

# ELEM Youth in Distress Annual Report 2007

ELEM | עלים 

העמותה למוער במצבי סיכון (ע"ר) youth in distress



**Nava Barak**  
ELEM President

As president of Elem, I am honored to report a year of truly unique and significant achievements for youth at risk in Israel. This year marks the 25th anniversary of our important operations - the efforts of hundreds of devoted employees and thousands of volunteers from all over the country who consistently rise to the occasion and dedicate themselves on a daily basis all for the benefit of our youth- be it in the streets, in the night outreach vans, in our day centers or through our preventative programs and local leaderships.

These dedicated teams give of their time, their professional expertise and most importantly, give their heart and soul to offer youth a better life and help them become contributing citizens in the community. Despite the serious social, security and economic problems facing Israeli society, more and more citizens volunteer for the programs. We at Elem recognize that volunteers are greatly appreciated by the youth themselves and have a positive impact on their lives, as they rebuild trusting relationships and create a real change in their lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the important work of our 1,500 adult and youth volunteers all across the country.

One of Elem's latest and most innovative projects, "Derech Hamelech" (The Way of the King), has substantially grown over the past year. As the name suggests, the program provides youth who dropped out of all formal frameworks and youth in conflict with the law, a new direction that re-integrates them into society, through a mentored employment program. The mentorship provided to youth throughout the program helps ensure that they are supported, put back on track and able to succeed in the "real" world. This year, the project benefited 500 youth at risk and attracted a growing number of individuals and companies who share Elem's vision.

We all believe that social responsibility and community engagement rest upon each and every citizen in the community for the future of the society we all live in and for the future of our children.

I wish to thank all of you for your continuous and courageous partnership as well as your support.

Let this year be full of successful achievements and great hopes for the benefit of our youth.



**Ann Bialkin**  
President, ELEM/America

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure as President of ELEM/America to extend my warmest greetings and welcome to all ELEM supporters both in Israel and America. We are in another period where Middle East peace reverberations are felt around the world. This is another historic and dramatic time for all Israeli citizens, particularly the youth who will be the citizens of tomorrow.

However, the plight of today's youth in distress remains the same. Israel has a broad vision of future economic progress and well-being for all its citizens, but each year the gap between the poor and the wealthy is ever greater – and at this point, poverty has become such a problem that nearly one-third of Israel's children are living below the poverty line. It is hard not to take notice of the kids on the streets, the families, the young men who become entrenched in a sub-culture of drugs, alcohol, and violence.

In this Annual report you will read about the many activities ELEM operates for distressed youth and about its success in insuring a better future for our youngsters. It is important for our supporters to know that ELEM is an international organization, with one Board that meets and determines all relevant decisions. There is also an enormous amount of professional collaboration between America and Israel. For the last 25 years, there have been periodic missions back and forth between the two countries, in which our professional staff and Board members visit programs, and learn from each other how better to help our troubled youngsters in both countries. We share our professional and financial expertise, and with this broad support in America and Israel, we will continue to promote Shalom – peace – for our youth, so that they become a productive part of Israel's future.

Sincerely  
Ann Bialkin, President, ELEM/America



**Boaz Dotan**  
Chairperson

2007 was a successful year- one of operating within budget and raising both the funds and the resources that provide the foundation for implementing critical programs that fulfill Elem's mandate.

Yet, one of the main challenges faced this year was the expansion of the organization and the surge of new activities, bringing our total operating budget to a record high. The increased demands for services targeting at-risk youth combined with the lack of adequate intervention programs and the cutting back of existing services, has left a wide gap. Elem has found itself filling in this gap by providing crucial services and alternatives for youth in distress. We believe that Elem must work in close partnership with the various youth departments in Israel, not in place of them.

This year, our efforts were focused on strengthening Elem's partnerships with government departments, local municipalities, social service agencies and non-governmental organizations. We believe that only by strengthening each link in this chain can significant change happen for youth in Israel.

2007 was a year of innovation in a number of professional fields: The "Derech Hamelech" project which integrates youth into supportive employment positions continues to grow and is currently operating in 12 different sites. The established night outreach vans expanded their activities - all in response to the growing demands apparent on the streets. A number of complimenting interventions were developed for youth living on the fringes of society, such as the establishment of a transitional house for homeless young women.

At the end of another challenging yet fruitful year, I wish us all much success in our ongoing activities and future endeavors. May the year ahead be one of strengthened ties and partnerships and heightened levels of commitment among the entire society towards our common goal: a better future for children and youth at risk in Israel.



**Dedicated in appreciation  
to all those who share our vision,  
our dreams and our activities:  
the volunteers, the donors and  
the employees of ELEM.**

ELEM was registered as an association in Israel on April 6th, 1983 (registration no. 58-003-694-5).  
It is registered as a non-profit organization (no. 930740659) and is recognized as a public institution  
by the tax authorities, as well as for the purposes of donations.

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# Introduction

## An Overview:

**Children and Youth at Risk:** Children and youth experience various levels of distress influenced by the environment in which they live and as a result, adopt risky and often reckless behavioral patterns including vagrancy, social detachment and substance abuse. To our despair, the latest figures reveal an increase in the number of youth living at risk and the severity of their situation, as this growing population lacks access to adequate programs and services that address their unique circumstances. In 2006, over 380,000 at-risk children and youth in Israel were registered and recognized among the various social service departments, compared to 275,000 in 2000. This represents an increase of 40% over a six year period. (Annual Statistics Report on Children at Risk, Children's Welfare Council, 2006).

**High Risk Adolescents and Youth:** High risk groups of youth experience various degrees of detachment and distress depending on their surrounding conditions which include: the quality and functioning of the education and welfare systems as well as familial, personal, educational, social and economic constraints. Elem bears witness to these youth who attempt to escape their harsh realities and harmful surroundings by fleeing to the streets, where they become exposed to even more risks and dangers. On the streets, their life deteriorates to one of detachment, alienation and neglect and they become easy prey to physical, sexual and emotional exploitation.

## Elem on the General Map:

Currently, Elem operates activities in 30 towns and cities across the country, from Kiryat Shemona in the north, to Eilat in the south. Approximately 1,500 volunteers, contributing an average of 4-6 hours of their time weekly, are active in Elem's outreach work, headquarters and various professional and public forums. The organization employs 225 professionals, including social workers, psychologists, counselors, criminologists, informal educators and youth workers. Over the course of last year, Elem employees and volunteers met tens of thousands of adolescents and provided systematic and continuous assistance to over 12,000 youth in various degrees of distress - from those experiencing "regular" adolescent problems to those experiencing serious risk, detachment, abandonment and neglect.

## An Internal Look at Elem:

At Elem, we meet youth wherever they are - in their neighborhoods, in inner cities, schools, entertainment districts and even on the streets at night. Through our diverse programs and projects, we help youth pave a way for themselves to reintegrate into their communities. Elem initiates, develops and operates rehabilitation programs for youth experiencing various degrees of hardships and distress - from "normative" youth coping with adolescent problems and personal crises, to "high" and even "fatal" risk youth engaged in delinquency, crime and living on the streets. We make every effort to integrate volunteers and community resources in all of our outreach programs across the country.



**Zion Gabay**  
Executive Director

Elem's mission is to minimize the phenomenon of youth at risk by offering relevant solutions and meaningful assistance. Our goal is to provide distressed youth positive alternatives. We offer a protective, rather than risky environment, exposing youth to the full range of opportunities that life has to offer and equipping them with the tools they need to improve their situation and carve a brighter future.

Elem's meaningful encounters and treatment of thousands of youth in distress requires a vast and profound appreciation and expertise in a multitude of disciplines. Compassion, sensitivity and openness are necessary along with flexibility and adaptability to ensure that programs change and remain relevant based on the dynamic circumstances and characteristics of youth. In addition, continuous analysis, research and learning of both practical and theoretical aspects, has made Elem a leader in the field of treating youth in distress. Elem strives to develop innovative and professional multidisciplinary approaches to working with youth and specializes in developing strategies that enhance organizational learning, knowledge management and ongoing professional development. Elem is also active in a number of professional forums and think-tanks which focus on creative approaches to address youth in distress.

## Elem's Activities in 2007:

1. An organizational change process began in 2007 aimed at improving the integration of Elem's main spheres of activity: from professional knowledge and information management, ethics and training to resources development, outreach and treatment. Changes occurred across the entire organization, from the management level to the regional and local levels. I believe that the diversity and uniqueness of our projects on the one hand and the integration between various fields of activity on the other, enable the openness, diversity, adaptability and financial productivity necessary to provide creative solutions that suit the changing needs of children and youth in Israel.

In the second half of 2007, greater emphasis was placed on the development and preservation of the vast body of knowledge accumulated within the organization. An organizational learning and knowledge management department was established with new projects and

trainings focused on two main areas. The first being the development and establishment of a database to manage activities across Elem programs and centers by enhancing the organization's tracking systems, documentation, follow up and statistical information. The second initiative was the creation of an organizational portal to help share and exchange information together with the development of new change management processes.

