

# Organizational Guide: Economic Development in Israel

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Plus some bonus Israel related  
organizations



The Jewish Giving Circle Movement

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# A Wall in Its Midst (“Beliba Choma”)

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## Location

Jerusalem, Israel

## Year Founded

2012

## Website

N/A

A Wall in its Midst (“Beliba Choma”) works to build bridges between the Haredi (ultra-orthodox) and non-Haredi populations of Jerusalem. The organization, founded and run by university students, aims to assist Haredi students who have chosen to pursue an academic education but are having trouble fitting into the academic world. Participants have weekly one-on-one tutoring sessions in which a secular student tutors the Haredi student. The meetings also include Jewish studies, which encourages mutual understanding of each other’s perspective and ultimately results in a deeper familiarity of the Haredi world and a common language based on Jewish identity.

The major goals of the program are to reduce Haredi dropout rates, provide an opportunity to bring together students from different demographics, and reduce socioeconomic gaps in Israeli society.

# A Wider Bridge

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## Location

San Francisco, CA

## Year Founded

2010

## Website

[www.awiderbridge.org](http://www.awiderbridge.org)

A Wider Bridge aims to create a Jewish world in which lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Jews have strong Jewish identities that are nourished and deepened by relationships with Israel and its LGBT communities.

Catalyzed by research that demonstrates that LGBT Jews in the US are more likely to have a weaker Jewish identity and less knowledge of and connection to Israel, as well as an awareness of the high amount of anti-Israel sentiment in the American LGBT community, A Wider Bridge connects LGBT Jews to Israel through speaking tours, college programs, missions to Israel, and a strong social media presence.

The organization is based in San Francisco and recently absorbed the NYC-based organization Out! For Israel in order to increase its presence in the New York area.

# AJEEC NISPED

## Location

Beer Sheva, Israel

## Year Founded

1998

## Website

[www.en.ajeec-nisped.org.il](http://www.en.ajeec-nisped.org.il)

The Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation – Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (AJEEC NISPED)’s mission is the promotion of peace and development, with a special focus on civil society: the voluntary, people-centered, non-governmental groups and organizations concerned with conflict-resolution and with the advancement of sustainable human development. NISPED’s particular concern is with societies in transition from conflict to conflict resolution, from dictatorships to democracies, from poverty and dependence to social and economic advance, and from marginalized and passive minorities to active and included ones.

NISPED serves as a center for education, training and project development, which conducts international, regional (Middle East) and local (Israel) programs. Believing that Israel must be an equitable democratic society in which the Arab minority can fully develop its potential and achieve full equality and recognition, NISPED established AJEEC. AJEEC is concerned with the issues confronting the Jewish and Arab communities in Israel, including cooperation based on equality and empowerment of the Arab minority within a society and country shaped by the Jewish majority.

AJEEC’s primary focus is on the needs and concerns of the Negev Arab Bedouin, a community of 160,000 which constitutes the most disadvantaged sector of Israeli society in all areas of life: economic, social and educational. Negev Arab Bedouin society has undergone a radical and wrenching transition over the last 50 years, from a semi-nomadic and pastoral to a modern way of life, a transition which became in effect a process of disempowerment, as traditional leadership was attenuated, social networks disrupted and family life destabilized, with self-reliance often replaced by a sense of inadequacy, passivity and dependency. AJEEC is convinced that the revitalization and mobilization of traditional community values of self reliance and mutual aid, and their mobilization in response to the community’s needs, can provide a powerful impetus for transforming the community’s inner resources into a leading force for change and self-empowerment.

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# Association for the Improvement of the Status of Women: Laqiya

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## Location

Laqiya, Israel

## Year Founded

1996

## Website

[www.desert-embroidery.org](http://www.desert-embroidery.org)

The Association for the improvement of the Status of Women, Laqiya aims to improve the status of women in Bedouin society and in Israeli society as a whole. The Association was the first women's organization established in the Negev. It is run and operated by local Bedouin women who are sensitive to the needs and problems of their community and of women in particular.

The Association has developed a thriving home-centered embroidery industry and advocates for its community through the development of a cultural tourist center. The Association has raised the awareness within the Bedouin community of many essential issues, including genetic diseases caused by kinship marriage, the importance of education for adults and both male and female children, pre-natal care, home economics, and more. It has helped young women return to school to complete their studies and provided literacy classes for older women; it also has held workshops on breast cancer and raised awareness about the importance of early detection.

# Birthright Israel “Start-Up Nation” Trips

Location  
Israel

Year Founded  
1999

Website  
[www.birthrightisrael.com](http://www.birthrightisrael.com)

“Start-Up Nation” (“S.U.N.”) trips, focused on Israel as an innovative and entrepreneurial leader in the business and technology sectors, are becoming a popular interest-based Birthright Israel trip option. “S.U.N.” trips are based upon the concept that Israel has responded to particular challenges in a unique and innovative way, thereby becoming one of the world’s leaders in start-up companies and technologies.

