

## Hillel – The Right to Choose

## Proposal for: Congregation Rodeph Shalom

### I. Organizational Overview:

Every year at **Hillel – The Right to Choose**, we see increasing numbers of young adults choosing to leave ultra-Orthodox communities to integrate into larger Israeli society. Upon leaving, *Yotzim B'sheilah* – as they are commonly called – are excommunicated from family and other support, face social isolation, financial stress, and homelessness; and struggle with significant gaps in core education and employment skills.

Since its inception in 1991, Hillel has helped thousands via services and programming. Our Centers in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Rosh Pina and soon Beersheva (launch in 2023), transitional apartments, and Jerusalem Emergency Shelter facility will serve over 4,000 in 2023.

Hillel provides comprehensive short-term assistance during the critical initial 3-5 year transition phase, coupled with tools and support for long-term actualization of social, educational and career goals. This is combined with a strong focus on community building and peer support. All Hillel programs share the long term objectives of full integration including stable employment, high-level education, secure housing, engagement in the community, and overall self-sufficiency. **Hillel is the only organization in Israel providing this range of comprehensive services for this population.**

### Target Population:

In 2022, Hillel's intake of new participants has already passed 600. That is 56% of the annual growth of the population of Yotzim B'sheilah. By year's end we are projected to serve 3,300.

### Programs and Services:

At all Hillel Centers nationwide:

- Hotline and Drop-In Services
- Psychosocial Counseling and Treatment
- Transitional Housing and Housing Subsidies
- Education and Employment Services
- Tuition-Aid Scholarships,
- Free Legal-Aid
- Emergency Shelter Services,
- Services for Single-Parents and Children

### Current Organizational Developments:

1. Hillel's new Beersheva Center will open in 2023. Hillel is responsible for start-up costs, but once established Beersheva branch will receive 49% funding from the Ministry of Welfare.

2. In addition, transitional housing at Hillel's "Bayit B'kibbutz" project at Kibbutz Hatzerim (8km from Beersheva), launched in 07.2022, is already at full capacity.

3. Hillel also launched transitional housing in Haifa, and will add 4 additional new transitional housing units for Yotzim (locations to be determined) in 2023.

## II. Financial Information:

| <b>Organizational Budget 2021 + Projected Final 2022:</b> |                     |                             |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Expenses:</b>  | <b>2021 Actual</b>  | <b>2022 Projected Final</b> |
| Scholarships  | \$ 629,567          | \$ 708,623                  |
| Emergency Shelter   | \$ 414,780          | \$ 420,992                  |
| National Activities                                       | \$ 311,319          | \$ 342,451                  |
| Hillel Centers  | \$ 380,928          | \$ 551,064                  |
| Transitional Housing                                      | \$ 320,355          | \$ 384,426                  |
| Volunteer Community                                       | \$ 260,883          | \$ 323,906                  |
| PR / Media  | \$ 311,267          | \$ 342,394                  |
| Pyscho-Social Services                                    | \$ 322,771          | \$ 355,048                  |
| Education & Employment                                    | \$ 329,392          | \$ 356,208                  |
| Single-Parent Services                                    | \$ 167,452          | \$ 195,667                  |
| Organizational Development                                | \$ 143,602          | \$ 145,000                  |
| Soldier/Lone Soldier Services                             | \$ 89,658           | \$ 90,000                   |
| <b>Total:</b>   | <b>\$ 3,681,974</b> | <b>\$ 4,215,779</b>         |
| Fundraising   | \$ 210,048          | \$ 210,048                  |
| Administrative  | \$ 367,723          | \$ 398,808                  |
|   | <b>\$ 577,771</b>   | <b>\$ 608,856</b>           |
| <b>Final Total:</b>                                       | <b>\$ 4,259,745</b> | <b>\$ 4,824,635</b>         |
| <b>Income:</b>  |                     |                             |
| Ministry of Welfare                                       | \$ 1,033,181        | \$ 1,207,503                |
| Israel Donors   | \$ 2,369,324        | \$ 2,409,629                |
| International Donors                                      | \$ 1,035,499        | \$ 1,207,503                |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>   | <b>\$ 4,438,004</b> | <b>\$ 4,824,635</b>         |

## III. Project Proposal:

### Project Need / Progress to Date:

Based on recent demographic studies by the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI) adjusted for average annual population growth, there are now roughly 83,000 Haredim in the southern periphery of Israel. This includes: Netivot, Kiryat Gat, Kiryat Malachi, Tifrach, Dimona, Ofakim, Sderot, Ashkelon, Arad, Eilat and Be'er Sheva. Given that approximately 10% are in the 18 – 35 age range, we estimate that there are currently 450 – 600 Yotzim in the region who could benefit from Hillel programs and services.

Yotzim in the south do not currently have any local access to vital Hillel programs, housing, services or crisis intervention aid. Based on input from participants and from municipal and service agents in the field, a southern Israel branch would benefit Yotzim in the region significantly.

To this end, Beerheva Director Avital Leider joined Hillel in 05.2022 and intensive mapping of needs, potential partners, and the search for a suitable facility are well underway. The “Hillel South” community of potential participants is already 100 strong, and talks with the Ministry of Welfare’s Director of Southern Regional Youth and Young Adult Services yielded Beersheva as the best location to launch a new Hillel Center in 2023.

Beersheva branch will be included in Hillel’s “Joint Initiative” with the Ministry of Welfare. Hillel will be responsible for start-up costs, but once established Beersheva branch will receive matching funds from the Ministry of Welfare at a rate of 49% of all branch operating costs.

As noted above, in addition, transitional housing to serve Beersheva participants is already underway via Hillel’s “Bayit B’kibbutz” project at Kibbutz Hatzerim (8km from Beersheva). The project launched in 07.2022, is already at full capacity. The Kibbutz allocated 3 kibbutz housing units (2 occupants per unit) to allow Hillel to begin providing transitional housing services to Yotzim in the area.

Project Activities in the Grant Period:

- a. Locate and rent an appropriate facility and hire a social worker.
- b. Conduct outreach activities to all relevant parties and prospective clients; begin building relationships with relevant local municipal authorities and social welfare agencies.
- c. Particular focus will be placed on accessing partners providing educational and employment services in the southern region; and on a detailed organizational framework for provision of support in that sector including: scholarship services, private tutoring support, comprehensive employment guidance, etc.
- d. Hillel staff will provide guidance to relevant partners on how to better identify and meet the needs of this population.
- e. Provide immediate security and support services for Yotzim experiencing homelessness and/or other high personal risk factors.
- f. Establish Hotline, Intake and psychosocial services, and all services provided and Hillel Centers nationwide.
- g. Develop the local volunteer recruitment and training program.

Project Budget 2023:

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>Staffing:</b>                               | \$1 = NIS 3.2     |
| Director + Social Worker (50%)                 | \$ 78,125         |
| <b>Other:</b>                                  |                   |
| Branch Start-Up [renovations, equipment, etc.] | \$ 30,000         |
| Tuition-Aid Scholarships                       | \$ 30,000         |
| Rent / Municipal Taxes                         | \$ 25,000         |
| Activities                                     | \$ 15,000         |
| Utilities / Maintenance                        | \$ 1,150          |
| Office / Communication Services                | \$ 1,000          |
| <b>Total:</b>                                  | <b>\$ 180,275</b> |