

**The Jaffa Institute**

**Fighting poverty since 1982**

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2020



# Letter from the Founder

Dear Friends,

It feels like eons ago that we began 2020 with our regular activities: daily enrichment for at-risk youth, a ceremony for our scholarships recipients, and social events for the elderly.

Since then, COVID-19 has upended any semblance of normalcy. Throughout the year, the Israeli government instituted three separate lockdowns in March, September, and December, to curb the spread of the virus. During the first lockdown, the country's unemployment rate reached 27% – the highest figure in the nation's history – **representing one million citizens who lost their livelihood**. Of those unemployed, 56% were women, including many single mothers who found themselves trying to “homeschool” their children while coping with the loss of their livelihood. During this period, one quarter of parents reported that their children's mental health worsened and the number of cases assigned to the Welfare Department's social workers increased by 70% over the previous year.

Throughout the pandemic, the Jaffa Institute has continued to safely operate all of our programs—either remotely or in person. In fact, our services expanded to meet the growing needs of our community members, including children, parents, and elderly individuals who are more isolated and vulnerable than ever.

I was truly astounded by the creativity of our educators and social workers in addressing participants' growing difficulties. Their work was only possible thanks to your generous donations, which enabled us to purchase laptops for children, as well as to expand our food deliveries and other services.

I am honored to share with you our annual report detailing the activities that you made possible, as well as our activities and plans for 2021.

With gratitude,



Dr. David J. Portowicz



*Thank you to all of our  
partners and friends  
for joining us in  
supporting Israel's  
most vulnerable  
through these  
challenging times, and  
into a brighter future!*

# New Crisis - Same Mission

*The Jaffa Institute empowers Israel's most disadvantaged individuals to escape the cycle of intergenerational poverty.*

## Jaffa

Our namesake, Jaffa, is a short drive south of affluent central Tel Aviv, yet half of the population lives below the poverty line. Over the years, we have expanded our operations to south Tel Aviv, Bat Yam, Holon, Yehud, and Bet Shemesh. In each city, we work with municipal welfare authorities to identify families who are in need of our support. Beyond poverty, our program participants face social and personal challenges.

## Qualifications

In our nearly 40 years of operation, the Jaffa Institute has developed strong partnerships with local municipal social welfare authorities. The organization has twice received the Ministry of Education's top award for academic excellence as well as a presidential prize for volunteerism. Further demonstrating our positive impact, we have a "Seal of Effectiveness" from *Midot*, a nonprofit monitoring association.

## Strategy

Using a holistic approach, the Jaffa Institute addresses the numerous ways in which poverty affects our community by offering 40 different programs across five key areas: at-risk youth, residential programs, women and families, nutritional support, and elderly individuals. Through these anti-poverty initiatives, we serve more than 4,000

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16,000

food packages delivered  
for Rosh Hashanah &  
Passover



20

educational videos were  
created for the science  
mobile



90

safe and small outdoor  
concerts for the elderly



600

parents received  
support



1,200

therapeutic hours  
monthly for Holocaust  
survivors



1,000

hours of therapeutic  
treatment for parents



24/7

hotline  
for parents



85%

of women from  
“Welfare to Wellbeing”  
became employed



300

laptops were  
provided to children

2020

## Highlights



# Nutritional Support

# Nourishing the Body and Soul

## Hot Meals

Removing hunger as an impediment to learning, the Jaffa Institute provides hot meals to all of the children who participate in our programs. During the lockdowns, the program continued to provide the children with hot meals, delivered to their homes. Meals consist of a healthy balance of chicken or another protein, pasta, rice, vegetables, fruits, etc. Even prior to the pandemic, some of the youths who attend our after-school centers shared with staff that the hot meal that they receive from us is their **only guaranteed “real” meal of the day**. It is, therefore, vital for the children and teens’ healthy physical development and their ability to concentrate on our educational and recreational activities. In 2020, we provided approximately **221,760 hot meals to 530 children** in our care throughout Jaffa, South Tel Aviv, Yehud, Bat Yam, and Bet Shemesh.



## Food Distribution Center

Each month, we deliver non-perishable food packages to 500 impoverished households that have been referred to us by welfare authorities. COVID-19 presented a major crisis as our volunteers had to pack these boxes in small groups of 10 people at a time.



