YAD ELIEZER ANNUAL REPORT 2018

An All-in-One Chesed Organization
Go Figure!

Food Boxes
- 15,000+ weddings made and counting
- $8.75 million in food distributed before the holidays

Weddings
- 15,000+ weddings made and counting

Big Brothers/Sisters
- 11,000 Big Brothers & Big Sisters impacting children's lives

Baby Formula
- 2,000 malnourished babies fed monthly

Job Training
- Nearly 100% retention rate in our job training program

Who we Assist
- Over 100,000 people helped every year

Where we Operate
- 199 communities across Israel have Yad Eliezer programs

More than 840 Almanos were assisted monthly

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Chairman’s Note

It has been nearly 40 years since Yad Eliezer extended an offer of partnership to the world of givers and invited you to become active builders in our community.

David HaMelech (King David, the Psalmist), wrote in Tehillim, “Olam chesed yibaneh”: the world was created through kindness. Most agree that this verse is meant to give primacy to the importance of kindness when building anything, and to acknowledge the Creator’s kindness in building our world. We are asked to imitate Him and become “baalei chesed” ourselves - masters of kindness. This brings us directly to you, dear friend!

I wish I could list a small fraction of the incredible goodness I’ve seen in our donors; people who give because they are kind and good. People who care to understand what it means to live in heartbreaking poverty. People who can empathize with a mother who cannot afford to feed her baby, the pain of a young bride who cannot afford a dress or basic household necessities, and the anguish of a widow and orphans. I am amazed anew at your incredible generosity and the role that you play in “building” this world with kindness.

As you read through this report, you’ll see countless instances of the building blocks of chesed. Throughout Israel, from Tzfat in the north to Eilat in the south, people are using your tzedaka (charity) wisely and well to make lives better for those in need.

This partnership of ours has sustained me for a long time. Sometimes, when I read about the state of the world today and the violence and frightening ideas that have gained currency, it is only your goodness and compassion which convince me that this world is indeed a good and worthwhile place.

Thank you for being here, for doing so much and for allowing and enabling us to do so much!

Kol Tuv (All the best),
Sori Topper
American Friends of Yad Eliezer
Yad Eliezer: A World of Chesed

You can’t know what it’s like if you haven’t been there.

What is it like to be a senior citizen who can’t afford his meds, or a young mother who has to water down her baby’s formula to make ends meet? How does it feel to be a young widower struggling to work and take care of his motherless children, or to be a bride who can’t afford a wedding?

If you’re not in these people’s shoes, it’s difficult to understand the stresses and despair they face daily. Not to mention their loneliness. Many people in these situations have no one to turn to – or they are too ashamed to reveal their plight to others. And even if they do cry out for help, their environment often can’t provide them with the help they so desperately need.

There is, however, one address they can turn to, a unique organization that understands what they are going through and knows just what to do. That place is Yad Eliezer.

Over the years, Yad Eliezer has grown from a small non-profit dedicated to feeding Jerusalem’s poor into one of Israel’s dominant chesed institutions that provides end-to-end support to those in need. Yad Eliezer is no less than a “World of Chesed”, a loving team of professionals and volunteers who provide a broad range of comprehensive services that bring both short-term relief and long-term stability to those in need.

Yad Eliezer aids Jews from across Israel and from all walks of life, from the cradle through old age, helping them to overcome food insecurity, deal with difficult life challenges and live with dignity. But even as Yad Eliezer has expanded to encompass numerous programs and initiatives, it has never veered from its essential mission: a deep desire to do chesed for fellow Jews, effectively and efficiently.

When people think of Yad Eliezer, our well-known “Adopt-a-Wedding” program or our decades of food distribution may spring to mind. But we are about so much more. Yad Eliezer is a revolutionary chesed organization because
we’ve never stopped evolving. We are always thinking about how to expand our activities to meet the needs of struggling families and individuals, and we work diligently – and creatively – to develop programs that deliver the right kind of assistance exactly where it’s needed.

Yad Eliezer’s broad scope and intelligent management mean that you can find the program that speaks to your heart, and know that it is run efficiently. We work hard to make every donation count in the lives of widows, orphans, the elderly and others to whom we feel a deep responsibility. Join us in our work so we can continue to do a world of good.
What makes Yad Eliezer so successful?