While including all of Birthright Israel’s core educational themes and experiences, participants in “S.U.N.” trips have an added opportunity to take part in an in-depth exploration of Israel that goes well beyond the standard curriculum, through site-visits and first-hand meetings with Israeli business leaders, experts, and entrepreneurs. Additionally, these groups are complemented by Israeli Mifgash participants who, like their American peers, were business students or individuals involved in or otherwise interested in entrepreneurship and the business world.

“S.U.N.” trips are an attractive option for undergraduate students enrolled in business programs or otherwise interested in this field, as well as for those in the 22-26 age range studying in MBA programs or working in the business and technology sector. Designated funding, at any level, can provide a targeted Birthright Israel experience to more young Jewish adults interested in the technology and business sectors.

# Economic Empowerment for Women (EEW)

## Location

Haifa, Israel

## Year Founded

2000

## Website

[www.womensown.org.il/en/](http://www.womensown.org.il/en/)

Economic Empowerment for Women's mission is to supply low income women in Israel with the knowledge and tools to create their own small businesses as a means for gaining self-sufficiency and alleviating the cycle of poverty in which they live.

EEW promotes economic change for Jewish and Arab women in Israel through a multi-level approach that includes assisting small business development; broadening public policy, and the development of need-specific programs for diverse populations.

First, EEW's Business of One's Own empowerment and entrepreneurial training course helps women from low socio-economic backgrounds in Israel improve their economic situation by empowering them with a) personal belief in themselves and their capabilities, and b) business knowledge and skills that are needed to begin their own micro-enterprises.

Second, EEW's long-term support strategies help female micro-entrepreneurs increase the income from their businesses by improving their business, organizational, financial, marketing, and computer skills that will help them expand their businesses to reach new and more sophisticated consumers.

Third, EEW's Savings for the Future program promotes asset development strategies and savings practices among low-income women to further their long-term financial stability.

Finally, EEW facilitates women's leadership development with academic training and existing businesses by training them as facilitators for EEW programming and providing business training tailored to their specific needs.

\* From the Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues <http://www.iataskforce.org/>

# Eden Association

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## Location

Moshav Sde-Tzvi, Israel

## Year Founded

1997

## Website

[www.edenassociation.org](http://www.edenassociation.org)

The Eden Association, a non-profit women's organization, was founded in 1997 by educators and social activists from the Negev region who had a sense of responsibility and commitment to the idea that the Negev's next generation should grow up in a nurturing, enriching and healthy environment.

Eden's vision is to support vulnerable women, children with special needs and at-risk teenage girls who live in the Negev, to make a positive change in their lives and to help them realize their hidden potential through establishing and operating a variety of educational, social and therapeutic programs.

Eden operates two residential homes for at-risk teenage girls and children respectively: "Eden" and "Eshkol Bar." Eden has acquired extensive experience in treating teenage girls and children with complex difficulties who need a residential placement structure. Eden sees these frameworks as an existential necessity for at-risk girls and children, a necessity which affords opportunities for personal growth and self-empowerment far away from the damaging environments from which they were removed.

Eden is one of the forerunners in a new era of social-business ventures in Israel, namely Cinderella Careers and Sweet Future Espresso Bar, both of which reduce Eden's dependency upon philanthropy and simultaneously provide vulnerable women and girls with the skills and experience necessary for their integration into the working world.

# Encounter

## Location

US, Israel, West Bank

## Year Founded

2005

## Website

[www.encounterprograms.org](http://www.encounterprograms.org)

Encounter is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of the Jewish people to be constructive agents of change in transforming the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. To date, over 1700 American Jews, representing the full gamut of opinions on the conflict, have participated in Encounter programs.

Founded by American rabbis and rooted in Jewish tradition, Encounter is a conflict transformation organization, equipping influential Jewish leaders from across the political and ideological spectra with access to Palestinian perspectives and claims on the ground.

Encounter's flagship two-day trips, advanced and alumni programs, and the Davar Acher: Leadership Program bring Jewish participants to the West Bank on tours to meet with Palestinian leaders in business, media, non-violence activism, education, and politics.

Encounter also works with leading educators and alumni to revamp Israel education so that American Jewish youth are more equipped and committed to act as informed change agents and less inclined to give up engaging with Israel altogether. Research demonstrates that simplistic advocacy efforts are driving away younger people's engagement with the Jewish community and their commitment to Israel. Encounter aims to reverse and transform this reality.

Underlying all of Encounter's work is the core belief that innovative strategies for peace will be created only when influential stakeholders in a conflict have opportunities to meet one another, to open themselves to previously disregarded points of view, and to develop relationships across political and ideological divides.