## Accompanying the Elderly

Complementing the Food Distribution Center’s non-perishable food deliveries, we provide elderly recipients with fresh food.

# Expansion of Nutritional Support

Due to COVID-19 and soaring unemployment that hit our service areas particularly hard, welfare authorities referred 43 new families to our Food Distribution Center; the Center increased its regular monthly distribution of non-perishable food packages to 550 households. We also provided over 5,000 households with special holiday packages for Rosh Hashanah and Passover. In addition to non-perishable food packages, we delivered hot meals, face masks, and hygiene products as well as donated toys, clothes, diapers, linens, formula, and gift cards. During the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, volunteers baked and delivered cheesecakes to Holocaust survivors.



## Our Volunteers



The Jaffa Institute welcomes thousands of volunteers annually, including individuals, foreign and Israeli groups, and corporate teams.



# Elderly Individuals



# Healing for Holocaust Survivors

Elderly individuals are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, both in terms of physical and mental health. Creating a virtual support network, our staff and volunteers called program participants on a daily basis starting in March. To communicate with everyone, we recruited new volunteers, including Russian-speakers. After each phone call, the volunteers completed a Google Form to update the program manager on the participant's wellbeing. Through this process, the participants confided their anxieties about contracting coronavirus and running out of food, as well as increased feelings of loneliness and the resurfacing of traumatic childhood memories of the Holocaust.



## Therapy Project

With the support of our donors, in April, we began providing Holocaust survivors with professional therapeutic support to cope with their post-traumatic stress, depression, and anxiety. Our social workers also provided practical assistance, such as coordinating emergency home repairs and purchasing fans during the heat wave.

## Coffee Clubs

In the city of Bat Yam, we adapted our social clubs for Holocaust survivors to operate remotely through text groups and daily Zoom activities, including lectures and trivia games. To promote the participants' physical health, the program coordinator delivered exercise bands to each individual's home along with meals.

*“Everything that the Jaffa Institute does fills up their hearts...*

*There is laughter, there is longing, and there is nostalgia.”*

*- Ravit, Therapist*

# Accompanying the Elderly

Accompanying the Elderly is a holistic program providing therapeutic, social and nutritional support. A team of volunteers regularly visit and call participants and help with practical matters, such as grocery shopping. Social workers oversee the program and offer individualized counseling. Nutritional support is provided through monthly food packages with perishable and non-perishable goods. During 2020, the program served 300 participants, ranging from 66 to 100 years old, with an average age of 81. The majority of individuals are women. All participants have been referred by welfare authorities based on their severe poverty and lack of support systems. Approximately 60% of the participants are Holocaust survivors, and many are isolated from their relatives.

In 2020, we expanded our food provisions to include extra foods, hygienic items such as soap, face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer; and hot meals when local, municipal-run senior centers that had previously offered free lunches to our participants closed.



COVID-19 forced staff to modify the regular programming in consideration of participants' safety and public health regulations. Some of the creative initiatives launched include:

- **Virtual Passover Gathering** - With the help of our tech-savvy volunteers, we held a holiday gathering via Zoom, which included performances by well-known celebrities (Yoram Gaon, Shlomo Artzi, and Illanit).
- **Cozy Concerts** - In July, as the infection rate decreased and the Israeli government eased restrictions, we were able to hold small, in-person concerts in which 40 volunteers brought 20 musicians to perform in 90 different locations, including participants' balconies and nearby parks. Check out a [video](#) of a cozy concert! (English subtitles)
- **Weekly Concerts** - Our corporate partner, Max Card, provided participants and staff with free tickets to attend weekly virtual performances by well-known Israeli musicians.

# Program Spotlight: Mobile Café



Our educational programming staff repurposed our “STEM Kitchen” - an innovative program that uses cooking to teach science within an RV trailer - to become a traveling café. The staff drove the RV to several elderly individuals’ homes to cook them a homemade brunch while maintaining social distancing.

*“It gives life to the body.”*

*- Rachel, age 87*



# Program Impact

To assess the program's impact amid changing conditions from COVID-19, program staff surveyed participants. The results guided staff in modifying program activities to suit COVID-19 restrictions, and in prioritizing manpower and resources towards critical needs. More volunteers were recruited to provide extra hands to prepare and deliver extra food packages, and to increase the frequency of home visits (when safe), check-ins by phone, and to run errands for homebound seniors.



