

Dear Friends,

For many years, the Keren Tzedaka (Charity Fund) of our synagogue has had the privilege of sharing our collected bounty with the needy. Our fund continues to grant emergency, one-time aid grants to Jerusalem residents who are known to, and referred by, a member of the kehila. Grants are given for a specific purpose to a family, individual or household.

In 2019, a total of 250,000 NIS was distributed, including Kimcha d'Pischa, support to the Battered Women's Shelter, and most significantly, grants to 58 families who received an average of 3000 NIS towards goods or services. Towards the end of this letter you'll find a few sample requests. Reading about their circumstances will likely make you shudder and realize how fortunate we are to be among the givers, rather than facing such a dire state of need.

These days, in light of the many challenges presented by the Covid -19 pandemic, we'd also like to emphasize that the Fund was initially established to help those who normally "make do", but find themselves in untenable situations in which they can't cover sudden expenses. If G-d forbid, any of our own members (or their acquaintances) is in need of support, we are here to help, while maintaining discretion and respect throughout the process!

We are asking community members to contribute generously to ensure that we can continue to provide assistance and fulfill the words of the last blessing in the Amida, emphasizing the obligation to help the needy:

"May peace, goodness and blessing, tenderness and mercy, and generosity be ours..." Further on, the task of bestowing tenderness and generosity is placed on those of us who pray and believe: "...for through the light of Your appearance, You have given us teachings of life and benevolent kindness, righteousness, blessing and generosity..."

Here are just a few examples of the requests which come for our consideration. It is impossible to overstate the importance of the kindness and generosity which we must extend to these brethren in need.

### **Assistance with Payment for Dental Care**

A widow, mother of a 7 year old daughter, suffers from severe health problems. Years ago she underwent a liver transplant which was rejected, and recently she was diagnosed with cancer. Her only income is her disability allowance. When undergoing dental treatment, even through a subsidized clinic, she couldn't cover the payments. *The Fund gave her a grant of 2,000 NIS to complete the treatment.*

### **Assistance with Purchase of a Closet for Children**

A single mother of four small children, of whom the eldest has special needs, for which she is registered at the National Insurance Institute, and has a youngest son who is just two months old. The family has significant financial difficulties. The mother experienced physical and emotional injuries in her youth, and due to the emotional trauma has not been able to return to work. The family is recognized by social services as having the lowest level of income, and has recently moved into subsidized housing. The new home is furnished with only basic necessities, and *the Fund provided a grant of 3,000 NIS to purchase a closet for the children.*

### **Assistance with Purchase of a Bed**

A woman, whose difficult and abusive marriage ended in divorce, is mother to four grown children, and grandmother to several. She recently moved to Jerusalem with the goal of supporting and helping two of her married sons, both of whom are schizophrenic, with daily chores and care of the children. In the past, she worked as a cook, but with age, her abilities have become impaired and she faces several of her own health challenges. She receives a disability pension and social services from the National Insurance Institute. During a recent home visit, it was discovered that she had no bed in the house. She slept on a padded board attached to the sofa. She suffers from severe back pain, but couldn't afford a bed. *She received 3,000 NIS from our Fund to purchase a special adjustable bed, which offers relief for her pain.*

### **Assistance with Purchase of a Bed and Washing Machine**

An Ethiopian woman whose mother died when she was 12, made aliyah with her father in 1991, and soon after, he remarried. She was enrolled in a boarding school in Israel, but didn't adjust well and asked to return to her parents' home. Ever since, she has been the primary caregiver, caring for her father until he passed away a few years ago, and now caring for her stepmother with great devotion. The woman turned to welfare services after years of depression and loneliness, expressing the feeling of being trapped in the home she shares with her stepmother. She is making great efforts to rebuild her life, including therapy, but still cannot be integrated into the workforce. The apartment was recently slightly upgraded by Amidar, but still lacks many basic essentials. It's cold in the winter, and she was sleeping on a mattress on the floor, which aggravated her asthma. She was also doing laundry by hand since they didn't have a washing machine. *The fund provided 4,000 NIS for her to buy an adjustable bed which alleviates her breathing difficulty, as well as a new washing machine.*

Please donate generously so that we, members of a community to whom G-d has mostly brought an affluent and good life, can give others a small portion of the prosperity we enjoy.

- Contributions can be made on-line [here](#). Receipts will be sent by e-mail.
- Checks can be made out to “BEIT KNESSET EMEK REFAIM”, but should be clearly marked for the “TZEDAKAH FUND” (otherwise they are deposited in the shul’s general expenses account), and should be mailed to Menachem Zer Kavod, 3 Barak Street, Jerusalem.
- Bank transfer in Shekels to Bank Hapoalim Branch 748 Account 659307
- US Dollar donations can be made through "PEF". Please clearly instruct PEF to direct funds to “Tzedakah Fund – Beit Knesset Emek Refaim”, and inform Menachem Zer Kavod that they are en route.
- You may contact the Tzedakah Fund members through our new e-mail address: [tzedakah@yael.org.il](mailto:tzedakah@yael.org.il)

With thanks for your support and cooperation,

The Tzedaka Fund Committee