# Gvahim

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## Location

Tel Aviv, Israel

## Year Founded

2006

## Website

[www.gvahim.org.il](http://www.gvahim.org.il)

Gvahim's purpose is to see a successful "Brain Gain" taking place in Israel, where highly skilled immigrants can find quality positions in their fields, bringing international experience and knowledge to the benefit of their workplaces and to Israeli society as a whole.

Immigrants' biggest challenge upon immigrating to Israel is finding employment at the level of their qualifications and experience. This is the main reason why highly-skilled immigrants go back to their countries of origin. This results in a loss for themselves, for the areas to whose development they could have contributed had they enjoyed a successful professional and social integration, and for Israel's economy at large. Many immigrants lack a general understanding of the significantly different cultural nuances of the Israeli job market and of how to search for and land a job in Israel. Many come from professions that don't exist in Israel or require re-certification, and they need to find a way to repackage their skills and experience in a very different market. Finally, many lack personal and professional networks in their new country, which puts immigrants at a significant disadvantage in getting a job.

Gvahim offers workshops, individual HR consultation, mentoring and placement support for highly trained immigrants to Israel to help them find employment commensurate with their training and experience.

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# Innovation: Africa

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## Location

New York, NY

## Year Founded

2008

## Website

[www.innoafrica.org](http://www.innoafrica.org)

Innovation: Africa (IA) brings sustainable Israeli technologies to African villages. Its mission is to involve young Jews in facilitating sustainable development in Africa, while supporting Israel's economy and image around the world.

Since 2008, Innovation: Africa has completed 71 solar and agricultural projects, bringing electricity, improved education, proper medical care, clean water, food and economic opportunity to 540,424 African people. IA's work is supported by donations of money and time from young people around the world (470 volunteers in the US alone) inspired by the values of tzedakah and tikkun olam (repairing the world).

# Israel & Co

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## Location

New York, NY

## Year Founded

2011

## Website

[www.itrekisrael.org](http://www.itrekisrael.org)

Israel & Co showcases the unique entrepreneurial and innovative nature of Israel by offering free trip planning services to students and industry leaders who wish to travel to Israel.

The statistics surrounding the amount of startups conceived in Israel is truly remarkable. A small country with roughly 8 million people boasts over 4,800 startup companies and attracts far more venture capital per person than any other country in the world.

Israel & Co. provides pro bono educational and trip planning services to business schools and companies that wish to bring their students and employees to see firsthand what makes Israel a natural environment for creativity, innovation, and inspiration. Taking advantage of the fact that most business schools encourage students to travel to other countries to understand their economies and business landscape in person, Israel & Co.'s primary focus is to organize 7-10 day educational travel tours for MBA students and professors to connect to all sectors of innovation including technology, agriculture, business and government. The trips provide a high-value opportunity to meet the pioneers of the Startup Nation, to immerse in the culture of innovation, and to bring home knowledge, tools and inspiration you can only get from taking a trek outside the classroom.

To date, Israel & Co. has worked dozens of top rated graduate business school programs including Booth, Wharton, Babson, MIT, Berkeley, Yale and University of Michigan, as well as a number of undergraduate programs and a significant number of corporations and investors.

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# Israel Free Loan Association (IFLA)

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## Location

Jerusalem, Israel

## Year Founded

1990

## Website

[www.israelfreeloan.org.il](http://www.israelfreeloan.org.il)

Inspired by Biblical texts that forbid Jews to charge interest on loans to other Jews (Exodus 22:24 & Leviticus 25:37), and by the medieval Jewish scholar Maimonides' teaching that the highest level of *tzedakah* is to give the poor a loan or a job that can create self-sufficiency, the Israel Free Loan Association (IFLA) has become the largest Jewish interest-free loan organization in the world. Since its inception in 1990, IFLA has lent out over \$200 million (US) by providing over 50,000 interest-free loans. Currently IFLA lends out over \$20 million every year to Israelis. Thanks to proper loan management, IFLA has an average repayment rate of 99.8% since inception.

IFLA loans help many sectors of Israeli society in numerous ways. They enable Israelis without sufficient means to open small businesses or expand existing ones, help Ethiopian immigrants move out of temporary housing, facilitate student loans to obtain academic degrees, allow ailing Israelis to purchase vital equipment and medicines or undergo operations, assist struggling Israelis get back on their financial feet, and much more.

IFLA believes that conventional charity can often hurt recipients by making them dependent and lowering their self-esteem. Interest-free loans, however, help without hurting by enabling people to empower themselves by eventually repaying the loans. Founded with an initial donation of \$20,000, IFLA's current fund base of \$45 million has been lent out several times over and continues to be recycled.

# Israel Venture Network

## Location

Herzliya Pituach, Israel

## Year Founded

2001

## Website

[www.ivn.org.il](http://www.ivn.org.il)

IVN is at the forefront of the social business arena (the “fourth sector”) in Israel, nurturing and growing this emerging sector and generating sustainable social impact by providing Israel’s social businesses with knowledge, financing and business world connections.