## Phone Buddies: Sima & Ofer

Sima is an energetic and social octogenarian. Her volunteer, Ofer, is a third-year university student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies. Within the first few minutes of their initial phone conversation, Sima and Ofer learned that they were neighbors. Once COVID-19 hit, they talked on the phone for hours, sharing life stories to pass the time in self-isolation, including discussing their shared hobby of tending for house plants. In late May, following Israel's first lockdown, Sima remained indoors due to her high-risk status. Ofer planned a surprise for his "phone buddy." He bought Sima a succulent houseplant from their favorite local nursery, and left it outside Sima's door. Naturally, Sima was delighted with her new plant!

## Program Participants Tell Us:

- Our dry food boxes scored 4.3, and our fresh food boxes 4.5 out of 5.
- 90% are highly satisfied with the oil, tomato sauce, canned tuna, eggs, milk, chicken, fish, fruits, vegetables and cheese.
- 59% have been in the program for 3+ years.
- 68% experience loneliness.
- 76% reported a reduction in loneliness as a result of the program.
- 70% attended a program social event in the past year. They were twice as likely to report a reduction in their levels of loneliness.
- Of those who attended an event, 92% rated their enjoyment a 5 out of 5).
- 54% have poor relationships with family members.
- 11% reported that the program improved their familial relationships.
- 38% of all program participants received home repairs or renovations through the program.
- 50% of participants in the program for 3+ years received home repairs or renovations.

# Russian Outreach

In 2020, the program hired an additional experienced social worker who is fluent in Russian and Hebrew. Also, a Russian-speaking volunteer was recruited to conduct a survey with Russian-speaking participants, in the same way that fluent Hebrew-speaking participants were being surveyed. The program manager was particularly interested in the experiences of Russian-speaking participants, since she had noticed that they tended to decline visits from volunteers and invitations to social events. Understanding that this likely stemmed from a language barrier, rather than a sincere lack of interest, the program manager sought to learn how we could better address these participants' unique needs.



## Russian-Speaking Participants Tell Us:

- 86 is the average participant's age.
- 91% have medical issues, including hearing and/or vision impairment, dementia, diabetes, heart disease, and limited mobility.
- 19% regularly go out to socialize.
- Pre-COVID-19, 81% were completely homebound or ventured out solely for doctors' appointments.
- Several rely on a wheelchair or cane and are afraid of falling if they go out.
- 75% are single or widowed.
- Over 50% live alone.
- 69% receive limited help from a caregiver provided by the state.
- 94% are very satisfied with the program's dry and fresh food packages.
- 25% don't have someone to translate for them; 66% do have a family member who speaks Hebrew, but don't want to "bother" them; a few can communicate in Hebrew if the other person speaks slowly.
- Several acknowledged that receiving visits from a Russian-speaking volunteer for socialization as well as for practical support, would be beneficial.

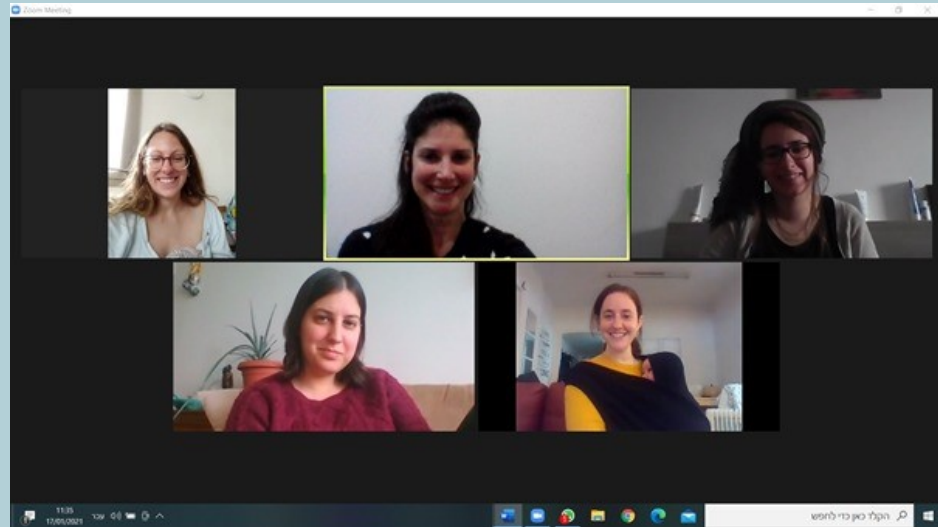


# Women & Families

# Strong Families, Strong Israel

**Rooted in the notion that early childhood experiences are formative, our Parent-Child Center serves families with children under the age of six across two program sites.**

