

“איתם ולמענם - Together for Them”

The El-Ami "Together for Them" project strengthens the Jewish-Zionist identity among the Jewish students and communities through local workshops and community events in Israel and the Diaspora. These programs are led by wounded IDF soldiers who share their personal courageous stories and their responsibilities as an Israeli.

Our Mission:

The wounded IDF soldiers are the living embodiment of Jewish values and the human contribution to the State of Israel and its legacy. These brave men and women were physically and mentally injured in the line of duty while protecting and helping others. But now they find themselves on the receiving side and needing help.

Our cause is to empower these selfless wounded IDF soldiers and help them with the new opportunity to continue defending and protecting *Eretz Israel* in Israel and abroad. This is achieved through meetings with Jewish students and communities where they share their personal journey of struggle, hardship, limitations and an ultimate strength and will to overcome. These brave soldiers are the mentors who connect the Diaspora Jews to Israel and its importance.

The journey of the wounded IDF soldiers is the story of the Jewish people, through common values such as solidarity, social cohesion, leadership and community bonds, resilience, loyalty, faith and optimism.

The significant part of this program is that these IDF wounded soldiers are given the opportunity to tell their own story in an interactive setting. Their stories range from the battles defending the country and *Am Israel* to the ongoing journey of rehabilitation and overcoming physical disabilities and mental difficulties. These are amazing inspiring stories that intertwined values of Judaism, leadership and optimism.

The heartfelt connection between these soldiers and the communities in the Diaspora, and with the youth, provides a unique window to learn and connect to the State of Israel. It empowers these IDF wounded soldiers by realizing their true power and strength that comes from their injury and in continuing to defend *Eretz Israel*.

For those who are living with the memory of the trauma, sharing their story puts them on the path of healing, and allows them to continue and grow as vital members in our community.

This nonprofit Israeli organization was co-founded by the Gibor Israel, Ret. Brigadier General Avigdor Kahalani who received the Medal of Distinguished Service for his service during the Six-Day War, the highest Israeli military decoration; and the Medal of Valor after the Yom Kippur War, and is the recipient of the President's Medal of Distinction, the highest civilian honor. He is also a former cabinet minister and social activist.

Ret. Brig. Gen. Kahalani serves as the "Together for Them" ambassador. He takes an active part in lectures in Israel and around the world. His worldview, which sees enormous importance in continuing to raise the flag and passing it on to the younger generation, is in fact the core of our program. His book "Leadership in the Circles of Life," accompanies the program and is a source of inspiration.

In 1967, during the Six Day War, Avigdor's tank was attacked and caught fire. He succeeded to exit his tank but 60% of his body was burned. He spent one year in the hospital while his wife was pregnant with their first child. After being released from the hospital, Avigdor insisted on going back to serving his country in the IDF despite his severe injuries and difficulties. And that's what he did.....

Thanks to the personal experience of Avigdor and his leadership, "Together for Them" has a solid, clear, and compelling cause and mission to empower our wounded IDF soldiers. We meet these brave men and women when they are in the hospital after being injured. We listen to them, and we get to know them, we accompany them through their recovery and rehab. We learn from them the power of the will to live and persevere. We help them plan the next steps and we strengthen their vision for their future.

We are a family of wounded soldiers helping each other in challenging times, honoring everyone's bravery and injury, recording documentaries of their legacy in their own words, giving them the opportunity to be a mentor in various schools and communities in Israel and abroad, hosting celebrations for them during the year, conducting meetings, creating a personal resource and support for now and the future.

We are Together for Them!

Our Goals:

- Strengthen the bond between the IDF wounded soldiers, the Jewish communities and the State of Israel by establishing a long-term program that deepens the understanding of Jewish values and heritage, to allow continuous communication and stronger ties with the Diaspora.
- Elevate the "**Appreciation Day**" (17 of Kislev every year) as an official day in the Jewish calendar, enabling the IDF wounded soldiers to be honored and cherished as inspirational role models of Jewish values and love for our homeland.
- Increase the number of lectures given by IDF wounded soldiers in the program by at least 10 more a year to allow a broader reach to the communities.
- Continue producing high quality content and new films to tell the IDF wounded soldiers' personal stories and form a wider base for educational programs.
- Establishing a local center for the convenience and the benefit of our wounded soldiers to receive in-house lectures, various trainings such as public-speaking in two languages, self empowerment, spiritual enlightenment program, workshop for strengthening the personal goals, assistance and information desk, Shabbat and holiday dinner gatherings and celebrations.

"Together for Them" includes 2 projects:

TOGETHER FOR THEM U.S.A – Wounded soldiers' delegations visit with major Jewish communities (currently active in Mexico City, Miami, New Jersey, New York City, Westchester, Long Island, Atlanta, Scottsdale, and Los Angeles area) to strengthen the bonds between the Jewish communities and the State of Israel through activities with IDF wounded soldiers serving as the programs ambassadors.

