools. The graduates of the program, many of which reach management positions, are expected to operate different models of shared society within their schools. Others, that will work in the Ministry of Education, will change the discussion about the theme and create systematic change to progress processes of shared society in the level of policy.</p>	\$40,000
8.	<p><b>Tebeka – Advocacy for Equality &amp; Justice for Ethiopian-Israelis: Reinforcement of the Trust Between the Israel Police and the Ethiopian Community</b></p> <p>The Ethiopian community's confidence in the police is a standing long-term issue on the public agenda. This project by Tebeka aims to diffuse the existing difficult relations between the Ethiopian-Israeli community and the police force by restoring trust and building a bridge through a series of roundtable meetings with the participation of members of the Ethiopian community, representatives of the police force and Tebeka. Some of Tebeka's most important achievements to date include re-opening case files of Ethiopian teens and young adults who were arrested on the pretense of assaulting police officers to determine if police discrimination and/or violence was involved, beginning the implementation of body camera use by police, limiting the use of tasers, increasing the number of Ethiopian police officers, particularly in leadership roles, etc.</p>	\$40,000
9.	<p><b>Ma'ase Center Association: Promoting a Pluralistic Multicultural Civil Society through Volunteering and Education for Young Adults from all Society Groups</b></p> <p>This grant is intended to support Ma'ase Center's ongoing efforts to empower young adults from Israel's socio-geographic periphery – Jews and Arabs, Christians and Muslims, Druze, Bedouin, new immigrants from Ethiopia and the FSU, graduates of boarding schools and youth villages – and facilitate the consolidation of their personal and group identity so that they can come together to promote civil society and generate social change. The program includes both multicultural encounters and activities that increase equal opportunity and socio-economic mobility. Examples of activities include Shared Encounters Seminars for 800 participants who have never met people from other backgrounds before, "Greenhouse Groups" for 150 volunteer-year participants of different backgrounds to meet and perform a joint project in their community, training and career development through personal and group counseling, designated courses, etc.</p>	\$25,000
10.	<p><b>Juha's Guesthouse: Made in Jisr Young Leaders Project</b></p> <p>Juha's Guesthouse is a social initiative promoting sustainable tourism in the impoverished sea-side Israeli Arab village of Jisr a Zarqa as an opportunity for dialogue between the Arab youth who live</p>	\$20,000

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	there and Jewish tourists. Through education and leadership development training, the Arab high schoolers who participate in this program highly increase their chances of graduating from high school – as of now, only 30% of students graduate in Jisr a Zarqa. This program also helps to promote pluralism among Jewish youth in Israel and the diaspora (primarily through Birthright) by enabling meaningful encounters between Jewish and Arab youth.	
<b><i>Closing Social Gaps for Equal Opportunity</i></b>		
<b><i>Promoting Leadership</i></b>		
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Nivcharot: Ultra-Orthodox Women for Representation, Equality, and Voice</b></p> <p>Nivcharot is dedicated to raising awareness regarding women’s rights within the Ultra-Orthodox community, developing leadership among Ultra-Orthodox women, and combatting exclusion of women and their erasure from all centers of decision making. While simultaneously invested in activism within the community, Nivcharot also works with national and international organizations to leverage pressure to bring an end to exclusion. Nivcharot acts in inter-community circles to increase awareness and education, and in external circles for advocacy and promoting rights and voice to Ultra-Orthodox women. Through social media, conferences, leadership programs, workshops, preparation of position papers, depositions and opinion articles to be presented to the Knesset, and the establishment of a prestigious leadership academy, Nivcharot hopes to increase Ultra-Orthodox women's political representation in all sectors of Israeli society.</p>	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b><i>Narrowing Gaps through Innovative Education Initiatives</i></b>		
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC): The First Thousand Days for Bedouin Children Program</b></p> <p>This grant will support the continued development of a broad-based approach to expanding and improving services to the youngest and most at risk Bedouin children. This program is of particular importance now as the Bedouin community is growing quickly and the risk factors are only growing worse; demographers are estimating that the community will grow to 500,000 within the next 10 years. The First Thousand Days program seeks to enhance access to existing services among the poorest and most isolated children in Israel and develop new sustainable services that will improve health and safety of these children. This second year of implementation will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Train professional staff to improve their ability to work with children in infancy and their parents in accordance with Bedouin culture and society</li> <li>2) Develop more and stronger early childhood services that are uniquely adapted to the communities in the region while building upon the strengths within the community</li> <li>3) To expand parental involvement in educational settings and community services</li> </ol>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC): Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues</b></p> <p>Since 2006, this Task Force has served as a platform for North American Jewish communities to learn about Arab citizens as a vital part of their relationship with Israel. The Task Force plans activities at major conferences, publishes in-depth briefing papers, convenes conference calls with Jewish and Arab experts, and provides assistance in planning site-visits and speakers for missions in Israel, as</p>	<b>\$10,000</b>