2) In 2007, Elem continued to be the 'voice of youth,' raising awareness among the public on the responsibility of the entire society to address the plight of youth at risk in Israel. Today, Elem is regarded among the Israeli public as the leading organization for youth at risk and as an expert in addressing the issues and problems that face youth in Israel. Elem is recognized for the wide range of professional services offered to youth as well as for being a dynamic and innovative organization, continuously evolving and adapting to the changing needs in the field.

3) In 2007, Elem significantly expanded its operations across the country by increasing the volume of activities within existing programs, developing additional projects in existing communities and launching programs in new communities.

4) Elem has become the leading agency in the field of identifying the situation and condition of youth in the field and raising important issues affecting youth among the general public. Elem initiatives, such as the development of professional forums and workshops, including the "Stabbings, Alcoholism and Youth" conference, brings all major stakeholders together at the community and national levels in order to create a continuum of services and solutions for youth. Elem advocates for positive change at the highest levels, by initiating discussions and debates among Israel's Knesset members on issues related to youth legislation. Elem also heads several steering committees, including advocating for new programs such as shelters for homeless girls in Jerusalem and transitional housing for girls following detoxification programs in Tel Aviv.

5) Elem has maintained a high level of professionalism throughout all of our diverse programs and integrated greater cooperation among local youth services:

**"Hafuch al Hafuch"** Counseling and Information Centers: Established as centers where tens of thousands of youth can access professional and meaningful guidance all across Israel, "Hafuch al Hafuch" undertook innovative summer outreach programs at dozens of beaches, cities and parks where youth gather.

**Outreach Vans:** The youth outreach vans expanded operations into four new communities (Carmiel, Lod, Ashdod and the Sharon) and new outreach models for the street have been established including; "Tziporei Lila" (Night Birds) and stationary vans within communities.

**"Derech Hamelech"** (The Way of the King): This employment and skills training program, successfully operated in 12 cities and towns across Israel. The project completed its first full year of services, drawing in and treating over 400 youth and 250 volunteers and mentors from 40 different businesses and placement centers. The Juvenile Court recognizes the project as an important alternative and valuable rehabilitation option for youth. This project is quickly becoming one of Elem's flagships.

**Multi-Cultural Field:** The conceptualization and philosophy of the multi-cultural field has developed while "Migdalar Centers" have increased in size and capacity with new partnerships forged that address the needs of diverse youth.

**"Girls on the Fringe":** Emphasis was placed on the development of programs that address the special needs of female youth living on the streets and suffering from serious drug and alcohol addictions. The girl's youth shelter in Jerusalem and the transitional house in Tel Aviv as well as the girl's support group at "Hafuch al Hafuch" centers have all helped to increase the outreach available to girls at risk.

**Youth Prostitution Awareness and Advocacy Campaigns:** Awareness and advocacy campaigns have grown significantly over the past year, with new plans developed to expand the current model of the "Awake at Night" safe-haven for youth prostitutes in the south and north of Israel.

**Sexual Violence Among Minors:** New branches addressing sexual violence among minors continue to open across Israel as well as greater outreach work with new populations including Arab youth in Israel and ultra-orthodox Jewish youth. The program increased the number of groups of youth, in cooperation with the Juvenile Corrections Department within the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services.

**Employment and Vocational Initiatives:** A comprehensive evaluation was published on the graduates of the "Lilith" restaurant training initiative since its inception. Existing programs further developed including "Café Yael" in Sderot, "Homemade Quiche" in Rehovot, "B-Good" in Haifa and "Siba Lemesiba" (Reason To Party) in Tel Aviv.

**Y-ELEM:** A cutting-edge online information and counseling website Elem operates that offers youth surfing the internet reliable and relevant professional information.

### Where are we headed in 2008?

The challenges in the field of youth are great and numerous. In 2008, Elem will focus on strengthening its capacity to work with youth at high risk, who struggle with addictions. We will work to further improve our ability to conduct the most accurate needs assessment and develop new models, concepts and resources to support our ongoing organizational development and learning. We will also continue to integrate the fields of cultural and gender sensitivity in all aspects of our programs. As part of our mandate, we will build wider networks of support and apply public pressure to ensure long-term solutions are available for homeless youth needing protection. We will do so by enhancing cooperation with local communities and partnering with the corporate world through creative corporate social responsibility programs. Elem will also continue to evaluate and assess the deliverables, productivity and impact of the organization with the help of new databases and information management systems. Recognizing the importance of our human resources, Elem will expand professional development and training opportunities in the field and at headquarters and continue to invest in and strengthen the backbone of Elem - the dedicated team of volunteers and employees.

# ELEM - Overview

## Our Vision

ELEM was founded with the goal to assist youth at risk and in distress to remove themselves from the conditions they are in, and to find their place in society as adults and as contributing citizens, for themselves, their families, and the Israeli society.

## Facts and Figures

ELEM was founded by a group of professionals and volunteers in Israel and the United States, and was registered as an association in 1983. Since then it has developed into a nationwide organization, specializing in identifying the hardships that characterize the daily lives of youth in Israel, and in developing and implementing relevant and innovative solutions in order to deal with those hardships, while keeping in mind the unique needs of different population groups.

At the moment there are about 800,000 youth between the ages of 12-18 in Israel, about a quarter of whom are living in various conditions of distress. During the last decade, social and voluntary organizations have been forced to fill the vacuum created by the state in all areas granting social, personal, and communal services. This becomes most obvious when it comes to the treatment of youth in distress.

In the course of the year 2007, ELEM met with tens of thousands of adolescents, and provided continuous treatment to about 12,000 of them.

The association operates in a nationwide network in about 30 towns, and is the only organization in Israel that provides solutions for a wide range of hardships among youth, such as: "normative" youth coping with personal crises of adolescence, dropping out of educational systems, difficulties related with absorption, problems with peers, problems in families, problems of identity and belonging, addiction to drugs and alcohol, vagrancy, violence, sexual exploitation, delinquency, and conditions of serious detachment, such as prostitution and homelessness.

To youth in various conditions of risk, ELEM serves as a true address, creating a non-judgmental relationship with them and assisting them in paving the way towards their reintegration into the community.

ELEM employs professionals who are among the best in the fields of counselling and treatment, accompanied by about 1,500 adult and teenage volunteers.

## ELEM's Motto

ELEM's employees and volunteers go out and meet the youth where they are, in any place and at any time: in their schools, in the afternoon in their community, on the Internet, during specific holiday activity locations, at entertainment sites, and even on the streets at night.

## Social Responsibility and Involvement

We at ELEM believe that the treatment of youth at risk and in distress is the responsibility of the entire society. Therefore, apart from a close cooperation with the various welfare systems that the state provides for its citizens, the association works towards a greater awareness of the Israeli public, and towards a deeper involvement of citizens and businesses in the field, thus creating a true cooperation among those acting on behalf of youth at risk and in distress.

ELEM advocates the values of volunteer work, the involvement of youth and the cultivation of leadership, excellence and professionalism, openness and sensitivity, initiative, communal involvement, and social activism. ELEM develops bodies of knowledge, innovative methods and approaches for informal involvement with adolescents, and works towards a conceptual and disciplinary change of the range of youth services in Israel.

## Fields of Activities and Programs

The organization operates a variety of solutions for youth at risk, such as a network of counselling and information centers for youth, outreach vans for vagrant youth, multi-cultural programs for youth from various sectors of society, specific solutions for girls at risk, centers for homeless youth, a project for minors involved in prostitution, an employment rehabilitation and mentoring program for juvenile delinquents, a center for the prevention and treatment of sexual violence among children and youth, independent business initiatives for youth, mediation centers for youth, a counselling and information website, and regional branches for the development of ties with the community.

# The Continuum of Risk among Youth in Israel

"Normative" Youth	Marginal Risk	Serious Risk	High Risk	Fatal Risk
560,000 (70%)	120,000 (15%)	80,000 (10%)	32,000 (4%)	8,000 (1%)
<p>Normative difficulties of adolescence.</p>	<p>Difficulties in coming to terms with problems of adolescence, difficulties functioning, depressions, suicidal thoughts, drug and alcohol abuse - without an adequate solution from their natural environment (family, friends, and school).</p>	<p>Inability to function within the educational system, sense of failure, covert dropout from school, educational gaps, drug and alcohol abuse, severe emotional and familial problems.</p>	<p>Overt dropout from normative frameworks, failure of integration into alternative systems, social detachment, vagrancy, seeking negative sources of excitement, drug and alcohol abuse, deterioration into delinquency and crime.</p>	<p>Homelessness, criminality and self-destruction, sexual promiscuity, detachment from family and society, addiction to drugs and alcohol.</p>

## ELEM's Programs for Youth According to The Continuum of Risk

<p><b>Prevention Programs</b> in schools and youth movements</p> <p><b>Y-elem</b> Web Site Counselling and information internet web site</p>	<p><b>"Hafuch-Al-Hafuch"</b> 12 counselling and information centers for normative youth in situations of risk or distress</p> <p><b>Y-elem</b> Web Site Counselling and information internet web site</p> <p><b>"Mifgashim"</b> Mediation centers for youth</p> <p><b>"Negat"</b> Volunteer project for the benefit of Ethiopian youth</p>	<p><b>"Ktoret Rehov"</b> 11 night outreach vans for vagrant youth</p> <p><b>"Migdalar"</b> 10 day centers for youth of different cultures</p> <p>The Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Violence Among Children and Youth</p> <p>Outreach and Treatment Program for Adolescent Ethiopian Girls</p> <p>Warm Homes for Girls</p>	<p><b>"Derech Hamelech"</b> Rehabilitative employment and mentoring project</p> <p><b>"A Real Home"</b> For girls victims of sexual assault and incest</p> <p><b>"Adi"</b> Center For girls in a state of detachment</p> <p>Independent Business Initiatives (Lilith Restaurant and others)</p>	<p><b>"Galgal" and "Smeone to Run With"</b> Day centers for homeless youth</p> <p><b>"Erim Balayla"</b> Project for youth involved in prostitution</p>
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## Solutions for Youth at Marginal Risk

# "Hafuch al Hafuch"

## Counselling and Information Centers

### The current situation:

Many youth suffer from difficulties during adolescence, and experience situations of trouble and crisis. The lack of a sympathetic ear and adequate solutions can lead to the aggravation of their distress and even cause their deterioration into extreme conditions of violent behavior, delinquency, drug and alcohol addiction, and push them to the edges of society.

