



Meir Panim
Relief Centers in Israel

MEIR

SUPPLEMENTARY RELIEF CENTERS & SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

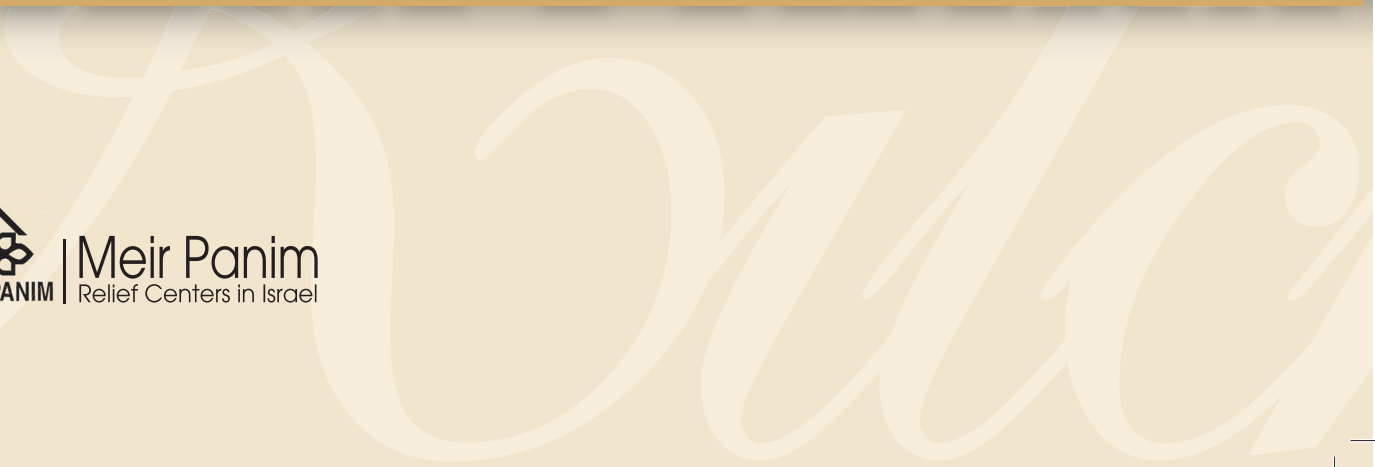
PANIM



MEIR PANIM



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CHAIRMAN'S NOTE



Meir Panim - Power of Giving's slogan "people for people" expresses our mission, in accordance with the Jewish saying, "in a place where there are no men, endeavour to be a man." (Pirkei Avot, Chapter 2, Mishna 6) With these ideals to guide us, Meir Panim has grown and developed, providing supplementary relief in over 200 cities, regional councils and communities across Israel. Recently, Meir Panim has begun a new initiative-M4F centers that unite all of our services under one roof, providing comprehensive care to the underprivileged, focusing on entire families and particularly on the next generation.

Meir Panim as other Israeli food providing organizations face today immense difficulties in feeding the needy where more and more people are in need of our services resulting from the rise in food prices. While donations from overseas are fewer and farther between, those that are received are worth less due to the global economic changes. Meanwhile, the rising costs of food, health care and education have left one quarter of the Israeli population in dire straits.

Meir Panim, along with other social services organizations, particularly in the periphery and low income areas, is deeply affected. We thus have less to offer to the neediest in what may prove to be the most trying period in their lives.

In this booklet you will find a small taste of the sweetness that eases the hardship and misery of many citizens of Israel. I call upon each and every one of you to offer a helping hand to Israel's impoverished populations as a message of good will and dedication towards a better world.

DUDI ZILBERSHLAG

Dudi Zilbershlag
Chairman

M4FCENTERS



M4F family centers answer the needs of many families, children and adults that need a supportive haven, protecting them from the turbulence of the environment in which they live.

M4F INTEGRATIVE FAMILY CENTERS



Life in the 21st century is characterized by rapid changes, globalization, increasing exposure of the individual to variety of media and content, as well as economic, social and educational gaps. All this has an impact on family life and the capability of the individual and the family to achieve independence and wellbeing. Meir Panim's new initiative unites all of its services for the needy population under one roof, in new holistic family centers across the country.