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	well as strengthening their relationship with other organizations that have begun to integrate these same issues into their own education. This Task Force aims to advance civic equality in Israel, where Israeli Jews and Arabs can contribute, participate and benefit as full citizens.	
<b><i>Employment and Skills Training</i></b>		
14.	<p><b>Matan – Invest in the Community (United Way Israel): Collective Impact Initiative – Partnership for a Breakthrough in Arab Employment</b></p> <p>Employment of the Arab population is one of the major challenges facing Israeli economy and society. Arab society, comprising 20% of the citizens of Israel, is not benefitting from Israel's economic growth and is characterized by occupations at the lower end of the labor market. Arabs comprise only 5% of employees, and only 0.3% hold managerial positions in the core business sector, which employs 70% of total employees in the market. The Collective Impact Initiative aims to achieve a breakthrough among employers in Israel's private sector in hiring Arab employees, significantly increasing the percentage of Arabs employed in the private sector, equalizing salary levels and ensuring that a larger number of Arabs enter high level positions commensurate with their qualifications, and forging employee-employer relationships based on trust. Through this work, Collective Impact seeks to minimize discrimination within the mainstream workforce and economy and strengthen society between Arabs and Jews.</p>	\$50,000
15.	<p><b>AvraTech: Beliba Homa–AvraTech Cooperation</b></p> <p>This program is based on a joint venture between two different organizations (AvraTech and Beliba Homa) with a mutual mission – to assist Haredi students to successfully integrate into Israel's higher education system on their way to attaining a respectable living, while simultaneously creating social change in the relations between the various cultural sectors in Israel. The grant will assist in adding more mentors (secular students from Beliba Homa) to teach Haredi scholars, and as a result it will enable them to tremendously decrease the dropout rates of the struggling ones among them. Bringing more mentors from Beliba Homa will allow AvraTech to recruit more Haredi scholars to the training program every year, which will ultimately result in transforming more unemployed, poor Yeshiva alumni men into self-sustainable individuals who can provide their families with dignity.</p>	\$40,000
16.	<p><b>Moona a Space for Change: Moona 'Starter' Program for Equal Opportunity in the Galilee</b></p> <p>This program is designed to provide promising candidates from the Galilee (Jewish, Arab and other) who would otherwise not be able to secure entry-level positions in Engineering based on their degrees alone, with access to unique laboratory experiences and resources as well as placement opportunities within leading Israeli firms participating with the program as a crucial inroad to launching professional careers in the industry. Moona works to provide people of all ages from across the Galilee region with unique opportunities and resources to develop their skills and gain experience in STEM-related industries.</p>	\$40,000
17.	<p><b>AvraTech: AvraTech Expansion – Russell Berrie Foundation Match *</b></p> <p>As of the end of 2017, the Haredi population in Israel topped one million people. With 45% of the Haredi population living under the poverty line and only a 51% male employment rate, the current model for the Haredi community is unsustainable. It is a problem not only for the individual families, but also for the economic stability of the State of Israel. Founded in 2013 by a Haredi Rabbi and a secular Israeli woman, AvraTech was created to address this issue. AvraTech is a non-profit hi-tech training course for Haredi men that guarantees employment at RavTech, a social software business,</p>	\$30,000