**Virtual mom's group on right**



## Crisis Response



**Called 600 families and launched a new hot line**



**Created videos, remote lectures, and workshops in Hebrew and Arabic**



**Promoted our services on social media and in text messaging groups**



**Provided materials to families as needed (books, toys, clothing, crayons, etc.)**

## New Routine



**Reopened the program sites in late May**



**Operating in 45-minute shifts with 6 families (there is a waitlist)**



**Cleaning thoroughly in between shifts**



**With funding, our staff hope to renovate the balconies, which is the safest space**

# Parent-Child Center

The Parent-Child Centers provide holistic support to at-risk children and their families through therapeutic activities and counseling, alongside community cohesion initiatives. The Centers currently include two sites in Jaffa and south Tel Aviv, and provide regular lectures at the Beit Rekah Community Center in the predominately-Ethiopian Jaffa Daled neighborhood.

In order to continue serving the 600 families attending our Parent-Child Centers during COVID-19 lockdowns, the staff conducted weekly phone calls with parents, offering emotional support and practical advice. Staff also maintained contact with their communities through Facebook, and provided them with virtual offerings, such as videos with songs and dances that families could practice together at home; and lectures on a variety of parenting topics from toilet training, to sibling relationships, to helping young children cope. We are so pleased that new parents joined lectures, including some living outside our regular service areas.

The Centers currently welcome families in small groups in shortened time slots. In 2021, we are hoping to renovate the Centers' rooftop balconies and outdoor spaces to maximize the potential to welcome additional families.

## 2020 Impact

- 600 parents received support.
- 24/7 hotline for parents during Israel's first and most restrictive lockdown.
- 510 check-ins by phone.

## 2020 Programming

**Adjustment to Motherhood** - Three cohorts for first-time mothers and two cohorts for second-child mothers.

**Language Development** - An experiential group for speech and language development led by a speech therapist and occupational therapist.

**Musical Babies** - A new group in 2020 for musical communication for babies six months to one year.

**Psychodrama** - Therapy in a group setting that uses dramatization, role playing, and self-representation to gain insight into one's life.

## New in 2021

- Fathers' parenting and support group.
- Group for mothers with kids six months to one year.
- Therapeutic gardening group.
- Postpartum couple group.
- Parenting course adapted for Ethiopian immigrant mothers, in collaboration with the Jaffa Cross-Department of Social Services, and an interpreter.

- Distributing games, art supplies, books and other materials to families during lockdowns.
- 1,000 hours of therapeutic treatment (individual, parent-child, couple, and group).



# Women's Empowerment

## Complex Problems: Comprehensive Solutions



**Despite Israel's record high unemployment due to COVID-19, 85% of 2020 program graduates have successfully found and maintained employment.**

As a part of the Jaffa Institute's commitment to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty, the [Welfare to Wellbeing Program](#) assists diverse and long-term unemployed women, primarily single mothers, to enter the workforce. Empowering the women to achieve both financial and personal independence, Welfare to Wellbeing provides participants with vocational training along with therapeutic interventions. Approximately 85% of graduates find (and keep) jobs. The support continues long after the program ends. Staff maintain regular contact with former participants, providing counselling and job search assistance, if needed. At the beginning of the pandemic, many alumnae were furloughed.

Now entering its 11th year, the program's reputation attracts women struggling with intergenerational poverty and long-term unemployment from Tel Aviv-Jaffa and the surrounding area. The Jaffa Institute collaborates with welfare authorities, as well as other local NGOs to spread awareness of the program. In addition, we launched three new partnerships with other nonprofits this year to recruit more women to the program.