M4F family centers answer the needs of many families, children and adults that need a supportive haven, protecting them from the turbulence of the environment in which they live. At the same time, these centers provide the tools necessary to help the family make the fundamental change from a situation of dependency to one of independence and growth. Lack of ability to deal with the outside environment creates situations of isolation, alienation, verbal and physical abuse, and above all- a real need for family guidance and support. In our centers, the family is cared for on all levels, including family crisis situations, meeting the psychological and physical needs children and adults, food insecurity, unemployment and offering parental education and enrichment programs for children. The centers also offer learning and cultural opportunities, all targeted toward empowering the family unit, providing its services all week during the morning, afternoon, and evening hours.

FOODSERVICES

*Meir Panim's four
food projects focus
on distributing food
while preserving our
patrons' self respect.*



5,700 HOT MEALS SERVED DAILY



Meir Panim's four food projects focus on distributing food while preserving our patrons' self respect.

*Our soup kitchens are designed to look and feel like restaurants, preserving the dignity of our clientele. Daily menus are designed by a nutritionist to include all the main food categories and vitamins vital for proper nutrition, which needy individuals can rarely afford. The meals are served by volunteers who provide more than just a hot meal- they offer a sympathetic ear, and, when possible, a helping hand, to our patrons. We currently serve 2,400 meals every day.

■ MP supplies hot meals to thousands of poverty-stricken children in kindergartens and elementary schools learning in full-day programs. Our program acts like a caterer, offering its services to entire schools, so as not to single out the needy children. Our food center in Kiryat Gat, which will soon be ready for operation, will provide daily meals to 20,000 children across the country.

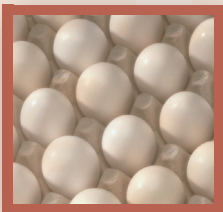
■ MP deliver 1,200 packaged meals to elderly, homebound individuals and holocaust survivors on a daily basis.

■ MP delivers food shopping cards worth 250 NIS of groceries each month to the needy.

FOODCARDS

This innovative project allows us to provide food for underprivileged individuals on a need basis without affecting their self respect.





FOOD CARDS FOR THE NEEDY

In our newest food initiative in cooperation with “Bank Mazon,” Meir Panim distributes food shopping cards resembling credit cards, which are used as a gift card at major food chain stores.

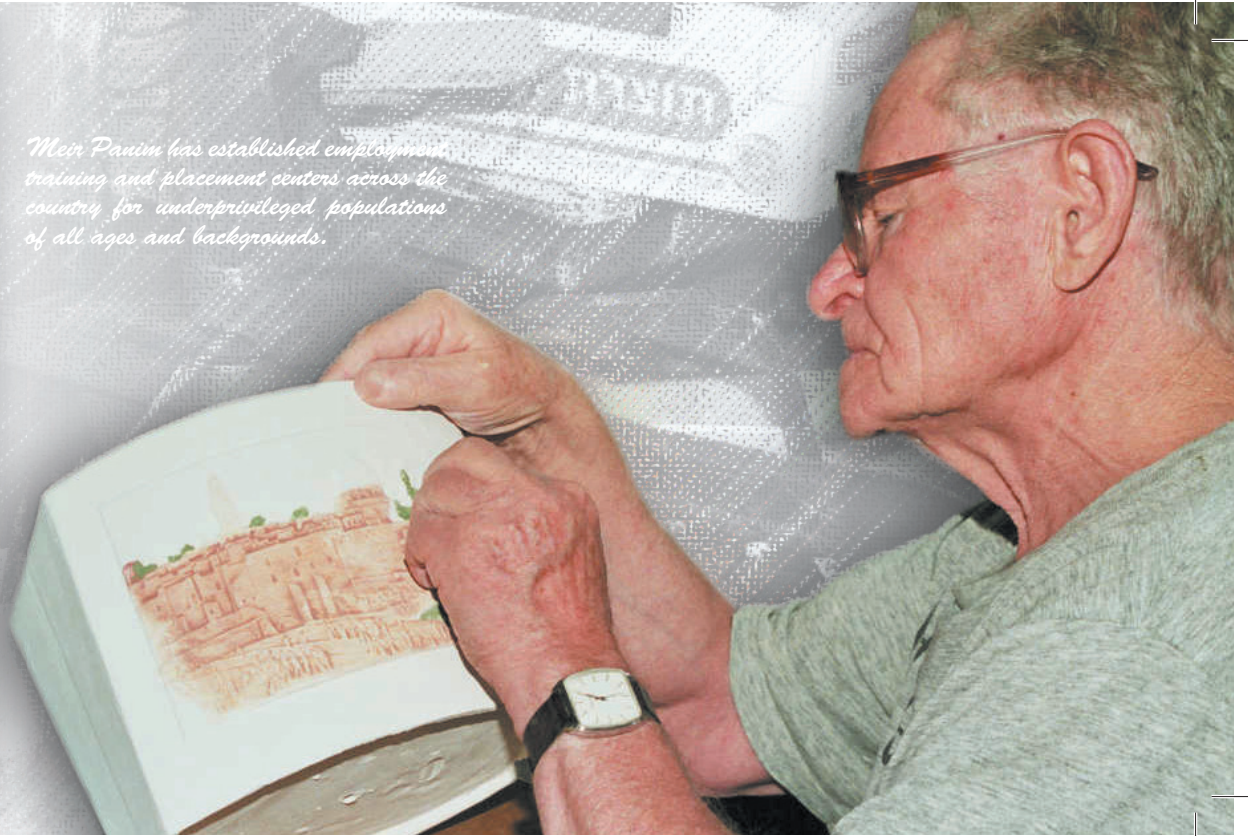
The card is worth 250 NIS of groceries each month (excluding alcohol and cigarettes), and is valid for six months, at which point the card holder may apply for a renewal.