1. We see the whole picture.
When someone asks for help – say a mother who needs formula for her new baby – we know what questions to ask: Do other members of the household have food and clothing? What’s the employment situation? How are rent, electricity and heating bills paid? Are there emotional problems that require attention? Our approach is to address the family’s issues as a whole in order to guide them to greater financial independence and help them break free of the cycle of poverty – forever.

2. Responsiveness.
Yad Eliezer is a large organization, yet it is extremely proficient. We are constantly evaluating the situation on the ground and asking ourselves what can be improved. And when we see a need, we address it. A good example of this is the nonprofit wedding hall complex we’ve built in Ashdod. It has changed the entire simcha market in southern Israel, as other halls and service providers have had to lower their costs in order to stay competitive. (Read more about it below.)
3. Efficiency. This is the result of our determination to keep overhead low, and of the high volume of our operations. Yad Eliezer runs out of modest offices with a small staff and a large volunteer corps. Advertising is kept to a minimum. The scale of our operations enables us to acquire goods at huge discount such as the 6,000 winter jackets for children that we buy and ship directly from China, in the off-season, at a total cost of under $18 per jacket. Distribution within Israel is cost-free because we are able to load the jackets onto our trucks that are already delivering food throughout the country. Thousands of children stayed warm this past winter thanks to this low-cost, efficient solution. In fact, agencies that rate non-profits for efficiency consistently give Yad Eliezer high scores. We are proud that our overhead of just 3% means that funds go where they should go: to alleviating poverty in Israel. When you give to Yad Eliezer you can be sure that every dollar will go a long way.

4. You! The ongoing generosity of our supporters is an integral part of our success. Your involvement and caring throughout the years have enabled us to establish new programs as needed, and pushed us to be efficient and responsive. Your partnership is what makes everything possible. We thank you for your trust and hope to accomplish great things together for many years to come!
2018 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2018, Yad Eliezer focused on several populations in need of extra assistance. These special projects function in addition to our ongoing, large scale operations and were made possible by the generous donations of people like you.

Achuzat Friedman Wedding Hall Complex, Ashdod

A few years ago, we noticed that Yad Eliezer was receiving a large number of requests from families in southern Israel struggling to make weddings. We recognized that we were seeing a large scale problem in need of a comprehensive solution -- and we decided to create that solution.

With the help of Rabbi Jacob Friedman and family of Los Angeles, and several other generous donors, Yad Eliezer bought and renovated a site in Ashdod, turning it into a complex of 3 all-new wedding halls. In order to use the halls, families must fit certain criteria and commit to spending limits on the band, flowers, number of guests, etc. This past year the halls served
over 125 couples and in 2019 we expect to serve over 500.

One new bride commented, “After I got engaged, my joy was mingled with anxiety and shame. My chatan is an orphan from a large family, and my father’s business had recently collapsed. It was clear that our families couldn’t help us and even if we somehow managed a wedding, we still wouldn’t be able to buy even the most basic things for our new home. I was extremely worried and didn’t know where to turn. Then someone told me about Achuzat Friedman, and they transformed my engagement and wedding into a time of true simcha. The wedding hall was beautiful, it did not feel at all like a charity operation, and because we saved on the wedding we were able to scrape together enough to buy some second-hand furniture and a refrigerator. I am so happy in my new life, and I feel that part of that is because we got off to such a good start, thanks to Yad Eliezer.”

In response to the new alternative offered by Achuzat Friedman, wedding prices have gone down throughout the region, meaning that tens of thousands of people have already benefited from this initiative, and many more will benefit in the years to come.

**Grushot & Agunot**

This past year we have come to recognize the growing need for support for single-parent homes — not just widows, whom we already help, but also agunot, divorced parents, and widowers. Their situation can become especially desperate when there are small children at home, preventing the single parent from working full time in a job that can support an entire family. Often the single
parent is still reeling from the absence of his or her spouse and the financial, legal, physical and emotional strains on some of these parents are overwhelming.

The Israel poverty report for 2018 dryly noted that a single parent of two children or more who is working full time at minimum wage cannot rise above the poverty line without external help. Even if they buy used clothing from a gemach and economize on basics like food and heat, the family will not be able to make ends meet. Any additional expense, even a relatively minor one such as dental treatment or refrigerator repair, can set the family on a path of spiraling debt.