## Breaking Free: A Path for Former Female Prisoners towards Reintegration, Independence and Healthy Behavior

In 2020, the program expanded to include two course cycles running in tandem, with the first taking place in our classroom at the Jaffa Institute, and the second, just outside Tel Aviv-Jaffa, in collaboration with the Prisoner Rehabilitation Authority. This pilot project serves recently incarcerated women who receive vocational and technical skills training, and therapy, in an effort to reintegrate into society, and decrease their likelihood of reoffending.



# At-Risk Youth

# Bridging the Digital Divide

At the onset of the outbreak, the Jaffa Institute shifted its programs to primarily operate remotely, providing laptops and hot meals to the impoverished children in our care. Given their at-risk status, it was imperative that our staff maintain ongoing contact with every program participant. At the same time, our **Neve Ofer House** crisis residential facility for vulnerable children and our **Food Distribution Center** both remained open in person due to their critical nature. Throughout the pandemic, the Jaffa Institute has continued to safely operate all of our programs. In fact, our services expanded to meet the growing needs of our community members, including children, parents, and elderly individuals who are more isolated and vulnerable than ever. With your support, we purchased and delivered **laptops** to all of the children. Ensuring a sense of routine, each program's coordinator created an online messaging group for the children in which they shared daily schedules with activities, such as art projects, scavenger hunts, dance challenges, science experiments, and educational projects. Using a hybrid model, our programming includes online learning as well as, to the extent possible, in-person activities implemented in small groups in adherence with the Ministry of Health's guidelines.

## Education for All



The Jaffa Institute's flagship **After-School Educational Enrichment Centers** close the opportunity gaps for 300 disadvantaged children, ages 3-12. Three of the Centers are designed to address the unique challenges of children with special needs while four serve the children of asylum seekers and migrants. In 2021, the Jaffa Institute will launch three new centers in collaboration with the municipalities of Bat Yam and Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

# The Science Mobile

Since launching in 2019, the **Science Mobile Program** has operated within an RV trailer. However, when the pandemic struck, the staff created 20 engaging **educational videos** with activities for the children to complete at home.

Later in the year, in honor of Hanukkah in December, the Science Mobile focused on building an electrical circuit. In this activity, the children learned about electrical energy in chemical reactions, conductive materials, and electrical circuits. In the end, children received kits for building an electrical circuit, and built themselves their own night lamp.



## The Great Outdoors



# Enriching Children's Lives

## Summer Camp

As Israel gradually reopened, our educational staff developed an innovative curriculum for our annual summer camp program. While the skies were closed, our program participants took **virtual field trips** around the world! To feel authentic, the children created their own "passport," which was stamped during visits to Italy, Japan, Africa, and Israel.

Compensating for the months the children spent at home with limited stimulation, the camp focused on the dynamic theme of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), integrating fun learning opportunities across art, sports, and other activities.

**Stay tuned for updates on our comprehensive 2021 summer camp programs!**

## Chemistry Laboratory

In 2021, the Jaffa Institute is introducing a **new Chemistry "Lab"** that will allow students to conduct experiments. Rooted in the notion that children, like scientists, have an intrinsic sense of wonder about the world around them, the project's goal is to engage students in hands-on chemistry activities that increase their knowledge and confidence in their ability to succeed in this field. The lab is outfitted with beakers, microscopes, and other equipment that allows participants to conduct experiments and begin to answer their questions about the countless scientific processes that occur within our own bodies and all around us on a constant basis. The vehicle also contains equipment for the staff to create educational films.



# Holistic Support

**To address our program participants' complex needs, the Jaffa Institute provides them with art, music, sports, and therapy.**

During the lockdown, our dedicated program staff delivered special care packages to each child's doorstep, including personalized letters, coloring books, and crayons. In addition, the Jaffa Institute ensured that families received meals and other essentials.

Recently, our **Musical Minds Program** hired a new teacher from the Israeli Music Conservatory. In the coming school year, this teacher will develop the program by expanding the curriculum to include more music theory and new instruments.