This innovative project allows us to provide food for underprivileged individuals on a new level, without affecting their self respect.

MP also supplies cards valid for one month in honor of the Rosh Hashana and Passover holidays.

EMPLOYMENT HORIZONS

Meir Panim has established employment training and placement centers across the country for underprivileged populations of all ages and backgrounds.



EMPLOYMENT HORIZONS



Meir Panim's purpose is to prevent poverty, distress and dependence on governmental aid or charity, and to build self-esteem and independence amongst needy populations. Employment is a central tool in this mission, as it supplies income, improves self-esteem and self-worth, and provides a sense of meaning to the individual, his or her family and the surrounding community.

Underprivileged individuals deserve a place to turn to for professional guidance, training and job placement that is suited to their specific needs, just as other sectors of society can avail themselves of professional guidance, vocational training and job placement services. Such a service would help to stem the tide of rising poverty in Israeli society, which stands at a staggering 20%, or 1.65 million people.

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Meir Panim currently administers five tracks of employment training programs:

- Vocational training for unemployed women
- Software development training for young adults of Ethiopian descent
- Vocational training and employment for youth at-risk in supplementary services for elderly individuals
- Vocational rehabilitation clubs for the elderly
- Mafteach – employment placement centers for the Hareidi sector

MAFTEACH

Mafteach employment centers provide a place for Haredi persons to turn to for professional guidance and job placement, which is suited to their specific needs.



EMPLOYMENT CENTERS FOR THE HAREDI SECTOR



Maftach employment centers provide a place for Haredi persons to turn to for professional guidance and job placement, which is suited to their specific needs. Maftach Centers are a joint project of the Tevet Employment Initiative of the JDC Israel and the State of Israel, and are managed by Meir

Panim.

Maftach services include:

Career advice | Resume writing and editing | Referrals to external career training courses, including computer courses, bus driving courses, hydrotherapy, etc | Large-scale in-house job searching | Job placement | Long-term, follow-up after placement with employees and employers | Workshops for jobseekers

Centers are up and running in Jerusalem, Beitar Illit and Ashdod, where there are large Haredi populations. The demand for these services has proven to be significantly higher than we had believed. The sizeable amounts of individuals who turn to us and our impressive placement to jobseekers ratio underscore the need for these centers.

Based on the large need for such centers, we intend to establish new Maftach centers in Beit Shemesh, Bnei Braq, Elad, Haifa, Modi'in Illit (Kiryat Sefer) and Tzfat.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION



The vocational rehabilitation program currently functions in 3 cities: Dimona, Kiryat Melachi and Acco. We have also partnered with non-profit organizations that specifically deal with the developmentally disabled.

REHABILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED



Meir Panim, the Ministry of Health and the National Insurance Institute of Israel have partnered in order to rehabilitate and integrate developmentally disabled individuals through employment. In this program, groups of developmentally disabled individuals carry out rehabilitative vocational work in Meir Panim's soup kitchens. The workers assist in preparing food, serving it to the diners, and packaging meals which are delivered to elderly and homebound individuals and to schoolchildren. In exchange for their work, the workers receive a token salary.

This wonderful project has given new life to these individuals, and reintegrated them into society. The participants' wages give them a sense of independence and self-worth. The vocational rehabilitation program currently functions in 3 cities: Dimona, Kiryat Melachi and Acco. We have also partnered with non-profit organizations that specifically deal with the developmentally disabled.

YOUTH CLUBS

Elementary school students attend Meir Panim after-school clubs in 9 cities across the country four to five times a week.



EDUCATIONAL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS



The first to suffer the effects of the economic hardships confronting many families in Israel are the children. The lack of warm, nourishing food, endless hours spent alone while parents work late, neglect, and even physical abuse – a manifestation of parental pain and frustration – combine to paint a dismal picture. The results are immediately apparent: the children are restless, irritable, and aggressive. Education is their only hope to break out of the cycle of poverty and build successful adult lives, yet almost inevitably, schoolwork quickly falls by the wayside.

To keep these children within the mainstream of society, protecting them from the harmful effects of crises at home while providing a relaxed, supportive environment with professional guidance, Meir Panim has established a network of after-school clubs for welfare students. The clubs serve as a warm home away from home during the afternoon hours for children who have no one else to care for them during that time. They are run as a supplementary framework to school and provide the children with a proper framework all year round, including vacation days.

Elementary school students attend Meir Panim after-school clubs in 9 cities across the country four to five times a week. Professional teachers work individually with each child, assisting them with homework and other study projects and helping them prepare properly for tests. The children enjoy enrichment projects with an attractive variety of games, group activities, and computers. Before they leave for their homes, a light meal is served, to supply their critical dietary needs. Several of our clubs focus on excellence in specific areas of study, such as English and Mathematics, while others offer a broad spectrum of enrichment in all areas of the children's studies.

TZMICHIA

"Tzmicha" provides professional diagnosis and treatments in a timely and efficient manner for children, from birth and through age 18.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



In 2006, Meir Panim established a center for children with developmental disorders called "Tzmicha" in Jerusalem, in cooperation with Hadassah Medical Center and Variety. "Tzmicha" provides professional diagnosis and treatments in a timely and efficient manner for children, from birth and through age 18. The center includes an Early Childhood Medical Center and a Didactic Center for elementary school children. Disabilities treated include Cerebral Palsy, ADD, PDD, dyslexia, disgraphly, and other learning disorders, to name a few.

Treatments offered include para-medical and psychological treatments, art therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and psychological and emotional treatments, among many others. Tzmicha's staff consists of qualified psychologists, physiotherapists, speech and occupational therapists, child development physicians and social workers. We work together with the various HMOs and other relevant medical organizations to publicize our services and invite new patients. We also form contacts at schools and child-care centers, and with government agencies dealing with developmental issues.

POWER OF GIVING

Our Patrons choose the products that they need for their homes, pay a token fee, and their "purchases" are promptly delivered to their homes by POG's delivery trucks.



14 BRANCHES FOR HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT



Power of Giving (POG) collects secondhand equipment donated by Israeli citizens, including furniture, home electrical appliances, beds, tables, etc. for distribution to needy individuals. POG collects the donations directly from the benefactor's homes with its delivery trucks and brings the equipment to the network's branches throughout the country.

We repair, clean, and catalogue the furniture, and hundreds of volunteers distribute them to the needy, new immigrants, underprivileged newly-weds and lone soldiers. Needy individuals receive referrals to visit POG's centers from local Welfare and Absorption services.

Individuals and families choose the products that they need for their homes, pay a token fee, and their "purchases" are promptly delivered to their homes by POG's delivery trucks.

TELEPHONE CALL CENTER FOR THE COLLECTION OF DONATED FURNITURE: *3656

FRIENDS OF MP



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**SUPPLEMENTARY
RELIEF CENTERS
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ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

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