IVN is a venture philanthropy network of high-tech entrepreneurs, business executives, venture capitalists, corporations and philanthropists from Israel and the US. IVN’s network of members, along with its team of professionals, recruits and leverages its resources, contacts and experience from the business world in the social arena to develop this fourth sector. A social business is a social mission driven enterprise that uses business tools and whose revenues are channeled back into the business to achieve its social goals.

Most of IVN’s activities are focused on supporting the development of social businesses established to reduce social gaps, mainly in the fields of Employment and Career Advancement of Disadvantaged Populations (youth-at-risk, people with special needs, Orthodox, Arab & Ethiopian populations). IVN is also focused on social businesses engaged in lowering the cost of living, regional economic development, education and technology. IVN promotes regulations and legislation related to Israel’s emerging social business sector; invests in promising social businesses; and mentors, develops & grows said businesses.

To date, IVN has invested more than \$1.6 million in close to 30 social businesses.

Each one of those businesses receives a loan with preferential terms or a capital investment; a grant through a network of investment partners worldwide; and close guidance by more than 100 IVN mentors and the IVN professional team, using their extensive experience in business management, strategic consulting, venture capital financing, as well as marketing & sales.

# ITWorks

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## Location

Israel

## Year Founded

2006

## Website

[www.en.itworks.org.il](http://www.en.itworks.org.il)

Working across the State of Israel, ITWorks provides economically disenfranchised populations with technical training, professional skills and job placement support, helping them launch a career in Israel's thriving hi-tech and communications industries.

ITworks aims to impact Israel's employment map by closing the job placement and income gaps between social and ethnic groups, genders and Israel's thriving center and flagging periphery. The organization's programs promote personal empowerment and professional change through quality technological employment, while enabling the hi-tech boom to benefit all sectors of society. Participants are recruited from Israel's social, economic or geographic periphery, and include women, Arabs, Druze, Circassians, new immigrants, adults with intellectual and sensory disabilities, the Ultra-Orthodox community and more.

ITWorks cooperates with local and national bodies, as well as with Israel's leading technology-based companies, to ensure that all programs are tailored both to the specific needs of each target group and to the technological needs of local businesses.

# Jasmine

## Location

Givat Haviva, Israel

## Year Founded

1997

## Website

[www.jasmine.org.il](http://www.jasmine.org.il)

Jasmine works to expand economic, professional and personal opportunities for all Israeli women – from all population sectors and ethnic, financial and religious backgrounds – in order to enable women in Israel to participate to the fullest extent possible in the Israeli economy. In doing so, Jasmine elevates the status of Israeli women, advances Israel’s economy and strengthens Israeli society as a whole.

Every one of Jasmine’s programs recognizes the shared challenge faced by all Israeli women, including Arab, Haredi, and secular women. These programs, which often specifically take place in mixed Jewish-Arab cities, intentionally create opportunities for economic and cross-community partnership and foster co-existence. They include a micro-loan program for low-income peripheral communities; job training programs for economically marginalized women; an annual conference for all Israeli businesswomen; a trilingual portal that hosts women-owned business websites and online shops for free; and various training and mentorship programs for women seeking gainful employment, small-business owners and women business leaders.

# Jindas - Urban Regeneration in Lod

## Location

Lod, Israel

## Year Founded

2011

## Website

[www.jindas.org.il](http://www.jindas.org.il)

Jindas, The Non-Profit Organization for Urban Renewal in Lod, was established in 2011 by members of the “Derech Lod” community, a community of young adults aged 27- 35 who decided to move to Lod in order to advance social change, improve the quality of life of the city’s inhabitants, work for equal rights for all of the city’s inhabitants, and strengthen the dialogue between different communities in the city. Most of the Derech Lod community members take an active part in voluntary activity on a daily basis in the city.

Jindas aims to enhance urban regeneration and to create and strengthen partnerships between the different communities in Lod with an emphasis on Arab-Jewish relations. Such processes, Jindas believes, will bring the city back to its historical status as one of the eminent cities in Israel, located a short distance from Tel Aviv. This project will focus on four distinct fields of action:

- Renewing and upgrading the housing, public space, and infrastructure of the Neve Yerek & Ramat Eshkol neighborhoods, which house 10,000 residents, 70% of whom are Arab and the remaining 30% are Jewish immigrants from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. The project will include physical rehabilitation of facades of buildings in the neighborhood, basic infrastructure in buildings (such as sewage, electricity and drainage), developing welcoming public areas between buildings, and creating local leadership that will strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between different communities.
- Restoring and developing the historic center of the city, which will allow the heart of the historic area become the biggest tourist site in the center of Israel. This project involves preservation and rehabilitation of ancient buildings dating back hundreds of years and advancement of archaeological excavations, in which the residents will actively participate. This area will be developed both to create cultural and economic vibrancy and to attract tourists, providing a platform for economic growth.
- Rehabilitation of the Ayalon River and landscape development leading to an urban park, paving a bicycle route that will connect Lod to Tel Aviv, and further developing the entirety of the landscapes around the city.
- Economic Development, including setting up platforms for the development of economic initiatives of the residents of Lod, to enable business initiatives to develop the area as well as to create an active commercial area to realize the principles of mixed-use spaces that can improve the living standards of the people of the region.