## Mindfulness



# Meet Ron (Age 15, Jump Start)

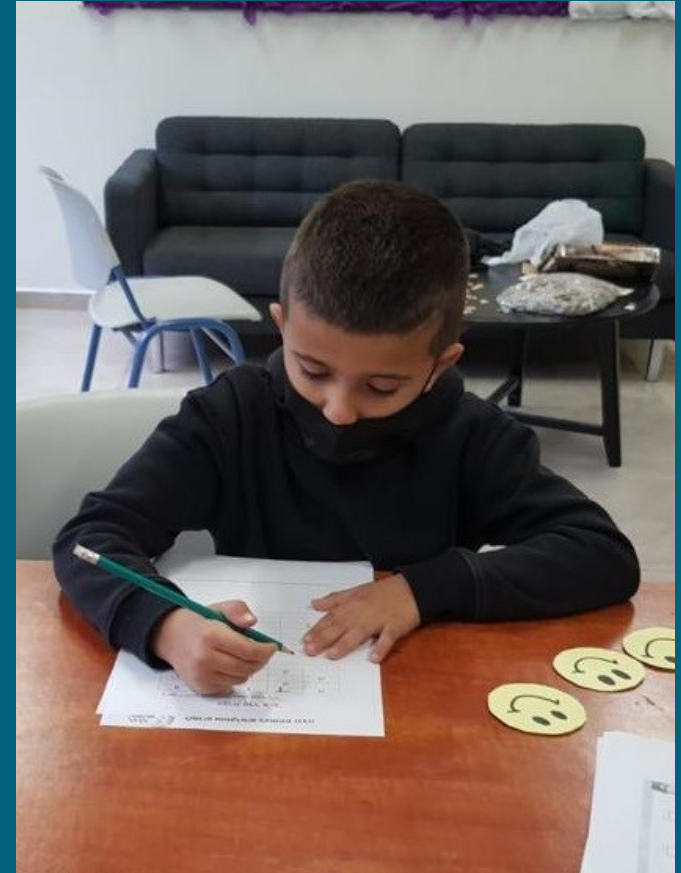
When COVID-19 struck, anxiety gripped 15-year-old Ron\*. Ron participated in the Jaffa Institute's Jump Start program for at-risk adolescents for the past two years. Before corona, Ron attended the program twice a week. After eating a snack, he would discuss how things were going for him socially and academically and receive individualized assistance from his tutor, Sabine. Thanks to this support, Ron advanced from his school's remedial math to the mainstream class.

In March, Israel closed school doors. Ron worried about falling behind again and having no one to talk to about his stress. His fears were put to rest when he received a laptop from the Jaffa Institute, which allowed him to participate remotely in both his classes and Jump Start. At the end of the year, Ron's school once again suggested a new math class for him, this time moving him to the highest level possible!

Ron's success demonstrates **what can be achieved with kindness and support**. Thanks to the generous support of its donors and volunteers, the Jaffa Institute has been able to expand its services during the pandemic to meet participants' growing needs. In addition to providing students with laptops, the organization extended Jump Start to operate during the summer.

\* The Jaffa Institute uses pseudonyms to protect the identity of program participants.