Many youth in distress avoid seeking help from established authorities (such as psychologists, school consultants, or welfare services), and find it difficult to speak about their problems with relatives and even friends.

### ELEM's Solution:

The multiplicity and complexity of problems, and the recognition of the importance of providing accessible and non-stigmatizing solutions, led to the establishment of "Hafuch-Al-Hafuch" Counselling and Information Centers for Youth. These centers are open to all youth between the ages of 12-18, and provide counselling, support, and direction in various subjects that interest and trouble youth in Israel - all in one place.

### The Project's Activities:

- The centers are designed as cafés for youth, enabling youth to converse at eye level with professionals and volunteers, or amongst each other, in an atmosphere of openness, warmth and respect.
- After an initial acquaintance, an informal diagnosis is made, according to which a suitable therapeutic program is chosen for every youth.
- The center offers the youth a wide range of information services provided by the staff and volunteers, an active internet station, information leaflets, and an up-to-date information library.

Counselling, support, and guidance services offered by the center are provided in individual conversations, in the framework of group activities, and through the youth's participation in workshops dealing with issues that trouble them.

- The professional staff in the center works in close cooperation with the various youth services in town, for the purpose of consulting and referring the youth for a continuation of their guidance and treatment.

### A Summary of Data and Characteristics of the Youth Applying to the Centers:

**During 2007, 39,928 youth were received by the centers and were provided with solutions for a great variety of subjects. 535 of these youth were referred to community services for a continuation of their treatment.**

### Division by Subject of Enquiries and Personal Distress:

26%	Concerning education, military, work, etc
18.5%	Concerning leisure time activities: volunteering, boredom, hobbies
11%	Concerning love and sexuality: relationships, sex, sexual identity, pregnancy, etc.
14%	Concerning home and family: family relations, violence, financial distress, etc.
9%	Concerning delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse
12%	Concerning emotional issues: self confidence, suicidal thoughts, body image, etc.
6.5%	Concerning peer group: belonging, loneliness, social skills, etc.
3%	Concerning health: eating disorders, nutrition, chronic disorders, etc

### Division by age:

12%	youth between the ages of 12-14
39.5%	youth between the ages of 14-16
42.5%	youth between the ages of 16-18
6%	youth under the age of 12 or over 18

### Division by gender:

The number of boys coming to the centers is about 10.5% higher than that of the girls.

**Division by origin:**

<b>65%</b>	Native Jewish Israeli Youth
<b>1%</b>	Native Arab Israeli Youth
<b>5%</b>	Youth of Ethiopian Origin
<b>25%</b>	Youth of FSU Origin
<b>4%</b>	Others (Caucasians, South Americans, French, etc.)

400 volunteers, adults and youth, work in the "Hafuch-Al-Hafuch" Centers, which are open 5 days a week, during the afternoon and evening hours, and during school vacations.

**Activities in 2007:****Addiction Prevention Programs Based at the Centers**

During the year, Elem witnessed an escalation in the consumption of alcohol, abuse of drugs and the covert dropout from educational frameworks among youth. Alcohol consumption has largely become accepted as a legitimate part of youth culture, even among normative youth, yet it is often accompanied by peer pressure and dangerous behavior. In conjunction with the Israel Anti-Drug Authority and the Rashi Foundation, a youth worker specializing in addiction prevention was stationed in each of the "Hafuch al Hafuch" counseling centers, implementing training programs for Elem's local staff and volunteers as well as conducting individual and group addiction prevention workshops for adolescents. In the framework of this project, 4 unique groups operated for high risk youth, following the 12 Step Model for recovering from addiction.

**Working with Youth During the Education Strike**

The protracted strike within the education system led to Elem's unique response and special arrangements at "Hafuch al Hafuch" centers. The two month strike left teenagers in high school with a sense of uncertainty, idleness and a lack of formal structure. As a result, an increase in vandalism, violence and vagrancy became clearly apparent. In order to provide youth with a positive, alternative solution, Elem immediately expanded its activities:

- The hours of operation at each center was extended from the early hours of the morning until the late hours of the evening.
- Unique support and prevention programs were immediately activated with Elem teams accessing youth wherever they tended to gather- be it in city squares or parks- in an attempt to offer a helping hand and guidance to prevent dangerous behavior as well as provide immediate assistance in cases of personal crises.

**"Street to Street" Project**

"From Street to Street" is a new and unique urban project in Kiryat Gat, founded in cooperation with the city's youth welfare services and benefiting 40-50 youth between the ages of 12-18 who have dropped out of all formal frameworks. A personalized intervention plan is tailored to each youth with the aim of rebuilding normative functioning in various areas such as studies, employment, leisure, volunteerism and army. The target audience is recruited during evening outreach work. During 2007 about 25 youth returned to various frameworks such as school, army, boarding schools and jobs while many others are undergoing a similar, positive process. The project operates through the "Yaniv" initiative (Rashi Foundation and Oren Foundation) in partnership with the Education, Welfare and Youth Departments, in Kiryat Gat.

**Integration of French Speaking Youth Workers**

The "Hafuch al Hafuch" Centers in Netanya and Ashdod began to recruit French speaking youth workers, in partnership with the Ministry of Absorption, to provide better services to the growing population of youth immigrants from France. These adolescents experience their own distinctive hardships of immigrating and being absorbed into Israeli society. Elem youth workers are carefully tracing and assessing the particular needs of these youth and developing initial strategies and solutions which form as the basis for longer term interventions.

**An Emphasis on Group Work**

Over 23,500 group intervention sessions were conducted as part of the ongoing development and enhancement of Elem's network of support groups based at "Hafuch al Hafuch" Centers. Many eclectic groups were formed, some formally and others spontaneously, centered on a wide range of issues and activities related to adolescent crises, risk and addiction prevention, informative trainings, development of life skills, gender issues, immigrant youth as well as sports including Elem's triathlon group.

**Development of Youth Voluntarism and Youth Training Seminars**

Since the early beginnings of the "Hafuch al Hafuch" Centers, youth have taken an active role and volunteered in various positions within the center itself and within the community, initiating important social programs and activities. Since these volunteers are youth themselves, experiencing the struggles of adolescents, they too are considered among Elem's key target audiences. Thus, volunteering at the center becomes yet another tool for therapeutic interventions.

Volunteering also offers youth unique opportunities to acquire multi-faceted skills, become empowered and grow both personally and within a group dynamic. In addition, a specialist in volunteer management was assigned to each of the Centers, in cooperation with "AMEN" Youth Volunteers Network. Over 100 "Hafuch al Hafuch" youth volunteers had the opportunity to participate in a unique two-day seminar over the Chanukah break that focused on enhancing leadership skills, social change and community involvement.

**Year of establishment:** 1999.

#### **Nationwide Distribution:**

In 2007 12 "Hafuch-Al-Hafuch" centers operated in the following cities: Kiryat Shmona, Kiryat Yam, Acre, Nazareth Illit, Afula, Netanya, Kfar Saba, Tel Aviv, Holon, Ashdod, Kiryat Gat and Sderot.

#### **Donors and Associates:**

Ministry of Absorption, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, Ministry of Health, Rashi Foundation, Israel Anti-Drug and Alcohol Authority, Amen - Israel, and local municipalities. Every center receives financial support from specific bodies in accordance with the local authorities, such as the Jewish Agency - Partnership 2000 and from various foundations: The Boxenbaum-Neta Foundation, The Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, The Karev Foundation, Joseph and Christina Kasierer Foundation, Federation CJA, The Besen Family Foundation, and The Carolito Foundation.

## **"Hafuch-on-the-Beach":**

### **A Unique Seasonal Solution in Recreational Gatherings of Youth**

#### **The Current Situation:**

During the various festivals held during school vacations, there is often feel of lack of privacy and physical boundaries. Without the supervision of parents or other adults, new acquaintances made within a very short time accompanied by great social pressure - all lead to a situation in which boundaries are dangerously blurred.