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	<p>while enabling them to maintain their religious practices and values. AvraTech has the ability to be self-sustaining if they receive funding for 60 students each year over the next five years. At that point, RavTech will be profitable enough to support AvraTech on its own. This year, the Russell Berrie Foundation sought to partner with various funders to support AvraTech's expansion and have since committed an initial investment of \$200,000.</p>	
<b><i>Volunteerism as a Tool for Social and Economic Mobility</i></b>		
18.	<p><b>Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED): AJEEC-NISPED National Arab-Jewish Gap Year</b></p> <p>This project will create a body of young Arab and Jewish leaders committed to intercommunal cooperation and understanding about the collective challenges that confront them. The gap year will include volunteer tutoring in schools in both communities, trainings on social issues, academic preparation, and leadership development. Participants will be evenly divided between Arabs and Jews who complete the program in pairs with a partner from the other community, which will allow them to cross communal lines to develop friendships and relationships that will accompany them as they launch their careers. This grant will help AJEEC-NISPED's Arab-Jewish Gap Year engage 90 participants in 4 cities around Israel.</p>	\$70,000
19.	<p><b>Ma'ase Center Association: Ne'urim Program – Excellence and Equality of Opportunity and Community Building in the Druze Society</b></p> <p>The Druze society in Israel includes some 138,000 people in 19 communities in the north. It is known for its high commitment to the State of Israel, which is demonstrated (among other ways) in 83% of young Druze men who enlist to the IDF. However, its access to opportunities and resources is very limited. This grant will help continue to develop excellence, volunteerism and equality of opportunity for young Druze adults and leverage the program's accomplishments and position in the communities to advance the creation of a strong, cohesive Druze society. Through 13 Ne'urim Centers, the program offers thousands of 13-25 year-old Druze a variety of high quality and value-rich activities that are designed to serve as focal points for community involvement, leadership and Druze heritage.</p>	\$25,000
20.	<p><b>Ma'ase Center Association: Volunteering Together – A Yearlong Arab-Jewish Volunteering Group in Akko</b></p> <p>This grant is intended to support an innovative collaborative initiative between Ma'ase Center, Bat-Ami Association and the Akko Municipality – a joint Jewish-Arab transformative volunteer-year program. Jewish and Arab young adult participants come together for a year of volunteering with children and teens, training and study. Together they undergo a transformative year of personal development, mutual discovery and examination of bias and discriminatory notions. They acquire first-hand experience in social activism and leadership and serve as role models of volunteering and cooperation for the children and teens with whom they volunteer and for Akko residents. The program is designed to advance social cohesion and strengthen civil society.</p>	\$20,000
<b><i>Jewish Identity and Religious Pluralism</i></b>		
21.	<p><b>The Jewish Federations of North America: iRep – Israel Religious Expression Platform</b></p>	\$45,000

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	<p>Although Israel has diverse Jewish streams including secular Judaism, reform, conservative, modern orthodox, orthodox and ultra-orthodox, the State of Israel only grants official status and binding power over religious matters to the orthodox Rabbinate. iRep’s goal is to create a large-scale movement to advocate for changing the marriage and divorce laws that currently grant only the religious authorities (the Rabbinate for Jews) the legal authority to marry and divorce people. iRep’s strategy is to build a critical mass of popular support that will make marriage freedom a central issue of public discourse in Israeli society. This will gradually incentivize ‘centrist’ parties and politicians to endorse legislation which would change the Rabbinate’s monopoly on lifecycle events, including marriage. iRep also provides grants that will continue to strengthen organizations working to effect change vis-à-vis freedom of choice in marriage. It will do so by supporting organizations in Israel that are working to increase public awareness about the current limitations regarding marriage and the challenges and opportunities associated with addressing freedom of choice in marriage.</p>	
22.	<p><b>Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ): Nurturing Pluralistic Judaism and Community Leadership with Russian Speaking Israelis *</b></p> <p>This grant will support the Israel Reform Movement’s efforts to develop pluralistic Jewish spiritual, cultural, and communal activities and leadership training for Russian-speaking Israelis. Among the second generation of Russian-speaking immigrants, there is a growing request for Jewish activities that fit their modern lifestyle. In the last 5 years, IMPJ has established two congregations in Haifa and Ramat Gan for Russian-speaking Israelis and has offered their community members leadership training programs, Jewish study classes, national seminars, large holiday celebrations, <i>tikkun olam</i> projects, etc. This grant will support the IMPJ to expand such programs for Russian speakers in two new locations: Be’er Sheva and Afula-Nazareth Illit.</p>	\$30,000
23.	<p><b>ITIM: General Operating Support *</b></p> <p>ITIM’s programs advocate for Jewish religious pluralism in Israel, with an emphasis on making progress on the “Who is a Jew” issue, which affects Jews worldwide. The ITIM Advocacy Center, a legal and public policy division with five in-house attorneys, will move forward with legal efforts to normalize Jewish life in Israel (for issues like official Jewish status, marriage, conversion, burial etc.), and to take on new cases that have the potential to set precedents on these issues. This would create alternatives to the status quo (which is controlled almost exclusively by the ultra-orthodox), stimulate public discourse, create grassroots support for legislative reform, and empower citizens to demand that the Jewish state respect the dignity and diversity of the Jewish people.</p>	\$30,000
<b>Capacity Building</b>		
24.	<p><b>Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund: Capacity Building in Israel</b></p> <p>Investing in our grantees involves supporting their operations to build high-functioning, fiscally-sound organizations. This grant is intended to help our grantees make significant advancements for their organizations, which helps them build lasting infrastructure that multiplies our investment in the organization’s future.</p>	\$40,140

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