## Academic Support



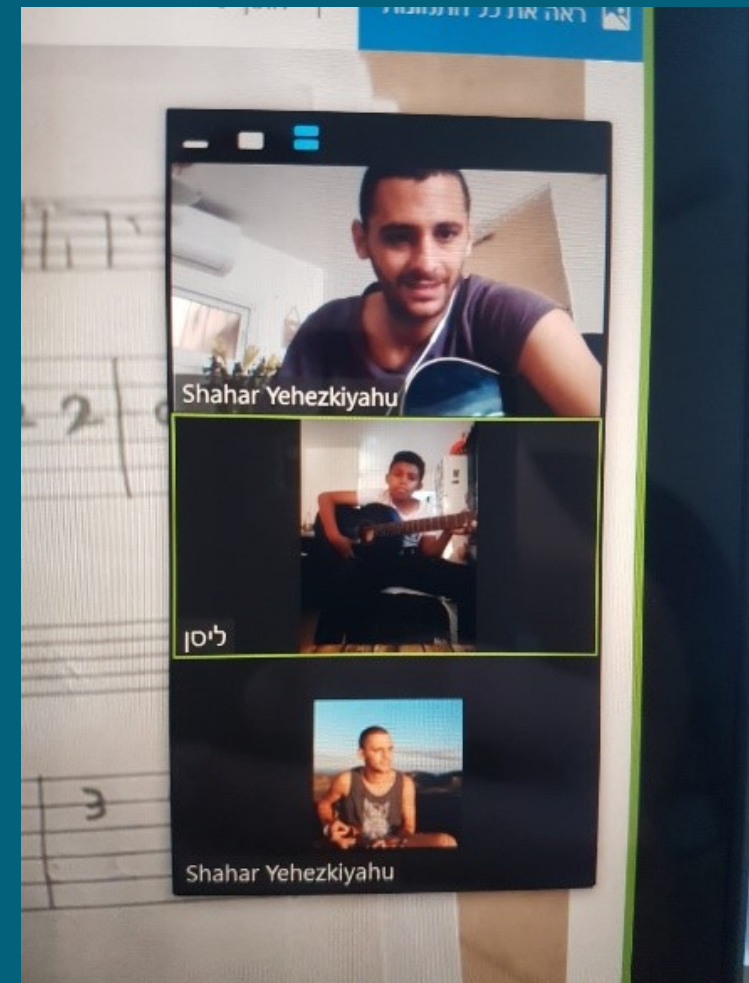
# A Continuum of Support

Operating within a therapeutic framework of support, the Youth Club provides disadvantaged teenage boys, primarily from Ethiopian families, with enriching recreational, social, and educational activities during the evening hours. The program meets three evenings a week from 6 to 9 pm in a safe environment.

In coordination with the Municipal Department of Welfare, the Jaffa Institute's staff members recruited these boys to the project based on their familiarity with the community. For example, our social workers found several of the boys wandering the streets of Jaffa Daled and persuaded them to participate in our activities instead. Prior to the pandemic, regular programming included movie nights, games, discussion groups, guitar lessons, canine therapy, soccer, therapeutic cycling, entrepreneurship workshops, cooking activities, capoeira, computer lessons, and more.

As schools closed their doors in the spring, the boys' sense of routine dissipated and boredom set in, heightening their vulnerability to the negative influences in their community. In response to this crisis, the Jaffa Institute adjusted its programming to operate remotely to prevent the youth from relapsing to old behaviors. For example, to continue the guitar lessons during the lockdown, the Jaffa Institute delivered the instruments to the boys' homes. Once a week, the teacher provided them with instruction via Zoom. Several of the boys shared that being able to practice the guitar while stuck at home significantly relieved their boredom and provided them with an outlet to release their pent-up frustrations and express themselves. Furthermore, their instructor reported that the boys demonstrated marked improvement.

## Guitar Lessons







# Residential Programs

# A Place to Call “Home”

An emergency residential facility, **Neve Ofer House** provides immediate and long-term relief to 10 children, ages 8-17, who have been removed from their families by social welfare authorities due to abuse, neglect, and other factors. Due to its essential nature, the program site has remained open throughout the entire COVID-19 period, while abiding by health regulations to ensure the children’s safety. Accommodating for the prolonged periods spent in the House, the residential staff organized extra educational, recreational, and social activities.



**Our award-winning Bet Shemesh Educational Center (BSEC) provides approximately 250 disadvantaged boys, ages 12-19, with nutritional, therapeutic, and academic support within a residential campus.**

## **Response**

To provide students with ongoing educational and emotional support, the BSEC adapted all classes and therapeutic sessions to operate remotely via Zoom. In May, as Israeli schools reopened, our students gradually returned to campus, quarantining for two weeks in their respective dormitories.

As a residential program, COVID-19 presented a major crisis as we closed our physical campus for approximately two months. Exacerbating this disruption, many of the boys’ parents work low-wage jobs and were some of the first to lose their jobs. This financial crisis made it even harder for these parents to support their children during this stressful and precarious time.

# BSEC'S Class of 2020

Despite COVID-19, the entire 12th grade class graduated, with every student pursuing one of the following healthy life paths:

- Enlisting in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).
- Participating in *mechinot* (army preparation programs).
- Studying at colleges, universities, or vocational schools.