But the problems don’t stop there. Children growing up in these circumstances are more likely to fail in school, become youth-at-risk and high school dropouts who will never earn more than minimum wage, thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty in the next generation.

We can change that. With the help of generous donors, we are now able to provide monthly aid to deserving families for a limited amount of time until they can get back on their feet. When Yad Eliezer decides to help a family, all the family’s needs are assessed and addressed. By combining the monthly grants with job training, afternoon care for the children or other supportive programs, we can turn these families’ situations from precarious and fearful to stable and happy.

This fund is a game-changer for the children of single-parent families; it can literally save the children, freeing them from a future of poverty and enabling them to grow up to be fully functioning adults. We have seen with our own eyes that if we step in to help these families in time, and give them hope before they give in to despair and self-destructive behaviors, we can alter the fate of the next generation.

Keren Gerim
The path to becoming Jewish is a long, hard one. Among the many challenges that converts face, they must give up their former lives in order to join the Jewish people ...but then they may find themselves in a kind of no-man’s-land.

They’ve given up on their past but are not completely part of their new community. Many converts find themselves lacking the support system of family and old friends that Jews-from-birth take for granted. They don’t always understand the local culture and usually lack Hebrew language skills as well, which prevents them from
finding viable employment. So even after conversion, life continues to be a struggle, socially and economically.

In 2018 Yad Eliezer made it a goal to help stop converts from falling between the cracks by establishing a program to support these brave people who’ve sacrificed so much to join our people.

Did you know that...

- Israel has the highest poverty rate of any developed country, and more than half these families are “working poor”
- 30% of Israeli children live below the poverty line – that’s over 840,000 children
- 21% of the elderly in Israel live below the poverty line, and most report sometimes giving up on basics like food, medication and heat for lack of funds

Want to help? Read on to learn more about our programs and how you can participate.

- The Dimensions of Poverty and Social Inequality: Annual Report 2017, National Insurance Institute. Published December 2018, Israel
DIRECTIONS IN 2019

In response to the real needs we encounter every day, we’re starting several new programs that, with your help, will assist thousands of people. We invite you to partner with us in making 2019 our best year ever.

Bridal Salon & Dowries
This new program will be housed in the Ashdod wedding hall complex, and complement the extraordinary chesed work already being done there. Needy brides will be able to borrow wedding gowns that will make them feel beautiful on their special day, and they will also receive a free dowry package of sheets, towels, pillows and blankets with which to start their homes.

Keren Yaakov Zev for Orphans
This fund has been set up to address the special needs of orphans. It supplements the assistance given to widows for everyday expenses through the Keren Almanos, focusing on the additional so-called “extras” which orphaned children are often deprived of because resources at home are stretched so thin. These may include therapy fees, help with tuition, job training and help in setting up a home of their own after marriage. We have come to see that helping orphans in these areas is an
investment in their future, an investment that enables them to escape the cycle of poverty and lead productive lives.

Women’s Business Mentoring

Yad Eliezer is currently running a pilot project in conjunction with Temech, an organization that supports entrepreneurship among women. Women who have ventured into the business world but are held back by a lack of experience and business know-how participate in a seven-month course with qualified business consultants who aid them in developing their business plans, and turning their dreams into actual profits that can help them support their families. The pilot has been highly effective, and is already generating higher income for the participants and empowering them to further grow their businesses. In 2019 we are hoping to expand the program to help another 50 women on the path to financial self-sufficiency, for them and their families.

This program has given me confidence in who I am and what I do. It has given me a clear direction, and has opened up more opportunities for me. I’ve learned how to work effectively and the results have been amazing! I can now confidently charge 350 NIS for an hour of my time, and I’ve scheduled packages of 10 sessions!

This program is a gift for life.

– Aviva S., Personal Trainer
Could there be anything more basic than the need for food? This is the area in which Yad Eliezer began, as a direct response to an urgent need, and it is an area in which we have developed great expertise. Yad Eliezer knows how to stretch a food dollar: we are able to acquire the most food for the least money and get it out to a maximum number of needy people in the shortest amount of time. In 2018 we continued to expand our programs and we look forward to further success in 2019.