During ELEM's activity in various locales, a wide range of phenomena was witnessed, including excessive consumption of alcohol, drug abuse, unprotected sex, confusion of sexual identity, sexual exploitation and harassment, and situations in which a lack of money led to severe exploitation.

#### **ELEM's Solution:**

As part of ELEM's aim to reach youth wherever they are, seasonal activities are held in recreational centers throughout the country, with the goal of identifying situations of risk and hardship, offering

assistance and referring youth to pertinent bodies where needed, without losing precious time.

ELEM's presence at beaches and festivals is essential and is welcomed by the youth.

#### **The Project's Activities:**

"Hafuch Al Hachof" Project is carried out by professionals from different fields of ELEM.

It is divided into two realms:

On-site activities - setting up an attractive counselling and information tent.

Reaching out activities - locating the youth who are absent from the site but are in need of solutions.



#### **Seasonal Activities During 2007:**

In 2007, Elem's work with youth significantly expanded in the area of direct outreach to youth at recreational venues and major entertainment events across the country. Based on our accumulated and unique expertise and past activities, Elem established support tents over the summer vacation, in more than 10 locations across the country including the beaches of Eilat and Tiberias, at massive music and entertainment festivals and popular parks as well as in inner cities and urban centers. These sites were operated by Elem staff and volunteers in partnership with Israel's Ministry of Education and "AMEN". Thousands of youth accessed the support centers, enjoying on-site advice and guidance, while hundreds of others received immediate attention and assistance with their particular crises.

As a result of these encounters with thousands of youth and the positive feedback to the assistance given, Elem initiated and advocated for a new law that would require festival organizers to include support services and assistance sites for youth within mandatory program operations. This issue was raised and discussed in various Knesset committees and an inter-office committee was to be established, headed by Elem, which will work together to pass the legislation.

## Solutions for Youth at Marginal Risk

# Y-elem - Counselling & Information Website

## The Current Situation:

The great majority of youth surf the net on a daily basis, a fact which turns the internet into one of the most significant sites in working with youth. In addition to its many advantages, the internet also contains many threats for youth: they are flooded with information, some of which is false and distorted, and are exposed to sexual harassment and exploitation by adults.

In addition, the internet as an addictive environment can cause malfunctioning in various areas of the youth's daily lives, such as the inability to maintain direct interpersonal relationships, anti-social behavior, etc.

Many youth in need of counselling, direction, information, and even treatment, prefer to avoid personal exposure and use the internet to receive support and assistance anonymously.

## ELEM's Solution:

The Yelem web site is a kind of virtual "Hafuch Al Hafuch", which allows youth from all over the country to receive readily available, reliable and valuable information, assistance, and counselling - while remaining anonymous. The site provides individual or group counselling, offers information on subjects that are pertinent and interesting for youth, and also serves as a platform for original writing by youngsters - a means of self-empowerment.

## The Project's Activities:

The site contains three different support interfaces:

- "Chat" - volunteer professionals, who underwent unique training for providing internet-based support to teenagers, regularly staff the chat rooms. Private counselling sessions are conducted in the Chat Rooms on a one-time or continuing basis.
- "Email Support" - a professional team responds to incoming messages.
- Support Forum - a team of youth and adult volunteers answers questions posted in the forum. The forum also enables surfers to advise their peers, thus empowering themselves as well.

## A Summary of Data and Characteristics of Youth Using the Site:

Y-elem is used by a wide variety of youth, ranging from "normative" youth searching for information, counselling and an attentive ear, to youth in serious distress, some of whom are in acute danger of committing suicide. Every month thousands of

visits, forum entries, and support conversations in the chatroom are registered by the site and answered by the staff and about 40 volunteers. The Y-elem Support Forum is one of the ten most popular forums on the Nana portal.

120,000	youth visited the site
3,000	support chats (an average of 250 conversations per month)
1,500	emails to professionals
25,000	posts on the Support Forum

## Y-elem activities in 2007:

- Developing a supportive mechanism adapted to youth who experienced sexual harassment and assault: Exposing incidents of sexual harassment and assault over the internet is increasing among youth. Although harassment of youth over the internet is a growing phenomenon, we discovered that due to the anonymity of the web, youth who experience any type of harassment are able to relieve themselves of such a horrible secret. Y-Elem therefore offers anonymity to youth and provides non-judgmental support, allowing youth to expose, share and discuss difficult experiences and begin a positive therapeutic process.
- Developing online support mechanisms and responses for traumatized youth as a result of national security issues: Following ELEM's emergency response during the Second Lebanon War in 2006, greater services were created for youth living under serious security threats, such as youth from Sderot living under the constant fire of Qassam rockets.
- Y-elem received the 2007 "Malachim Bareshet" (angels) badge of honor on the web, reinforcing ELEM's formal public status as a significant aid organization reaching out to youth in Israel. Providing ongoing professional training programs for volunteers on characteristic of the web related to youth and web-based treatment and assistance.

**Year of Establishment:** 2004

**Donors and Associates:** I&M Ltd., Someone to Think With-Eli Ziedman, Israel Internet Association, Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, and Bait Bagalil, Webbit Interactive and liveperson.

[www.y-elem.org.il](http://www.y-elem.org.il)

## Solutions for Youth at Serious Risk

# Multi-Cultural Field

## The Current Situation:

Israeli society is uniquely characterized by its diverse cultures and its mass absorption of immigrants over the last decade. As such, youth from diverse cultures encounter a range of difficulties that exceed the "normative" hardships faced by other veteran youth during adolescence. The transit to Israel often constitutes a departure from a relatively secure and familiar environment to a completely foreign one, thus intensifying feelings of hardship and even crises within an entire family unit as well as among adolescents and children of immigrants.

In a heterogeneous and multi-cultural society, youth from vastly different cultures and backgrounds often find themselves without a place to turn to that appreciates and addresses their specific differences and distress, operating with tolerance and offering culturally sensitive interventions.

## ELEM's Solution:

As a result of the unique mixture of old and new cultures in Israel, Elem established a multi-cultural field which covers two important dimensions. The first involves the development of innovative and culturally sensitive programs targeting various youth population groups such as: youth of Ethiopian origin, immigrant youth from the FSU, Arab youth, Druze youth and ultra-Orthodox Jewish youth. The second dimension involves the training of professional staff in cultural-sensitivity as well as the provision of new tools and techniques to adapt existing intervention and treatment models across

the organization as well as among those offered by other agencies and institutions.

The needs of youth are diverse and dynamic, influenced by the social, economic and security conditions of the society in which they live, as well as the personal and cultural contexts of each individual. Thus, adapting interventions requires creativity, flexibility and the ability to customize familiar intervention models.

## Unique programs are developed according to needs identified in the field.

### Currently existing projects include:

- The "Migdalar" network - 10 educational-social-therapeutic day centers for high-risk immigrant youth.
- Programs for youth of Ethiopian origin: programs for Ethiopian girls, "Negat" program.
- Program for immigrant youth from the FSU.
- Program for Arab and Druze youth.

## The multi-cultural field attended to a total of 2,756 youth in 2007 according to the division:

<b>1216</b>	Youth of Ethiopian origin
<b>1237</b>	Immigrant Youth from the FSU
<b>180</b>	Arab youth
<b>123</b>	Druze youth
Ages range from 12 to 21	

## Detailed Description of the Solutions:

### "Migdalar" Centers

A network of 10 "Migdalar" centers has been established in diverse, multi-cultural communities for high risk youth of various ethnic backgrounds experiencing difficulties integrating into formal frameworks.

The centers provide social-therapeutic and educational services to local families, communities and neighborhoods. Each center offers a wide range of holistic solutions for youth, backed by the city's existing youth services, focusing on counseling, support, leadership, leisure and social development.

All "Migdalar" activities embrace a culturally-sensitivity, meant to empower and strengthen youth, guiding them in a positive direction. Youth may finally find important answers to the many

of questions they have regarding their personal identity and sense of belonging within a mixed society.

### The Project's Activities:

- Workshops on subjects that characterize the distress and hardships of youth: prevention of violence and vandalism, sexuality, adolescence, drug and alcohol abuse, empowerment of personal identity, sense of belonging to the community, etc.
- Providing assistance and counselling in the educational, social and emotional fields, while using various leisure activities, such as music, carpentry, chess, creative writing, art, theater, cooking, computers, etc., designed to fit the needs of each "Migdalar" Center.
- Assigning defined spaces for different activities according to the needs of each center, such as: a sports and gymnastics court, a music center, a

computer room, a library, a coffee shop, games, and a counselling area.

- Developing sports as a tool for personal empowerment and positive integration into society. using sports as a tool for treating youth in distress and violent youth. There is a track-and-field group in Kiryat Malachi, martial arts classes, survival training, rugby and soccer groups, all as positive channels for the release of energy and aggressions.
- Providing information and personal counselling in subjects that occupy youth.
- The staff of the centers also operate nightly patrols in the neighborhoods, reaching out to youth in distress, providing assistance and guidance where needed, and winning the youth's trust, so that the youth will come to the centers.