## Achievements:

- 11th grade students improved by 3.8% in English and 5.3% in math during the year.
- 100% of 12th grade students graduated.
- **Ethiopian Integration Program** – 100% of the students in the Ethiopian Integration Program matriculated from high school, and enrolled in pre-military programs to prepare for their IDF enlistment.
- **Haredi Integration Program** – Graduates from the Haredi Integration Program matriculated at twenty times the rate of their peers in the regular Haredi education system, and 85% of program graduates received a professional technological certification.



# Second Chances in Bet Shemesh: Achia's Story

Achia\* joined the BSEC's Haredi Integration Program in grade 9 after being expelled from his previous school. Initially, it seemed like he would be a success, however, within a few months, Achia began experiencing uncontrollable outbursts so severe that he could have seriously harmed himself and others. Through intensive therapy, the BSEC's social workers learned about Achia's traumatic past, and the deep hatred he felt toward his father. As a foundation of trust developed between Achia and the staff, Achia confessed that he turned to illicit substances, provided by a family member, to deal with his difficult emotions. Achia continued with counseling and developed a strong connection with one of the principals. **The principal made him feel valued and allowed him to keep his ponytail hidden under his kipa, although according to regulations, he was supposed to cut it off.**

In grade 12, Achia was one of a select group chosen to participate in a Holocaust education trip to Poland. A trip highlight was a visit to the "Children's Forest" where students are given a letter provided by their parents. The students sat with teary eyes while reading their letters — except for Achia, whose parents did not send a letter. Achia was devastated. **Suddenly, the principal approached him, hugged him, and put his phone to Achia's ear to listen to a recording Achia's father had sent. Achia was calmer than the staff had ever seen him.**

Before graduation, Achia volunteered for a leadership role, organizing events. After graduation, Achia enrolled in a yeshiva for advanced Torah studies. **In June 2020, Achia invited the principal to a siyum, a celebration honoring his completion of an entire tractate of Talmud.** Despite the complexities of traveling due to the pandemic, the principal attended, and spoke about the high level of Achia's soul. He noticed Achia's father was in tears. After the speech, the principal said to Achia jokingly, "one day you will also invite your father to cut your ponytail!" The principal wasn't prepared for what happened next, as Achia looked at him and at his father and said, "I have a surprise for you!" Achia's study partner came over with scissors and, while his yeshiva friends sang, the ponytail fell to the floor. Knowing how connected Achia was to his long hair, there wasn't a dry eye in the room. **Achia's father told the principal, "If five years ago you would have told me that we'd meet at the my son's siyum, I would have laughed. Praised be G-d and BSEC for the support and warmth you gave him."**

\* The Jaffa Institute uses pseudonyms to protect the identity of program participants.

# Thank You

**During these difficult times, the Jaffa Institute is deeply indebted to our donors, volunteers, and staff, without whom, we would have nothing to report. Thank you for being a part of The Jaffa Institute family.**



# Get Involved

## Youth 4 Youth

The Jaffa Institute is proud to offer opportunities for young adults who are completing community service projects, such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah projects. Deciding to make a financial or in-kind donation to a project of their choosing provides teens with a meaningful way to mark their journey into Jewish adulthood.

## Rosh Hashanah Campaign

Just as we did during Passover, our Food Distribution Center is, once again, expanding the number of households it serves in advance of the upcoming Jewish New Year. With each special holiday food package costing \$80, we are raising funds to **feed 3,000 hungry families and Holocaust survivors.**

## Share

We warmly invite you to share this report with your friends, families, and communities. For additional resources, please visit our website and social media platforms listed on page 32.

## Planned Giving

For further information about adding the Jaffa Institute into your future plans, please contact Yechiel Marcus at [yechiel@jaffainst.co.il](mailto:yechiel@jaffainst.co.il).



**The Jaffa Institute**

# International Friends of the Jaffa Institute

The Jaffa Institute is a private nonprofit organization supported by funding from the government, philanthropists, businesses, foundations, and nominal participation fees; approximately half of our funding comes from Israeli sources. **To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit [www.jaffainstitute.org](http://www.jaffainstitute.org) or contact the “Friends of the Jaffa Institute” in your home country (listed below).**

## **Israel (Headquarters)**

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Charity Number: 11-2697261

# Follow Us

In 2021, we invite you to *virtually* visit the Jaffa Institute, and stay in touch!



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



[info@jaffainst.co.il](mailto:info@jaffainst.co.il)



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