Yad Eliezer’s comprehensive chesed programs can be broken down into 3 broad categories – food, social services, and simchas. Taken together, they cover the physical, financial and emotional needs of the tens of thousands of people who turn to us yearly for help. The variety of programs we have available enable us to offer exactly the type of aid required.

We encourage you to find the causes that speak to your heart, and make a difference in a way that is meaningful to you.
Food Boxes

5,000 Families every month

This is our flagship program, in which we deliver food staples and household essentials directly to the homes of thousands of struggling families across Israel. Our goal is to support family stability and healthy functioning, so the boxes are packaged to look like regular supermarket deliveries, and are filled with products made to be cooked at home. This enables the recipients to maintain their dignity and a sense of normalcy in the eyes of their children and neighbors.

The Holiday Fund

$8,750,000

Distributed to over 15,000 Families

Partnerships with local neighborhood charity funds allow Yad Eliezer to distribute vouchers for foods like chicken and meat, and other basics before the High Holidays and Pesach. Assistance is also available in the form of Matanot L’Evyonim for Purim and support for other holidays.

Holiday Vouchers for IDF Soldiers

3,200 Soldiers

This program provides food vouchers for deserving young men and women who have put their lives on the line for others Jews, such as soldiers from disadvantaged homes, “lone soldiers” who have no family in Israel, married soldiers whose stipends are inadequate to support their families, and demobilized soldiers struggling to pursue an education and rejoin civilian life. Because when they finally get to go home and be with their families, they shouldn’t have to worry that there’s not enough food to go around.

YIKGH Fund for Agunos, Grushos and Melamdim

$1,000,000

Distributed

Food vouchers, clothing, and school supplies are given to single mothers, and the families of melamdim living on very low incomes.
David and Miriam have been trying to have a child for years. Miriam has undergone numerous expensive fertility treatments that have wiped out their meager savings, but to no avail. They have not been blessed with children and are out of money.

In addition to this great sadness in their lives, this past summer Moshe was diagnosed with cancer. The new blow was too much for the couple and they have both been suffering, physically and emotionally. Their bank account dwindled to the degree that they got to Rosh Hashana with no food in the home. David and Miriam’s sad story reached the ears of Milka, a Yad Eliezer coordinator, on erev chag. She immediately arranged for our representative in Teveria to get food vouchers to the couple in time for them to buy food for yom tov.

David says, “It is hard to describe what a difference this money made to us. The vouchers made it possible to buy food, fill the refrigerator and celebrate yom tov. We started out the new year in a whole different state of mind than we had been in two days before. We pray that Hashem sends only blessings to the staff and volunteers of Yad Eliezer.”

Meals on Wheels

*500+* Meals delivered weekly

Provides hot meals to homebound individuals every week, be they elderly, handicapped or mentally challenged.

Feed a Baby for $1 a Day

*2,000* Babies fed monthly

Baby formula for families in dire financial straits, in which the mother is sick, malnourished or otherwise unable to nurse her child. Just $1 a day can save a baby from malnourishment and its permanent side effects.

Shabbat Chicken Program

*500+* Families every week

This program brings joy and Oneg Shabbos to families in dire financial straits by providing them with a chicken or two for their Shabbos table.
Over the years, we’ve come to understand that poverty can affect every aspect of a person’s life and that in addition to providing food or funding, sometimes we can save a family by being attentive to other needs they may have. Attending to the emotional or psychological distress of a person in need can impact upon the entire family, and enable the family to transition from dysfunctional to successful. Read on to see how Yad Eliezer is addressing the many needs of Israel’s most destitute citizens.

Widows & Orphans Fund (Keren Almanos)

800+ 5,400+

Widows Orphans

One of our largest programs, this fund provides monthly support for widows with children at home, based on a thorough assessment of their needs. In addition, the fund sometimes assists widows with one-time expenses such as urgent dental care, bar mitzvahs & weddings for their children, or medical treatment.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters

11,000+

Children helped

Mentors for children from troubled homes, often with addiction or physical abuse issues.