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# Kama Community - Tor HaMidbar

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## Location

Beer Sheva, Israel

## Year Founded

2006

## Website

[www.torhamidbar.org.il](http://www.torhamidbar.org.il)

Tor HaMidbar employs an innovative approach to achieving social change in Israel. Based in the city of Beer Sheva in Israel's Negev region, the organization runs social businesses, helps build intentional communities and is committed to promoting sustainable change and protecting the environment.

Tor HaMidbar believes that the best way to make sustainable change is to tackle issues from a socioeconomic perspective, working from within local communities to create change. Its mission is to reduce disparities between different socioeconomic groups in Beer Sheva and to help provide equal rights to all citizens.

Above all, Tor HaMidbar believes in the value of creating community. All of its projects are run by local community members and its sphere of influence grows as members share their work with their larger networks.

Tor HaMidbar was founded by members of the Kama Community, an intentional community started by a group of young Israelis and families in Beer Sheva who share a vision of how to create a more egalitarian society in Israel's periphery.

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# Keren Shemesh

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## Location

Herzliya, Israel

## Year Founded

2005

## Website

[en.ksh.org.il](http://en.ksh.org.il)

Keren Shemesh assists young entrepreneurs in establishing their first business, creating jobs for themselves and others. The organization provides relationships, guidance, and tools to turn entrepreneurial dreams into successful businesses. Since its founding in November 2005, Keren Shemesh has provided support to over 1,400 new businesses.

Keren Shemesh is a community based on a wide range of mentors: a network of over 400 people whose extensive and varied business experience provides invaluable guidance to young entrepreneurs beginning their way. Mentors volunteer their time and energy to support these young professionals with concrete business advice, an attentive ear, and guidance in the wide range of needs involved in launching a business. Keren Shemesh also offers a variety of additional resources for entrepreneurs and alumni, including subsidized business consulting from outside organizations, workshops, courses, conferences, and more.

# Koret Economic Development Funds (KIEDF)

## Location

Tel Aviv, Israel

## Year Founded

1994

## Website

[www.kiedf.net](http://www.kiedf.net)

KIEDF demonstrates that philanthropic funds can be used efficiently to stimulate economic development and employment opportunity in the private sector in Israel. Through its platform of revolving loan programs, KIEDF has facilitated over \$315,000,000 (NIS 1.3 Billion) of new financing via partner banks to 12,500 new and expanding small, medium-sized and micro businesses, creating and sustaining nearly 50,000 new and existing private sector jobs. KIEDF is recognized as the preeminent Israeli private source of credit and business services.

KIEDF uses its assets as guarantees to provide a portion of the securities needed to facilitate bank loans to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) unable to obtain credit on reasonable terms - the major problem of these enterprises - and applies investment proceeds to cover a portion of loan losses and administrative overheads. Each philanthropic dollar leverages up to seven times the credit to qualified clients and revolves continuously to generate new program credit.

**SME Business Programs.** Since 2010, KIEDF has concentrated its programs and resources on economic development in Israel's periphery, where the lack of credit availability on reasonable terms to SME's contributes significantly to the lack of employment opportunity, especially for the young generation.

**Microfinance Services.** The economic structure and credit monopoly in Israel limits severely opportunities for people living in poverty to improve their economic situation through gainful employment. For many thousands, an independent income generating activity is the only way for them and their dependents to escape the poverty cycle. KIEDF microfinance services provide access to credit combined with ongoing business and technical services, the only such national programs in Israel.

# Leket Israel

Location  
Israel

Year Founded  
2003

Website  
[www.leket.org/english](http://www.leket.org/english)

Leket Israel serves as the country's largest food bank and food rescue network actively working to alleviate the problem of nutritional insecurity among Israel's diverse population.

A quarter of Israel's 7.7 million citizens (1.9 million people) are living in poverty; among them are some 850,000 hungry children. Yet, at the same time, literally hundreds of thousands of tons of perfectly good, nutritious food are needlessly destroyed each year. Furthermore, nearly a quarter of Israel's population suffers from an imbalanced or insufficient diet due to poverty.

The paradox of nutritional insecurity in the face of largescale food wastage led in 2003 to the establishment of Leket Israel. Today, serving as the country's largest food bank and food rescue network, Leket Israel's primary mission is to alleviate the problem of nutritional insecurity through the rescue and redistribution of excess food to benefit Israel's needy. As an umbrella organization, Leket Israel also works to assist at-risk population groups and the nonprofit organizations (NPOs) that serve them through nutrition education, capacity building, and food safety projects designed to improve professional standards among NPOs and other food provision agencies.