#### Data and Characteristics of Youth:

During 2007, about 2000 youth (ages 12-22) were treated in "Migdalor" Centers, an increase of 25% compared with 2006. Approximately half of these youth are coming to the centers on a regular basis, during the afternoon and evening hours.

#### Division by Sexes:

<b>60%</b>	Males
<b>40%</b>	Females

#### Division by Origin:

<b>34%</b>	Immigrant Youth from the FSU
<b>31%</b>	Youth of Ethiopia origin
<b>16%</b>	Native Israeli Youth
<b>14%</b>	Druze Youth
<b>5%</b>	Arab Youth

There was a notable decrease in the age of the youth turning to the centers, over the past year. In addition, a significant rise in the number of youth turning to the center was reported, due to abuse of addictive substances, especially alcohol.

An overall increase in youth violence has also been reported, particularly among teenage girls.

Likewise, new phenomenons have emerged such as violent games, strangling and beatings. An increase in the number of teenagers turning to the centers in times of crisis has also been reported, as well as youth dealing with an addiction to gambling and youth struggling with serious identity issues.

#### Specific Activities during 2007:

- Advocating for and advancing the establishment of a new "Migdalor" Center in Nahariya, including identifying a site for the center and appointing a team. Beginning initial assessments and mapping of the needs in the field and referrals of youth within schools and in the city.
- Relocating "Eilat" Migdalor center in Bat-Yam to a new area and expanding it's activities.
- Reducing violence and crime in cities where "Migdalor" is active, as an example, the Kiryat Moshe district of Rehovot, reported a 33% decline in the number of youth-related violence, including a reduction in knife fights, vagrancy, disturbance to the public and vandalism.
- Expanding activities over the weekends, in order to provide more services to the general youth population, while focusing on youth who do not reside in their own community during the week or are returning from boarding schools.
- Increasing opportunities for youth at risk to participate in meaningful community-based projects. For example, establishing a therapeutic community garden at the "Migdalor" Center in Kiryat Moshe, maintained by youth, trained and supported by a group of professionals. This project has helped make the center more inviting and provides inspiration for others to also invest of their time for the benefit of a stronger community.
- Encouraging and ultimately increasing the participation of youth volunteers from all cultural groups. Empowering and supporting youth through a shift from receiving treatment at the centers to becoming active volunteers.
- Expanding the scope of work with parents and providing group sessions for families together with youth.



- Increasing the range of activities and workshops available at the centers to include: art, music, theatre, sports, extreme sports, field trips, computers, fashion, army preparation, pre-driving theory, democracy, cooking, sexuality, carpentry and aviation among others.
- Using sports as a therapeutic tool, such as the "Migdalar" athletic team in Kiryat Malachi, which ranked 4th overall nationally and continues to reach new heights.
- Using music as a therapeutic tool through voice lessons, rapping and analysis of English lyrics. In Bat Yam's "Migdalar" Center, local "Youth Rock Nights" were held where winning contestants received the opportunity to record their own album at the "Muzik" academy.
- Strengthening community relations and cooperation with local parties including the establishment of a forum to develop and promote youth work in the community. This has led to a significant increase in the number of teenagers turning to "Migdalar" Centers in communities such as Yarka, where the number of girls now doubles the number of boys.
- Establishing a unique learning center at "Migdalar" in Petach Tikva operated by students from Bar Ilan University, who provide youth with one-to-one tutoring, assistance with homework and preparations for exams. The center is currently in its first phase of activities and the intention is to develop and widen the scope of work to include youth study groups, a computer room, preparation for matriculation exams and individual tutoring.

### Sports in ELEM

One of the highlights of the activities of the "Migdalar" Centers is the use of sports as a therapeutic means for working with youth in distress and violent youth. A youth athletics team was established in the "Migdalar" in Kiryat Malachi in the year 2006, and was registered as a member of the Israeli Athletics Union. Members of the group accomplished notable achievements in the Israeli Championship, and represented the country in the European Championship for field races in Italy. One of the boys reached the 12th place in the European ranking, a place that has not been achieved by an Israeli athlete for many years.

The Spaghettim Chain of Restaurants sponsored scholarships for outstanding athletes through the ELEM-Spaghettim Foundation. This initiative was accompanied and supported by the TV program "Lachlom Begadol" (Dreaming Big) of the Israeli Sports Channel.

### Nationwide Distribution:

In 2007, a total of 10 "Migdalar" Centers operated across the country in Rehovot, Kiryat Malachi, Yarka, Petah-Tiqva, Nahariya, Acre, Nazareth (which completed activities during 2007) and 3 centers in Bat Yam.

**Beginning of Activity:** The first "Migdalar" Center began operating at the end of 2004.

### Donors and Associates:

#### "Migdalar" Center "Pinat Hano'ar" (Youth Corner) in Kiryat Moshe Neighborhood, Rehovot

Rehovot Municipality, Toronto community, Migdal Insurance Company Ltd., Youth Promotion Department, Kiryat Moshe community center, Ministry of Health, The Probation Service, Community Policing, F.Y. Fund and The Rehovot Neighborhood Upgrading Program.

#### "Migdalar Etzyon" in Kiryat Malachi

The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, the Joint Ashalim-Mutav Yahdav Foundation, Municipality of Kiryat Malachi, The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, The Boston Appeal, The F.Y. Fund, The Clore Israel Foundation and Migdal Insurance Company.

#### 3 centers in Bat-Yam: "Eilat", "Negba" & "Central"

The society for Leisure, Culture & Sports, Absorption Department, Israel Anti-Drug Authority, The Bat Yam neighborhood upgrading program, F.Y. Fund, Migdal Insurance Company Ltd., Israeli scouts, Bnei Akiva movement, The department of criminology in Bar Ilan University, student Authority, The Rashi Foundation, "Ronen", Windows Association, Aharai, The Association for Immigrant Youth, "Muzic" music School, Stars Project, The Isef Foundation, Alternative medicine School, The IDF, "Bat Kol" Synagogue, Hamer School, Hapoel Tel-Aviv.

#### "Migdalar Gan Yehonatan" in Petach Tikva

The Municipality of Petach Tikva, Israel Anti-Drug Authority, F.Y. Fund, Migdal Insurance Company Ltd., The Nadav Foundation, "Hashomer Hatzair" Movement, Tadiran Telecom Ltd., and Bar-Ilan University.

#### "Migdalar Yarka"

The Rashi Foundation, The National Insurance Institute, Ministry of Social affairs and Social Services, The Local Authorities of Yarka, The Boxenbaum-Neta Foundation and the F.Y. Fund.

#### "Migdalar Nazareth"

Welfare and Education Departments, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social affairs and Social Services, The Steinhardt Family Foundation in Israel and Yad Hanadiv Foundation.

#### "Migdalar Nahariya"

Nahariya Municipality, Ministry of Social affairs and Social Services, The National Insurance Institute, Rashi Foundation and The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ).

## Establishing "Migdalar" Centers - MENA Program in Acre

The "Ben Gurion," Youth and Community Center based in Acre, functions through a special collaboration between all of the city's youth services. The center uses a holistic approach by integrating therapeutic and social dimensions to recreational programs for youth. Through its outreach, mentoring and treatment programs that address the particular needs of each youth, important advancements are made in the spheres of education, community and social integration. The center's target populations include; Kavkazi youth from the FSU and native Israeli youth.

**During 2007, about 155 youth were treated at the center.** Of the total, 89 youth regularly participated in group activities while 66 youth were occasional participants.

Activities were greatly extended during the summer months through the support of the Rashi Foundation and included longer hours of operation as well as new and creative outreach programs for youth.

During 2008, three additional centers are expected to open in Acre. One center will target the Arab youth population and two centers will target Jewish populations (one in an area with new immigrants and another in a mixed area with immigrant and native Israeli youth populations).

## Special Programs for Youth of Ethiopian Origin

### Program for Adolescent Girls of Ethiopian Origin

Elem has expanded empowerment programs for females and adolescent girls of Ethiopian origin. Initiatives include the training of female social workers of Ethiopian origin and their integration into the welfare services of the local authorities, with the aim of providing specific solutions to the unique problems of these girls.

The program was established in order to respond to the needs of girls at risk dropping out of formal educational frameworks, or those who are involved in juvenile crime that are not able to access assistance from established social welfare institutions, lacking cultural sensitivities. These girls are traced and unique interventions are tailored to each, involving individual and group therapy as well as work with families, in collaboration with the community and municipalities in charge of the absorption of the Ethiopian immigrant community.

Elem's social workers arduously trace and identify the distress of each youth and assist them in building

a solid support system that includes: family, friends, social workers and education teams. This approach helps to establish a solid network of support that can prevent or minimize the risks of severe crisis among youth. In addition, individual sessions are held which build trust as youth are consulted and participate in the creation of relevant intervention plans that address their specific needs.

**During the 2007 framework, 269 adolescent girls were treated:**

<b>34%</b>	girls ages 13-15
<b>53%</b>	girls ages 16-18
<b>13%</b>	girls ages 19-25

The program operated in 4 communities: Ashkelon, Gedera, Kiryat Malachi and Afula.