Mentoring can change the lives of these children, who are at high risk for emotional and behavioral disorders, and criminal behavior. In a follow-up survey we found that ten years later, over 95% of our mentees were leading productive adult lives.
Shalhevet Early Learning Initiative

750 Children helped

Professional detection and treatment of learning disabilities in the early childhood years, before they give way to serious behavioral, emotional and educational problems. This program is vital to preventing vulnerable children from growing into at-risk youth, by getting them the help they need in time.

Winter Warmth Campaign

6,000 Coats 8,000 Quilts

This campaign targets the truly impoverished, who sometimes have to choose between buying food or heat or warm clothing. Yad Eliezer purchases winter coats, quilts and space heaters at wholesale prices so that for a relatively small donation you can bring a lot of warmth to a struggling family.

Medical Support for Cancer Patients

500 Families supported

Emotional and financial support for families with a relative hospitalized in oncology, hematology, bone marrow or immunotherapy departments. Yad Eliezer also provides patient advocates when needed, to liaison with doctors on behalf of the patient’s family.

Emergency Fund

$5,000,000 Distributed

Assistance for struggling families who are struck with a one-time crisis they cannot afford, such as an expensive dental treatment or a leaking roof. A relatively small sum can often stave off a downward spin and prevent financial collapse.
Microfinancing

40 Businesses funded

Small grants ($2500-$8000) and pro mentoring give motivated individuals with realistic plans the ability to start a business, or expand an existing one, and achieve financial independence.

Job Training Fund

45 Young people helped

An investment in the future: tuition grants for young people struggling to acquire a profession and break out of the poverty cycle. In 2019 we will double this successful program and help 100 ambitious young people start a new life.

When Tehilla turned 18, she realized she had to leave her home, a toxic mix of emotional dysfunction and grave financial issues. The family of 13 (including a special needs child) could not get by on her father’s salary as a bus driver and her mother’s as a caretaker for the elderly.

Once Tehilla left home, she was completely on her own. She worked hard to support herself and build up some savings, and after a few months began studying education. She knew that getting a degree would improve her chances of future success, but there was a catch: the long hours of study prevented her from holding down a job. Her tuition and basic expenses were quickly draining the savings she had worked so hard to amass.

A crisis was looming, and Tehilla was scared. She didn’t have the funds to continue her education, she had no opportunities for gainful employment and no family to whom she could turn for help. Many girls in her situation have ended up on the street, with all the dangers that entails. Instead, luckily, she turned to Yad Eliezer. Through the Job Training program, Tehilla received several thousand shekels to offset her tuition bill.

Tehilla relates, “I was petrified that I wouldn’t be able to finish school and would end up trapped in a bitterly unhappy life like my parents’. This amazing grant from Yad Eliezer has given me hope. I can’t wait to start teaching and I’m determined to build a better life for myself and hopefully, one day, my children.”

Yossi Adler, our COO, says, “Our goal is, whenever possible, to help people reach financial independence. This is just one example of how a relatively small amount of money, judiciously administered in the right time and place, can turn around someone’s life.”
Yad Eliezer helps thousands of people a year celebrate happy occasions with joy and dignity. Here’s a sampling of what we did in 2018. We hope you’ll join us in 2019 in spreading some simcha to people who could really use it.

**Appliance Program for Orphans**

237 Kallahs/Chatanim

This fund equips orphaned brides with a set of basic household appliances, including a refrigerator, washing machine and oven, to help them begin their new lives on the right foot.

**Adopt-a-Wedding**

850 Weddings

This fund provides simple but elegant weddings to needy couples in our subsidized halls in Jerusalem, Bnei Brak and Ashdod. Couples from around the world can sponsor a wedding on the same day as their own, enabling a couple in Israel to celebrate their wedding with joy and start off their married lives debt-free.

**Bar Mitzvah Twinning**

115 Bar Mitzvah Boys

Through this program, families abroad can twin their family simcha with that of an impoverished bar mitzvah boy in Israel. This is an opportunity to introduce tzedaka and Chesed into your celebration, while giving a needy young man his first pair of tefillin... and a reason to celebrate.
Kol Chattan & Tallis Fund

80 Chattanim

Outfitting a chattan-in-need with gift certificates for brand new clothing items such as a new hat and suit, and providing him with a crisp, new tallit make him feel proud and dignified on his exciting day. Donations to these two funds do exactly that.