Each year, with the help of 45,000 volunteers and dozens of paid workers, Leket Israel rescues over 770,000 hot meals, 110,000 loaves of bread and over 18 million pounds of produce and perishable goods for the benefit of the needy. In addition, Leket Israel supplies over 1.35 million (7,600/day) volunteer prepared sandwiches to underprivileged children from 113 schools in over 30 cities. Food is reclaimed from hundreds of food suppliers and is then redistributed to 190 partner NPOs assisting the poor, invalid-elderly, minorities, children, and at-risk population groups throughout Israel.

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# Olim Beyahad

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**Location**

Herzliya, Israel

**Year Founded**

2007

**Website**

[www.olim-beyahad.org.il/en](http://www.olim-beyahad.org.il/en)

Olim Beyahad's vision is that embers of the Ethiopian Israeli community will integrate as a normative and integral part of Israeli life in the areas of employment, residence, education, and social life, and that Ethiopian Israeli university graduates with professional, economic, and personal strengths will serve as role models, take leadership roles among the Ethiopian Israeli community and become an integral part of the economic and social leadership in Israel.

Olim Beyahad mainly works to fulfill these dreams by operating its main program wherein it helps excelling Ethiopian Israeli university students and graduates with leadership potential to integrate into suitable jobs in the Israeli workforce, providing them with professional tools to excel in employment. Each program participant is accompanied by a personal mentor (an individual holding a senior position in the Israeli job market). The mentors become partners in working to fulfill the organization's vision, and they become active through the personal and emotional bonds they form with participants and the program. They also deepen their awareness of the problem and see their ability to create change.

# Presentense Israel

## Location

Jerusalem, Israel

## Year Founded

2009

## Website

[www.presentense.org](http://www.presentense.org)

Presentense is a community of innovators and entrepreneurs, thinkers and leaders, creators and educators from around the world who employ entrepreneurship as a tool to enrich communal life, grow local economies and solve critical issues facing society. Presentense Israel is the Israeli home of the international Presentense enterprise.

Presentense equips passionate people with entrepreneurial skills, tools, and support networks through community-based venture accelerators, innovation workshops, and entrepreneurship consulting.

**Venture Accelerators** train entrepreneurs and develop leaders to build creative solutions that meet local and societal needs.

**Innovation Workshops** catalyze organizations to enable their staff and/or constituents to innovate from within.

**Entrepreneurship Consulting** advises organizations and government on how to nurture innovation and creativity through their programs, policies and ecosystems.

Presentense partners with foundations and organizations, introducing them to a community of doers destined to lead us into the future.

# Ruach Hadasha / New Spirit

## Location

Jerusalem, Israel

## Year Founded

2003

## Website

[www.new-spirit.org.il/en](http://www.new-spirit.org.il/en)

More than 5,000 young-adults left Jerusalem in 2011. Recent statics show that only 21.7% of Jerusalem's population has a degree in higher education, as compared to 37% in Tel Aviv.

In 2003, a group of five idealistic students from the Hebrew University founded New Spirit with one dream: to ensure Jerusalem's rightful place as a young, vibrant, pluralistic and attractive city as befits the capital of Israel. Today, its programs and services reach over 15,000 young adults in the city of Jerusalem.

New Spirit is fighting the flight of young social activists and the creative class (ages 24-35) from the capital. These populations are central elements in the city's economic infrastructure and serve as "agents of change," pioneering the fight for the city's pluralistic Jewish character. The organization aims to transform the future of the city by addressing its strengths and weakness in the present tense. New Spirit works to rejuvenate the Capital by cultivating a young Jewish lay leadership through targeted projects and events. In this effort, New Spirit is fostering and mobilizing a community of young adults who are taking responsibility for the place in which they live and who are a driving force in effecting change in the cultural life of the city.

New Spirit has four primary goals:

- 1) To reduce the negative migration of young people (age 23-35) from New Spirit's "focus neighborhoods" (Kiryat HaYovel, Kiryat Menachem, Gilo, Gonenem, French Hill, Talpiyot, and the Downtown area).
- 2) To improve the image and atmosphere of Jerusalem in the eyes of the young adults who live in the city.
- 3) To significantly influence the municipal and national agenda and decision making in fields that interface between young adults and the city of Jerusalem: affordable housing, employment and economic development, assisting young artists, integrating communal methodology into the City's work in its neighborhoods and more.

Building a new "sector" that classifies itself as Secular-Jewish, which will connect the young-secular generation to a Jewish values framework and culture, and will create dialogue and a new Jewish way of life that is fitting to the current decade in the City. It will serve as a role model for the younger generation in Israeli society as a whole.