Over the past year, an increase of alcohol abuse was exhibited among adolescent girls and among younger populations. While there was a decline in the overall drop out rates and an increase in physical violence emerged among girls. Additional trends include; the abuse of solvents, as well as vagrancy and detachment among girls and associations with negative influences.

### Donors and Associates:

The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ), the F.Y. Fund, The Baron De-Hirsch Foundation, the Municipalities of Afula, Gedera, Ashkelon and Kiryat Malachi.

### "Negat" Project

"Negat" (Amharic for "dawn") is a program founded on volunteers for children and youth of Ethiopian origin who manifest difficulties of assimilation to school and society, and exhibit substantial gaps in these fields, compared to their peers. The central purpose of this program is to prevent youth from dropping out of the educational system and to advance their education. The main course of action is the recruitment, training and development of a team of volunteers who work closely with the youth. The Negat program has been operating successfully for over a decade in Kiryat Gat and Be'er Sheva.

Over the course of 2007, 40 teenagers were treated, until the completion of the program. The prolonged strikes in the high schools and universities greatly damaged the program's operations, although until the end of the previous school year, the program had produced significant improvements in the academic achievement levels of participants. In the framework of the program youth also participated in a workshop called "Kol Noar", where films were produced based on their personal life stories.

### Donors and Associates:

The Rochlin Foundation and Galit and Steve Edery.

## Program for Youth at risk of Ethiopian origin in Ne've Ya'akov, Jerusalem

The purpose of this program is to promote cooperation and to mediate between families, educational institutions, communal bodies and the municipality who collectively, provide support and services to youth at risk of Ethiopian origin.

During the course of 2007, about 120 youth between the ages of 12-19 were reached out through the program. The youth were offered assistance with their studies, mentoring by volunteers and group workshops on subjects such as leadership, volunteerism, adolescence and the heritage of Ethiopian Jewry. One of the major successes of the program was the creation of a professional group performance called "Nitzant" for traditional Ethiopian dancing.

The main distresses that these youth face include: exposure to physical violence, abuse of alcohol, an absence of employment opportunities and a lack of positive, recreational activities in their neighborhoods..

### Donors and Associates:

The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, Youth Advancement Division, The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, the Communal Administration of Ne've Ya'akov, The Joint, The Jerusalem Foundation and the Beracha Foundation.



## A Holistic Program for Youth Immigrants from the Former Soviet Union (FSU)

A special program operating with the support of the local community leadership in the Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood of Jerusalem, aimed at assisting and reaching out to youth in distress from the FSU. The youth enjoy close and continuous mentoring as well as work with their parents.

**During 2007, about 150 youth ages 12-19, participated in the program, of which 30 were new recruits.**

### Distribution by Age:

<b>25%</b>	youth between the ages of 12-14
<b>35%</b>	youth between the ages of 14-16
<b>35%</b>	youth between the ages of 16-18
<b>5%</b>	youth over the age of 18
90 males and 60 females participated in the program	

The program focuses on working together with youth to help them strengthen their self-image and develop their abilities, based on areas of personal interest such as, sports, music and theatre. Some of the main problems raised by youth concern: verbal and physical abuse, drug and alcohol consumption, identity crises regarding religion and nationality, dilemmas around recruitment to the army and difficulties with parents. This year, new trends emerged which include: the deterioration among youth consuming alcohol and an overall decline in the age of substance abusers; the integration of immigrant youth within native Israeli groups of high risk youth; and a decrease in the average age of youth, particularly girls, at risk in the neighborhood.

## Work with Families

The basic rationale that guides Elem's multi-cultural field suggests that a strong family is better equip with resources that help to raise strong children, while a weak family with fewer resources tends to struggle to provide the basic foundation for healthy development. Elem is therefore working to expand its outreach to families within all multi-cultural programming, by providing guidance and workshops for parents, one-to-one support sessions and facilitating three-way meetings between social workers, youth and parents.

**During 2007, 274 families were treated.**

## Solutions for Youth at Serious Risk

# The Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Violence Among Children and Youth

## The Current Situation:

Every year, hundreds of children and adolescents sexually abuse other youth. Many of them are under the age of 12 (under the age of legal responsibility in Israel) and are therefore not treated in any framework. Sexually abusive youth that were not reported to the police or other institutions are equally not being treated. Sexually abusive behavior in children is not a simple issue for parents and institutions to deal with, and often knowledge in this field is not accessible.

## ELEM's Solution:

The center is the only place in Israel that focuses solely on the prevention and treatment of sexual abuse among children and youth, and the only center that works in full cooperation with government ministries.

The earlier the treatment is begun, the greater its chances to be successful. Sexual violence amongst children that goes untreated becomes a behavioral pattern. Correct treatment allows abusive children to adopt normal patterns of behavior and prevents thousands of future victims.

## The Project's Activities:

- Evaluation of dangerousness, diagnosis, treatment, counseling and instruction of sexually abusive children, adolescents and their families.
- Counseling professionals, institutions and services, increasing awareness to the phenomenon and participating in the relevant Knesset committees.
- Operating a phone hotline for support and counselling, allowing the broad public to discreetly examine abnormal sexual behavior of youth.
- Operating a 'child sexuality' forum on the Nana portal, which is in fact an extension of the hotline.

## Summary of Data and Characteristics of Enquiries:

The center receives enquiries from sexually abusive youth and their families, as well as from parents and professionals who are in doubt regarding the abnormal sexual behavior of children. Abusive adolescents are mainly treated in "Ofek" Prison (operated in cooperation by ELEM and the Israel Prison Service), groups of the Juvenile Probation Service, The Youth Protection Authority, and "Noflim Bein Hakisa'ot" Project, which treats youth against whom no complaint was filed.

## 2007 registered 299 cases of evaluation and treatment (excluding hotline and internet).

Enquiries over the hotline	180
Forum entries (per month)	over 5,000
Age range of those treated in the center this year: 5-17	

## Activities during 2007:

- Opening the first branch of its kind in Tamra, targeting the Arab population, in collaboration with the "El Amal" Boarding School. The team consist of professionals from the Arab community.
- Continuing work in Ofek Prison, including the final stages of a comprehensive research study.
- Expansion and development of the Afula branch in partnership with local youth services and the local and regional welfare offices of Afula and Carmiel.
- Continuing outreach to the ultra-orthodox sector, in collaboration with the "Shalom Baneyicha" organization and with the involvement and guidance of respected Rabbis.
- Providing consultations, guidance and seminars to professionals, institutions, government and nongovernmental organizations and other agencies such as the Israel Police.
- Promoting and raising awareness on "When is it okay?" among professionals and parents.
- Developing and preparing the infrastructure to open a branch in Be'er Sheva, in partnership with the "Yachdav" organization, The Rashi Foundation and the National Insurance Institute.

## Beginning of Activity: 2001.

## Nationwide Distribution:

A center in Tel Aviv, a branch in Afula and Tamra. The tender's groups operate in the dormitories of the Youth Protection Authority (Mitzpe Yam, Gilaam, and Yarka), in groups within the community (Haifa and Acre), and the groups in Tel Aviv and Ramla.

## Donors and Associates:

Check Point Technologies Ltd., The Ministry of Education, The Ministry of Social Services and Social Affairs, the Juvenile Probation Service, The Youth Protection Authority, Israel Prison Service, the Emuna Afula boarding school, the El Amal boarding school, Herzila's Seven stars Mall and the Carolito Foundation.

## Solutions for Youth at Serious Risk

# "Ktovet Rehov" Night Outreach Vans

## Counseling and Information Vans for Vagrant youth

### The Current Situation:

Thousands of youth roam the streets of Israel at night: youth who dropped out of school, lacking any educational framework, youth who suffer from environmental, social and mental neglect, youth abusing drugs and alcohol, youth involved in anti-social activities, and idle youth looking for a way to relieve their boredom.

During the past year, the prevalence of stabbing incidents among youth has dramatically increased, combined with an increase of alcohol abuse. These violent acts have become more common and frequent. For many of these adolescents, the established welfare services are not accessible to them, leaving them with a sense of alienation and nowhere to turn to.

For many of these youth the array of formal welfare services is inaccessible. Some of them do not know where to seek help, others have cut all ties with the adult world, and some have lost all hope that their situation can be changed.

### ELEM's Solution:

The "Ktovet Rehov" Outreach Vans drive at night through the streets, public parks, beaches, abandoned places, and inner cities, in order to reach out to detached youth, establish an initial contact and direct them to appropriate treatment services of ELEM or other bodies, so that they can begin a process of rehabilitation and return to a normative life path.

### The Project's Activities:

- "Ktovet Rehov" Outreach Vans are vehicles that were adapted to serve as a location for personal meetings with youth on the street. The vans are equipped with comfortable lounges, drinks and snacks, information material, contraceptives, etc.
- The staff performs active reaching out to adolescents, creating warm and accepting ties with the youth, providing immediate initial solutions to their problems, and offering them an attentive ear.
- After winning their trust, the teams work to refer the youth to the various welfare services of the community, and/or try to reconnect them with the welfare services they have abandoned.