Kol Kallah Bridal Fund

1,100 Young couples

Household essentials for needy young couples are delivered with dignity in the form of gift certificates that the kallah can redeem at participating stores for linens, towels and kitchen supplies. A simple way to bring joy to an impoverished bride.

Esther has always run the home while her husband studied, but now that’s impossible. She is battling stage 4 cancer and the chemotherapy is draining away every ounce of her strength. Esther’s illness is the cause of tremendous emotional stress for her family, and it has also caused acute financial distress. Some of her medications and treatments are expensive and not covered by insurance. Recently she needed a costly pill which she couldn’t afford. Eventually, the hospital agreed to give her just one pill, on the condition that she ‘pay it back’ but she has no idea how she will ever do that. The medical expenses are in addition to the substantial debts the family has already accumulated. As the bills mount, they are relying on handouts just to get by day to day.

The last few months have found Esther especially ill. She can’t do minimal tasks on her own, and her teenage daughter helps to feed and bathe her.

Miriam, Esther’s daughter, is due to get married soon. But Esther’s joy is muted. Recently a scan found new tumors in Esther’s head, there is no money to pay for a wedding, and she has no strength to deal with either problem. She prays that she will get to the wedding day alive.

In these desperate circumstances, Yad Eliezer has stepped in to ensure that Esther’s medical costs are covered, and to provide professional medical advocacy. Yad Eliezer has given the bride gift certificates from the Kol Kallah fund, made a wedding hall available, and raised $5,000 towards costs, to alleviate some of this family’s overwhelming stress, and to make the wedding as happy an occasion as possible for the young couple.
When you think of Yad Eliezer, what’s the first thing that comes to mind?

Packing food boxes?

Maybe it’s wedding sponsorships.

Or baby formula distribution.

Any of these would be accurate; they’re well-known programs and they’re just three of more than two dozen, which change lives for thousands of needy Israeli citizens every day.

Most people who think of Yad Eliezer tend to picture an organization so big, efficient and capable it kind of seems as though it’s running itself. But there are a myriad of people behind the scenes expertly doing their jobs, inspired to be part of a mission that reaches out to help those who need it so badly.

Some of these people have been doing so for quite a while – decades, even. They’ve watched the organization grow and expand throughout the years. They’ve witnessed the phases of its transformation from a simple home chesed project to the multi-faceted, major source of support it is, today. And they’ve grown along with it, using their dedication, commitment, and perhaps most of all, their caring, to look after the poorer segments of the population, so often forgotten.

With their valuable insights and years of experience, we’d like to introduce you to just a few members of this select group, people who have been an integral part of Yad Eliezer for more than 20 years: the 20+ Club.
Meet Nachum.

What was your first job at Yad Eliezer?
I first started at Yad Eliezer when I was just 15, as a volunteer. I helped the delivery drivers distribute food boxes to recipients. Once I got my driver’s license, I worked as a driver myself. From there, I went on to become manager of the warehouse.

What’s your favorite part of your job?
Meeting volunteers from all over the world and seeing how much people enjoy helping one another.

Can you give us some insight into Yad Eliezer’s volunteers?
People from all over the world often come to volunteer as part of different types of celebrations. About two years ago during Chanukah, for example, a large family came from Australia, that was celebrating their grandfather’s 90th birthday. Almost every week we have bar and bat mitzvahs. There are also more emotional events held here.

A teacher and his students would come to pack with us every year. Tragically, last year as he was making his way to the Kotel on Sukkot, he was killed in a terrorist attack. Shortly afterwards, the yeshiva came back to volunteer in his memory. They packed food boxes, sang and learned Torah in his zchut.

What is something people outside Yad Eliezer should know?
I think it is important for people to know that Yad Eliezer is really dedicated to helping people as practically as possible. Three years ago, we did a survey among families who received food assistance. We asked them which products they would like to see included in the boxes – which they preferred and which they were less inclined to use.
We went through all the surveys and based on the information collected from these people, the ones who really benefited from our food boxes, we adjusted the contents accordingly.