# Shutaf (Vocational Readiness)

## Location

Jerusalem, Israel

## Year Founded

2007

## Website

[www.campshutaf.org](http://www.campshutaf.org)

Shutaf is a year-round Jerusalem-based, informal-education program for children and teens with special needs. Shutaf was founded by two mothers, Beth Steinberg and Miriam Avraham, each parents to children with special needs, each frustrated by the lack of available and appropriate programs for their kids in Israel.

Shutaf is committed to a teaching model that welcomes and includes all children – with and without disabilities – regardless of educational, religious and socioeconomic differences. The organization hosts a variety of programming including vacation camps, summer camps, and afterschool programming. Young Leadership and Vocational Readiness program gives teenagers with and without special needs the skills, self-confidence, mentoring, and guidance they need to begin preparing for adulthood. The vocational readiness program provides hands-on learning opportunity while emphasizing the Jewish values of acceptance and understanding.

Shutaf knows that it's not easy being different – for children, for teens and their families. Shutaf programs provide a place of acceptance for all participants, where they can feel connected as a community while developing a sense of self-esteem and empowerment, necessary skills for being an active and compassionate citizen of a more inclusive world.

Shutaf believes that inclusion of children with special needs and their families is one of today's social justice issues in the Jewish community as well as in Israel. Fear, lack of education, as well as meaningful opportunities for integration prevent understanding and connection between people, an effort which must begin in childhood.

Families and children are isolated and marginalized by disability; in their synagogues, schools, neighborhoods and workplaces. Providing needed services while building an environment of shared responsibility and mutual understanding between all people, are the goals of all Shutaf programs. Openness to all members of society is also a core concern. As Shutaf grows, it intends to include Arab children with special needs, as well as children of African refugees and members of the Christian community in Jerusalem – along with proper staff support – at all Shutaf programs.

# Space IL

## Location

Tel Aviv, Israel

## Year Founded

2010

## Website

[www.spaceil.com](http://www.spaceil.com)

SpaceIL is an Israeli nonprofit founded by 3 young engineers at the end of 2010, answering the Google Lunar X Prize challenge. SpaceIL is aiming to make history and land the first Israeli spacecraft on the Moon and to inspire a generation along the way.

SpaceIL is the only Israeli team participating in international Google Lunar X Prize competition: a modern race to the Moon. The competition offers a prize of \$ 20 million to the first non- governmental team to accomplish three tasks:

1. Make a soft landing (without crashing) of an unmanned spacecraft on the surface of the moon
2. Travel 500 meters on, above, or below the surface of the moon
3. Send high definition video and pictures back to Earth

SpaceIL has a vision much bigger than the Google Lunar X Prize competition, however. It has taken upon itself a national mission: to use the inspiring story of the spacecraft to create an educational impact among the next generation in Israel and around the world.

Aside from landing on the Moon, SpaceIL's collective vision is to create a new "Apollo Effect" to inspire the next generation in Israel and around the world to think differently about science, engineering, technology and math. Despite its technological excellence, Israel faces a severe need for more scientists and engineers.

SpaceIL is committed to using the potential prize money to promote science and scientific education in Israel, to ensure that Israel will continue to live up to its reputation for excellence in these fields. But we're not waiting for the landing to create the impact. To date, SpaceIL has presented to over 50,000 kids in classrooms all over the world. We are developing curriculum, videos, and online content to reach many more.

Space and space exploration are the next frontier. The space industry has produced Satellite TV, water filters, UV sunglasses and many more inventions. SpaceIL's success will be a source of pride for Israel while introducing the world to new and innovative ways to explore outer space. In addition, the space industry has the potential to become a major growth engine for the Israeli economy.

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# Tech-Career

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## Location

Kibbutz Shimshon, Israel

## Year Founded

2010

## Website

[www.tech-career.org/en](http://www.tech-career.org/en)

Tech-Career transforms the professional opportunities available to Ethiopian Israeli young adults by training them for jobs in Israel's booming high-tech industry. Tech-Career provides professional technological training, personal development workshops and job placement services.

The organization is opening new opportunities to its participants while also building a cadre of young Ethiopian professionals with leadership skills and professional accomplishments who can serve as role models for other young Ethiopians and break down racial barriers in Israel's high-tech industry.

# The Israel Project

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## Location

Jerusalem, Israel & Washington DC

## Year Founded

2003

## Website

[www.theisraelproject.org](http://www.theisraelproject.org)

The Israel Project (TIP) is a non-partisan American educational organization dedicated to informing the media and public conversation about Israel and the Middle East. TIP provides facts to press, policymakers and the public on issues affecting Israel and the Middle East, the Jewish people and America's interests in the Middle East.

TIP does not lobby and is not connected to any government. TIP informs, providing facts, access to experts and news analysis. It offers real-time background information, images, maps, audio, video, graphics and direct access to newsmakers. TIP organizes press briefings and speaker tours, conference calls and educational trips, supports non-profit journalism, conducts public affairs research and adheres to the highest possible standards of accuracy and reliability.