### Summary of Data and Characteristics of Youth:

There are many vagrant youth from all sectors of society: native Israelis and immigrants, secular, religious and ultra-orthodox, Jews and Arabs.

Many of these youth experienced neglect and abuse as children, which lead to difficulties in building relationships of trust with other people, aggression towards their environment and themselves, considerable difficulties in defining their identity and self-image, and other types of distress.

Total number of encounters with youth	<b>36,374</b>
New encounters	<b>11,946</b>
Recurring encounters	<b>24,428</b>

### Division by Sexes:

Boys	<b>70%</b>
Girls	<b>30%</b>

### Division by Origin:

Native Israelis	<b>59%</b>
Youth Immigrants from the FSU	<b>23%</b>
Youth of Ethiopian origin	<b>11%</b>
Arab youth	<b>4%</b>
Orthodox Jews	<b>1%</b>



### Division by Age

2%	of youth are under the age of 12
8%	of youth are between the ages of 12-14
27%	of youth are between the ages of 14-16
43%	of youth are between the ages of 16-18
20%	of youth are over the age of 18
The age range of youth encountered by the night vans is between 10-25	

### Division by Reason of Inquiry:

36%	concerning the exaggerated use of alcohol and /or drugs
21%	concerning juvenile criminal activity
18%	concerning covert dropout from the education system
17%	concerning vagrancy and lack of structured frameworks such as school, employment and army
4%	concerning psychiatric problems (detachment, depression, self-inflicted harm)
2%	concerning homelessness or lack of permanent housing solutions
1%	concerning interventions in times of crises
1%	concerning either past or recent sexual assault

The outreach teams directed about 1400 adolescents to suitable and relevant community services for continuous treatment and care.

### Activities during 2007:

- Expanding the program to 5 new cities and increasing the number of shifts and activities within existing areas of operation. This has resulted in a 38% rise in the number of general encounters with youth and a rise of 60% in new encounters with youth, in comparison to 2006.
- Directing youth on the streets to continuous treatment programs available through community-based welfare agencies. About 40% of referrals this year were new cases, involving youth who were not previously known to the welfare agencies.
- Developing a computerized database to track and document the work of the outreach vans and further enhancing human capital, through the provision of training courses and professional guidance to the entire outreach team composed of staff and volunteers.
- Providing a response to youth facing difficult security situations. For example, the Sderot

outreach van continued to work with youth and the youth services department in the city. The van also operated in coordination with Sderot's special summer programming for youth in distress, which took place next to Ofakim and funded with government assistance.

- Enhancing partnerships with local municipalities. For example, in Holon, social workers from the Service for Girls of the Welfare Departments joined the outreach vans with the aim of tracing and treating girls on the streets in distress and a committee was established which coordinates all of the street activities, headed by the outreach van coordinator. In Bat Yam, a fruitful collaboration exists between the youth services and the outreach van which together operate a program called "Leylot Levanim" (White Nights), in partnership with the city and local "Migdalar al Ha Chof" programs.
- Developing new spheres of activity with diverse cultural groups in Jerusalem. For instance expanding work with ultra-orthodox youth, tracing and directing Arab youth at night, working with youth of Ethiopian origin in Katamonim neighborhood and engaging youth from the FSU in Zion Square.
- Launching 3 new programs on the streets of Haifa, complimenting the existing outreach van activities in the city. Two programs, titled "Tzipori Layla" (Night Birds), opened enabling youth to access support centers at night and one program was opened specifically for adolescent girls. All programs operate through the collaborative efforts of the outreach van, the "Sachlav" student volunteer program and the city's youth services division.

- Integrating workers from The Authority for the Fight Against Drugs within the street outreach vans in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Ramla and Bat Yam.

### Nationwide Distribution:

In 2007 11 vans operated in 15 communities: Kiryat Shmona, Carmiel, Acre, Haifa, Netanya, Hasharon, Tel Aviv, Holon, Bat Yam, Ramla-Lod, Jerusalem, Rehovot, Sderot and Kiryat Gat.

### Beginning of Activities: 1995.

### Donors and Associates:

The project "Ktoret Rehov" Outreach Vans operates in cooperation with The Service for Children and Youth - The Ministry of Social Services and Social Affairs, Ministry of Absorption, the Rashi Foundation, the local municipalities - Violence free city, JDC Israel, Vulcan Batteries Ltd., the Ted Arison Family Foundation, KKL England - JNF, UJC of MetroWest N.J., the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews the Minmount Foundation, Atlanta Foundation and The Carolito Foundation.

## Solutions for Youth at High Risk

# Girls Field

### The Current Situation:

Thousands of girls suffer from distress, oppression and violence due to their gender. Israeli society is a patriarchal society based on overtly masculine values, which intensifies the position of girls as weaker and more vulnerable.

Unlike boys, who tend to show their distress openly and direct their violence against society, girls at risk tend to internalize their distress and hurt themselves. This characteristic makes it easier for the environment to completely ignore the difficulties of girls.

### ELEM's Solution:

ELEM recognized the need to treat girls, and

particularly girls at risk, separately, and to develop unique and distinct solutions to treat their distress. Therefore, in 2004, ELEM established the "Girls Field".

In all projects developed by the organization that are designated for girls, the girl is a full partner in all phases of the treatment, and is encouraged to make important decisions about the treatment herself. This is done with the aim of assisting the girl to become familiar with her potential strength, to intensify it, and to help her regain control over her life and body. In addition to the independent centers that provide specific solutions to girls in distress, this focused approach is employed simultaneously in a variety of other fields and projects at ELEM.



### Detailed Description of the Solutions:

## "A Real Home" For Girl Victims of Sexual Assault and Incest

### The Current Situation:

According to data collected by the Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel, every sixth woman is a victim of incest, and many others were victims of sexual abuse in their childhood. Of all distresses suffered by girls, this is the worst kind, both on an individual and a social level.

Girls who were abused in this way have difficulties functioning normally, studying, integrating into a future employment environment, and maintaining sound interpersonal relationships. Although sexual assault leads to a deterioration of all realms in the life of a girl, the treatment offered to them by the community is only partial, and provided separately by various bodies. There is no one entity that provides all the services and could thus constitute

a clear address for the girls to turn to.

### ELEM's Solution:

"A Real Home" is the only project in Israel that provides a comprehensive solution for girls suffering from sexual assault and incest in one single place. The house is a day center that serves as an open, pleasant and accessible communal address for girls in need of professional help and support, in order to carry on with their lives.

### Activities During 2007:

- Providing individual treatment, at no cost, for girls in need of support.
- Establishing a special group for young women over the age of 25 in need of treatment.
- Expanding the center's operations to 4 days a week.
- Providing additional training programs for volunteer mentors.

### Summary of Data and Characteristics:

**During 2007 35 patients were treated at the center, most of whom were native Israelis between the ages of 17-26.**

The house is designed for girls aged 13-25, who are victims of sexual assault. Girls seeking therapeutic assistance at a supportive environment interested in a short-term or long-term treatment and cannot afford it themselves, or those who find it difficult to wait for a long time, until they can be accepted by the community services.

The house is also intended for girls who are considering starting therapy and are in need of support and assistance, or girls treated by the community but whose treatment is not comprehensive enough since they are in need of extensive support. The house is not meant for girls addicted to drugs or alcohol or those in a psychotic condition.

### Donors and Associates:

Ladies Circle 11 (Hertzliya), Galit and Steve Edery, Evergreen Venture Partners, Liora Landau and friends, Aviva's Group, Turkey Investments Ltd., the Sphera Fund Ltd., The Tel Aviv Rape Crisis Center, the Service for Girls of The Ministry of Social Services and Social Affairs, The Ministry of Health - The Department for Mental Health, The Agnes and Beny Steinmetz Foundation, The Steinhardt Family Foundation, The Israeli Cancer Association and The Carolito Foundation.

## "A.D.I." Center

### (Power, Care, Friendship)

#### The Current Situation:

In Israel, thousands of girls are in a state of detachment, suffer from violence, or have destructive tendencies. For the lack of a better response, those girls are sent by court order to closed therapeutic programs, which stigmatize the girls and detach them from the community.

#### ELEM's Solution:

Adi is a center for rehabilitation and treatment that operates as an open communal day center for detached girls, and serves as a supportive, rehabilitative, and therapeutic framework, without being authoritative or removing the girls from their community. In their natural environment, the girls feel less threatened by the treating entities, less stigmatized, and therefore demonstrate less resistance to their rehabilitative treatment.

The girls are directed to the center by the various community services, especially the Service for Girls of the Welfare Departments of the various municipalities. A few of them are directed to the

center by the Juvenile Probation Service and independently by welfare workers.