The program includes:

- The wounded soldiers, who have experienced the complex Israeli reality firsthand, come to the various schools and communities, and allow Jewish youth to be exposed to Israel up-close through interactive dialogue.
- Each school receives, pre-delegation arrival, an informational packet that includes activities, talking points and movies allowing the school to start the conversation and the process ahead of time.
- Shabbat in the community - Families get the opportunity to host these brave soldiers in their home celebrating the Shabbat together culminating in a community event hosted by their local synagogue.

TOGETHER FOR THEM ISRAEL - A comprehensive educational program in high schools and pre-military preparatory schools in Israel, led by IDF wounded soldiers from combat units. They serve as mentors, sharing their inspiring personal stories and leading by example.

The program includes:

- Workshops in high schools and community settings led by IDF wounded soldiers that focus on important values such as: giving, solidarity, social cohesion, leadership and more.
- Each school chooses a leading class to continue the process and deepen the understanding among the rest of the student body. Beyond participating in the workshop, they take charge of planning and executing an "Appreciation Day" ceremony on behalf of wounded soldiers. This may be changing the face of the lobby or orchestrating a ceremony, the students find themselves to be true advocates of these life-changing stories and ambassadors of the values that they hold.
- The 'Hokara BaSalon' project (honoring in the living-room) allows students to create and host their own parlor meetings giving them ownership of the educational process.
- Visit "Beit HaLochem" (wounded soldiers rehabilitation center), where the students see first-hand the rigorous rehabilitation journey the soldiers go through as an individual and as a community. Ending this emotional and inspiring visit is a basketball game where all players (wounded soldiers and students) play in wheelchairs.
- A shoulder-to-shoulder march with wounded soldiers on the national Israel Trail.
- A concluding event with the **Gibor Israel** recipient of the Medal of Valor, **Brigadier General Avigdor Kahalani**.
- In pre-military preparatory schools we host in depth an interactive workshops. The age of the participants and the fact that they themselves are minutes before joining the IDF create a unique opportunity to delve into one's self and really explore the values and themes discussed on a personal level.

What makes our project special:

- We offer each wounded soldier the opportunity to be as proactive as they wish in this movement.
- The speakers are welcome to express themselves freely, and are not mandated to promote El Ami - Together for Them organization.
- Our wounded soldiers/speakers are able to share the details of how their injury happened at war, their optimism facing the new daily challenges, and how personal goals help their healing process. All that is affirmed by receiving the support from the meetings with the Jewish communities abroad and in Israel.
- They receive coaching and training through one-on-one meetings and educational workshops in public speaking and storytelling skills, as well as lessons to improve their English language.
- Continuous development of an accessible and convenient learning materials, workshops and various resources for their next steps in self improvement.
- Sending a daily inspirational and empowering messages from the Torah and Jewish leaders throughout history to our wounded soldiers.
- Professional production and recording of documentary film for each wounded soldier working closely with the filmmaker. These films are broadcasted on our special YouTube channel and various social media platforms, so their challenges and endurance are acknowledged by the Jewish world and is a lesson to all.
- Functioning with 90% volunteers, which means most of the raised funds is spent on our cause and mission.
- All paid travel expenses abroad for the IDF wounded soldier/speaker including the necessary medical accompaniment for the wounded soldier.
- Special program where hi-tech companies offer internships mentoring and career guidance to wounded IDF soldiers.

Our Vision:

The relationship between the State of Israel and the Jews of the Diaspora is not only or primarily a relationship of needs and benefits, but first and foremost a relationship of faith and destiny.
(David Ben Gurion, first Israeli Prime Minister)

Jews in the Diaspora, and especially the younger generation, are rapidly disengaging from their Jewish identity and the State of Israel. The Minister of Diaspora said, at 2020, on the subject:

“The main insight is that in view of the weakening connection between young Jews, the Jewish identity and the State of Israel, the State of Israel must immediately increase its involvement in strengthening Jewish communities around the world, build a long-term strategic infrastructure, interact with Jews throughout their life, and ensure the continued existence of the Jewish chain.”

The connection between the current generation and the land of Israel has changed dramatically over the years. In our program we emphasize that the future of the Jewish communities goes hand in hand with the future of the State of Israel. Through the stories of these courageous soldiers as citizens and as IDF soldiers, we enable communities to feel the shared values and the common destiny and to connect to Jewish values and to the State of Israel.

Meet Our Team:

We are a combination of men and women, supporting citizens and former combat soldiers who have faced the challenges and the sacrifices that it takes to defend the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

We are driven by a great sense of mission and believe that the existing reality must be changed, and through the actions presented in this plan, there can be a stronger future between the State of Israel and Jews everywhere.



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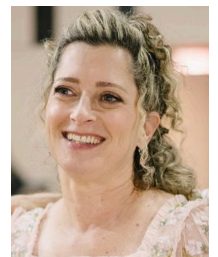
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