**Meet Sara.**

**What was your position when you began working at Yad Eliezer?**

I started working with Yad Eliezer as a volunteer, helping with distribution of food baskets and baby formula in my neighborhood. After a few years, when Mrs. Hadassah Weizel started making weddings for people in need, a few of us worked together to prepare food and organize simple celebrations for them. There were times when we made 4-5 weddings a day! That was the precursor to Yad Eliezer’s adopt-a-wedding program.

**What is your current position?**

I now work with the Big Brothers/Sisters program coordinating schedules for mentors and kids. I also follow up with parents, teachers, schools, counselors and any other professionals involved with each family, to find out how everything is going. We stay updated and build a complete picture of each child’s situation and needs.

**What is something you love about your job?**

It is incredibly moving when I see how the mentors really dedicate themselves to their kids. They look out for them and take care of their needs on many levels. It’s as though these children are their own. Kids in the program come from difficult backgrounds, with little opportunity. Due to their time with us and the work of our mentors, they get accepted into good schools, finish their education and become productive members of society. **That is a real accomplishment.**

**Can you give us an insight into the program that people may not know?**

Often, kids who were enrolled in the program and received life-changing help, get married, start raising families and become mentors themselves! They’re so impacted by their experience, that they
understand the importance of the program and want to give the same help they received, to kids in need. They really understand what it’s like to grow up with difficulty and they empathize.

**What have you learned from your time at Yad Eliezer?**
“L’hodot u’l’hallel”, to appreciate having the ability to help, and to be on the giving end, not the receiving end.

**Meet Milka.**

**How did you get your start at Yad Eliezer?**
I began working at home, preparing techina in special containers to be used at weddings for the needy. My position then transitioned into food collection coordinator. I would travel from city to city to establish and coordinate food collection points throughout the country. Now I work as the intake coordinator. I personally get to know the applicants who come to ask for help.

**What’s your favorite part about your job?**
To see people who come for help, smile. They go through so much in their lives, just trying to keep everything together. And even if it happens that I can’t get them help with something, I like knowing that they are benefitting just from having someone listen to them, to hear them out. You can tell they need to be heard. And when I can tell them that they will receive financial help, their expressions—relief, joy, smiles, tears...there’s nothing like it.

**And what is the most challenging?**
To speak with a widow shortly after the loss of
her husband. It is very difficult. I try my best to reassure each woman that Yad Eliezer will do its best to be a source of support.

**You likely hear many stories everyday from all kinds of people-do any stand out to you?**
Every story is a world unto itself. One woman, Dana, lost her husband after his battle with leukemia. She was left alone with five very young children and the experience devastated all of them. Besides worrying about supporting her family, she and her kids also needed counseling. She lost weight, she was barely making it through each day — she was in a really bad place. The Keren Almanos began assisting Dana with expenses-therapy costs, some utility bills, a mentor for her son, things that would stabilize her situation. At one point, the fund helped her attend school and she became a teacher. Now she is working, active, she is taking care of her family. She told me, “Yad Eliezer gave me the ability to live — you gave me an amazing life.”

**After 25 years of employment at Yad Eliezer, what would you say is something important you learned?**
We must respect people in need. They teach us about perspective in life, what’s really valuable and what’s really important. We need to be appreciative of what we have and not take things for granted. I’m constantly inspired by people’s resilience, the way they continue to get up every morning and keep going despite the hardships they face.

**Is there something important for people outside Yad Eliezer to know?**
There is tremendous thought, consideration and care behind everything we do. We work to provide for peoples’ immediate needs, and then some. We always ask, “In what additional ways can we help?”
In Case of **Emergency**

Yad Eliezer is a unique first responder that is always there to help people in need, in countless types of crises.
LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT

LETTER OF APPROBATION BY GEDOLEI YISRAEL

Since its inception over three decades ago, Yad Eliezer has been inspired by the guidance and encouragement of the Gedolei Yisrael, the rabbinc leadership of the global Jewish community.

This letter highlights the years of “pioneering dedication” by Yad Eliezer to supporting those in need through a system modeled on personal idealism and financial integrity, and ends with a blessing to all those who contribute towards Yad Eliezer’s continuing efforts on behalf of Israel’s families. Signatories to this endorsement are Hagaon Harav Nissim Karelitz, Hagaon Harav Chaim Kanivesky and Hagaon Harav Aryeh Leib Shteinman.