Working in multiple languages, the TIP team collectively has decades of experience in media, government, policy institutes, research, academia and the military. TIP has an extensive Arabic media program. More than 1.2 million Arabic-speaking social media subscribers already follow content on TIP Arabic's Facebook page Israel Uncensored.

# Toldot Yisrael

## Location

Jerusalem, Israel

## Year Founded

2007

## Website

[www.toldotyisrael.org/en/](http://www.toldotyisrael.org/en/)

Toldot Yisrael records video testimonies of people who lived through the founding of the State of Israel in 1948. Personal stories bring a new perspective to the events historians have already written about. The mission of Toldot Yisrael is to capture the Israeli national narrative and preserve it for future generations. It is a last chance to record this glorious chapter in Jewish history before it is too late.

By presenting authentic, unedited accounts of the founding of the State of Israel, Toldot Yisrael's interactive archive will:

- Reinforce the positive role Israel plays in contemporary Jewish identity through these personal stories of genuine human triumph;
- Restore the sense of purpose for young Israelis by helping them reconnect to their past;
- Remind the world at large of the Jewish People's legitimate right to a sovereign state and its struggle for independence in the shadow of the Holocaust.

The Toldot Yisrael archive is housed in Israel's National Library, the official library of the State of Israel and the Jewish people, the Israeli equivalent of the US Library of Congress. The Library, which is building a new state-of-the-art home between the Knesset and the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, provides an excellent venue for the organization's work and will earn it a new level of visibility and national prominence.

Toldot Yisrael is targeting people who were at least 16 years old at the founding of the State (born 1932 or earlier) and would now be over 80 years old. Amongst the interviewees, Toldot Yisrael is documenting the varied narrative of Israel's founders, including native born sabras who took up arms to defend their homes and farms; survivors who escaped the Holocaust or their native Arab countries to rebuild their lives in Israel; WWII veterans who volunteered and helped build the fledgling Israeli Air Force and Navy; the brave men and women who spent the days, weeks, and months, leading up to the War of Independence under siege — in Gush Etzion, the Old City of Jerusalem, or elsewhere; and the ordinary people who lived through the Jewish People's extraordinary return to their homeland and the founding of the State of Israel.

# Tsofen

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## Location

Nazareth, Israel

## Year Founded

2008

## Website

[www.tsofen.org/en](http://www.tsofen.org/en)

Tsofen was formed in Nazareth in 2008 by Smadar Nehab, a high tech entrepreneur, Sami Saadi, an independent CPA and Yossi Coten, a hi-tech executive. After examining the pervasive lack of Arab employment in the high tech industry, and the near complete exclusion of Arab citizens from Israel's high tech economic engine, the three concluded that bringing high tech directly into the Arab community would best enable the integration of Arab citizens into the industry, as well as position high tech employment as a lever for economic development and prosperity within Arab society.

Tsofen High Technology Centers advances equal employment opportunities for Arab professionals in Israel's high tech industry and engages key Jewish and Arab stakeholders from all sectors – business, government, and civil society – to propel systemic change. Tsofen trains and places Arab university graduates in the high tech industry, and establishes R&D software development centers within Arab communities to advance equal employment opportunities and economic development that is economically and socially beneficial to the Jewish and Arab populations of Israel.

Tsofen's Nazareth center has been operating since 2008, and a second center opened in the Triangle Region (a concentration of Israeli Arab towns and villages near Haifa) in 2013. Its deep knowledge of the high tech field has enabled the organization to act as an intermediary between the Israeli government and the high tech industry. Tsofen is at a point in its organizational growth where it aims to partner with the government to expand their existing programs and to launch new ones as well.

# Unistream

## Location

Rosh Ha'ayin, Israel

## Year Founded

2001

## Website

[www.unistream.co.il/en](http://www.unistream.co.il/en)

In 2001, when socio-economic gaps in Israel were on the rise, Israeli businessman & entrepreneur Rony Zalom established Unistream to change the face of Israeli society and to provide youth from resource-scarce communities, who are excluded from the circle of success in Central Israel, the opportunity to realize their potential.

Unistream aspires to cultivate a business social leadership that will work to close gaps between those in central Israel and those in the periphery and widen scopes of success, tolerance & personal empowerment.

The organization believes that the cornerstones of socially active business leadership are acquisition of ethics, knowledge, management skills, hands-on experience, alteration of mind-set and personal empowerment.

Thus Unistream provides youth with expert tools to enable their transformation to business and social leaders. These tools empower them and they ensure youth's personal development and commitment to empower their local community. Over 700 teens currently participate in "Educating Tomorrows Leaders Today" in 13 centers countrywide. Participating youth are accompanied by more than 700 volunteer business leaders and entrepreneurs who teach, coach and share personal business experiences.

The 600 young-adult Unistream Alumni who are currently in the midst of fulfilling their dreams, equip youth with additional inspiration; they witness, first hand, that success is possible when you work to fulfill your dream.