MIDOT SEAL OF EFFECTIVENESS

February 1, 2016
To: Mr. Dov Weisel, Yad Eliezer
Re: Midot Seal of Effectiveness

We are pleased to inform you that Yad Eliezer has been awarded the Midot Seal of Effectiveness, an endorsement that asserts the institution’s commitment to an organizational culture that emphasizes planning and implementation of an outcomes-based evaluation process and constant self-development of that process, all with the goal of more effectively impacting the beneficiaries of its programs and engendering significant positive change in their lives.

Over the course of our in-depth impact assessment of the organization we were impressed by its broad-spectrum social programs that dispense chesed to thousands of people in need in a variety of ways.

We particularly note the impressive growth of recent years in the expantion of the organization’s activities. Midot evaluated these changes in comparison to the analysis we undertook in 2013. We noted positively the process of internal auditing and self assessment undertaken at Yad Eliezer’s own initiative, which resulted in an upgrade in the organization’s systems for achieving social change and its tools for measuring that success. Similarly, we noted positively the recognizable upgrade in the work of the organization’s Board of Directors. With all this, there is still room for improvement in the organization’s performance management process.

The Midot Seal of Effectiveness awarded to Yad Eliezer is valid until March 2018. After this date, an application to renew this certification can be filed in on our website.

We recommend initiating contact with us two months before the expiration deadline. We would be pleased to schedule a meeting with you at the Midot office in order to discuss in-depth our specific points of analysis as well as our evaluation process as a whole. Wishing you best of luck as you move ever forward in your valuable work.

With best wishes,
Guy Begell, Executive Director, Midot
96.9% of every dollar you donate goes directly to the families who need your help most. Every donation makes a difference!
Yad Eliezer is extremely grateful for the indispensable support received through the following, which enables us to bring tremendous relief to thousands of families every year:

- Keren Eliyahu V’Esther Feed-A-Baby Program
- Keren Yaakov Zev Orphan Support Services
- Chanan and Miriam Vim Memorial Widows and Orphans Fund
- Mary Parasol Orphan Education Fund
- Yad Zvi Baruch Big Sister Program
- Zichron Yehuda Leib Job Training Program
- Miriam and Moshe Friedman Microfinancing Initiative
- Gitty Perkowski Simcha Fund
- Keren Yehudit Electrical Appliances Program
- Lev Georgie Kol Kallah Bridal Fund
- Kol Chattan Fund in Memory of Chaim Moshe Yosef and Esther Haberman
- Birkat Rachel Chattan Fund

Yad Eliezer would like to thank:

**TrafficTickets.com**

**Sentry Elevator Corp.**

**ROSENBLUM LAW**

**MADISON COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SERVICES**

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**Contact the Yad Eliezer office nearest you:**

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Visit us online: [www.yadeliezer.org](http://www.yadeliezer.org)  
Email us: info@yadeliezer.org
Leaving a Legacy

Yad Eliezer’s friends around the world dramatically improve the lives of Israeli families in need through generous giving. Donors who would like to ensure that their vital kindness continues even beyond their lifetimes can do so through our Leave a Legacy program, guaranteeing that the benefits of their gifts will have lasting effects on generations to come.

THROUGH YAD ELIEZER’S PROGRAM YOU CAN...

- Establish a legacy in honor of or remembrance of a loved one
- Create a lasting reminder of your commitment to Israel and the Jewish people
- Transfer specific assets
- Ensure that your estate will be distributed in line with your personal values

WHO CAN LEAVE A LEGACY?
Leaving an endowment to benefit Yad Eliezer’s recipients is a meaningful form of giving, open to individuals from all income levels through various means including via wills and estate plans. This extraordinary gesture is made by people from all walks of life with varied financial frameworks, interests and passions. Their one commonality is their drive to make a transformative impact on Israeli society for years to come.

GETTING STARTED
To explore our different Leave a Legacy options, please contact:
Aryeh Tropper, Legacy Director; 718-986-4525 aryeh@yadeliezer.org

All inquiries are held in the strictest confidence. It is always important to discuss these donation options with a trusted professional advisor who can guide you in determining the best way to structure your legacy gifts.
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