#### Project activities:

Female youth often turn to the center after having experienced serious distress at home which has led them to turn to a life on the streets, detached from all frameworks. These youth express serious behavioral problems and destructive tendencies, including the regular abuse of drugs and alcohol. The center's staff establishes a close relationship with the girls, based on trust, with the aim of helping them begin a process of positive change. The work with youth is done on a daily basis, focusing on treatment and rehabilitation in all aspects of life, from emotional support to employment, the integration into instructional or educational frameworks as well as work with Juvenile Probation Services and the courts. Through the framework of this program, youth ultimately develop alternatives to their state of detachment. They acquire education, work and receive assistance and therapy, each according to her unique needs and wishes.

The training that is provided at the centers includes the development of life skills, a reconnection with one's inner-self and creativity as well as work with the girls' supportive systems, including their families and the community.

The center operates through an equal partnership between the staff and the youth. This approach empowers the girls, turning them into full partners in their rehabilitation process, and allows them to take greater responsibility for their own lives.



#### Summary of Information and Characteristic

In total, 67 girls between the ages of 14-21, were treated this year. These youth have begun the process of integration into workplaces, study and other productive activities within the community.

#### Division by origin:

Native Israelis	<b>32</b>
Girls of Ethiopian origin	<b>13</b>
Immigrants from the FSU	<b>17</b>
Arab girls	<b>5</b>



### Activities during 2007:

- Strengthening and enhancing cooperation with the local community and professional bodies who refer youth to social-welfare services who regard "Adi" as an optimal community-based solution, helping to increase the number of girls treated at the center.
- Transition apartment - Establishing a functional apartment for young adolescent girls who graduated from the center, thus enabling them to continue the rehabilitation process and positive integration into society.
- "Kish Me Bayit" (Homemade Quiches) - operating a business initiative where youth bake and sell quality homemade quiches, as a tool for empowerment, and as the first step towards positive productivity.
- Adi Outreach Vans - directing and working with detached high risk girls in areas such as Kiryat Ekron and Gedera.
- Community Theatre Workshops - ongoing training and workshops with 13 girls, culminate in the production of a play written in partnership with the youth.
- "Etarim Project" - challenge and adventure activities designed to build and strengthen the self-esteem and sense of security among girls.
- The development of separate and distinct programs targeting older adolescent girls.
- Educational Center - integrating a professional teacher on a part time basis at the center in order

to provide girls an opportunity to continue their studies. Encouraging girls to complete their matriculation exams and offering assistance as some return to established educational frameworks.

- Partnering with "Derech Acheret" (Another Way), a rehabilitation center for youth with addictions in Ramla.

**Beginning of activities:** 2005.

### Donors and Associates:

"Adi" is a cooperation between ELEM, the Department of Correction of the Ministry of Social Services and Social Affairs: the Service for Girls and the Youth Rehabilitation Service, the Municipality of Rehovot, Ashalim, Etgarim Association and Ashram Ltd.

## Work Focused on Girls in a Variety of ELEM Projects

- Weekly sessions specifically for girls living on the streets who access day centers for homeless youth in Tel Aviv at "Someone to Run With" and in Jerusalem at "Galgal". Most of the girls at the centers engage in prostitution and are addicted to drugs. A relationship is forged and ongoing support is provided as they begin to make positive changes through the rehabilitation process. The programs offered include mediation between girls and subsequent supportive structures, assisting them in finding employment and housing.
- Establishing a shelter for girls who live on the street thus enhancing the continuum of care available. The shelter is a preventative and humanitarian relief initiative, which provides a 'safe haven' for girls during the night, in order to protect them from further exploitation and sexual harassment. Elem laid the foundation for a new shelter, which began operation in January 2008, in partnership with The Authority for the Fight Against Drugs and the Youth Advancement Service in Jerusalem.
- Developing unique project targeting girls in "Hafuch al Hafuch" Centers and "Migdalar" Centers.
- Holding professional seminars with outreach van teams, who have reported an increase of enquiries by girls, and with social workers for girls working in the multi-cultural field.
- Facilitating the opening of transitional housing for homeless girls through Elem's Someone to Run With Center, specifically for girls who have participated in addiction programs and are in the process of rehabilitation. The house runs parallel to the temporary shelters offered to youth and operates through the professional collaboration and support of The Israel Anti-Drug Authority.

## Solutions for Youth at High Risk

# "Derech Hamelech"

## An Employment Training and Mentoring Program for Delinquent Youth

### The Current Situation:

Every year hundreds of youth are defined as delinquent. They are deteriorating to a life of crime, and are being treated by the Juvenile Probation Service and the Youth Advancement Division.

Many of these youth have personal, familial and social difficulties. What is lacking in their lives is an adult role model they can identify with, cooperate with and imitate. The services for youth in distress are overloaded and lack the resources, time and ability to offer each and every youth under their care the unique tailor-made solution they require.

### ELEM's Solution:

In the framework of the development of innovative services for youth at risk, in 2006 ELEM developed a program called "Derech Hamelech" (The Way of the King), which is a complementary solution to the professional treatment services given by the state. The program helps youth who have deteriorated to criminal behavior, by assigning an adult mentor to each youth and/or integrating the youth into employment training in a commercial company in the community. The purpose of this program is to allow the youth to escape the vicious circle of distress, violence and criminality, begin a process of rehabilitation, and get back on the road towards a normative life.

The program operates all over the country and cooperates with the institutional youth services and recruits business associates all over the country.

### The Project's Activities:

- Personal mentoring through a supportive relationship with an adult volunteer, guiding them towards the reality of a normative life. This relationship is professionally accompanied and supervised by "ELEM" coordinator, in cooperation with the services that refer youth to the program.
- Accompaniment and integration of youth into rehabilitative employment frameworks, where the youth undergoes professional training under the guidance of a volunteer-mentor.

### Summary of Data and Characteristics of Youth:

The project caters to youth aged 12-18, who have deteriorated to delinquency and are treated by the various communal youth services (Juvenile

Probation Service, the departments for girls in the local authorities, The Youth Advancement Unit, in addition to ELEM's Outreach Vans, "Hafuch-Al-Hafuch" Centers, "Migdalar" Centers). Some youth have dropped out of educational frameworks, others come from out-of-home structures, including drug rehabilitation institutions.

Youth treated in 2007	500
Volunteers and mentors	400
Active businesses	50

### Nationwide Distribution:

In 6 regions the program is active in cooperation with the National Insurance Institute: in the Tel Aviv and surrounding areas (Bnei Brak, Or Yehuda, Jaffa and Ramat-Gan), Jerusalem and its surroundings, Be'er Sheba and the South, Lod, Hadera, Or Akiva, Afula and Migdal Ha'emek.

The program is operated independently in Ramla, Petah-Tiqva, Ashdod, and Nazareth.

Regions in cooperated with Ashalim: Netanya, Kfar-Saba, Ariel and Hasharon, Kadima.

### Donors and Associates:

**Project funding:** National Insurance Institute - the Fund for Development of Services for Children and Youth at Risk, Ashalim, The Dan and Gloria Schusterman Foundation and The Carolito Foundation.

**Central professional associates nationwide:** the National Juvenile Probation Services - correction division - and The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services.

**Local professional associates:** Miftan School, the Service for Girls in Distress, The Youth Advancement Unit, Juvenile Probation Services, Youth protection Authority and Local community centres.

**Business associates:** The Dan Hotels Israel, Rotary Jerusalem, the Agricultural Research Organization, John Bryce Company, Spaghettim Restaurant Chain, Aroma, Ace, Partner Ltd., arcaffé, Bank Mizrahi-Tefachot Ltd., Machtshim, Sagafredo, Dor-Alon, baran Group, Cesaria Industrial park, lawyers and other businesses all over the country.

## Solutions for Youth at High Risk

# Independent Business Initiatives for Youth That Have Dropped out of Formal Educational Systems

### The Current Situation:

Many youth in the country are experiencing difficulties in integrating into formal educational structures. Those who drop out from educational institutions find themselves on the road towards deterioration, due to a lack of a supportive system and guidance.

### ELEM's Solution:

Integrating youth into independent business initiatives, which allows them to integrate into a positive, challenging and attractive environment where they acquire new skills, learn to take responsibility for themselves and for the group, make decisions, and become acquainted with the 'real' world of business.

ELEM establishes small independent businesses that give youth the opportunity to work and to participate in management. Their involvement in the project provides detached youth with a significant sense of belonging, free of any stigmas, strengthens their self-image, and enables them to experience success.

This is a real opportunity to acquire education and a profession, and to develop personal skills (working morale, negotiation skills, interpersonal communication, time management, and decision making). Youth regain their trust in the environment by creating meaningful relationships with the staff who accompany them. All this contributes to the youth's qualifications for future - work and study, and helps them find their place in society as contributing and productive citizens.

In order to establish various business projects all over the country, ELEM founded a daughter company called "Business Initiatives for Youth," operated by a directorate of 6, each director volunteers in accompanying one business project, offering professional advice and guidance to enable the project to operate and grow as a regular business.

Most of the youth participating in these projects are youth detached and at risk aged 15-18.

### The initiatives that were opened during 2007:

#### Café Yael in Sderot

A coffee shop run by youth living in Sderot, located in the city's Cinematic building and offering residents and local businesses coffee, sandwiches and light meals. Despite the serious security threats in the region, activities continued this year, even under the

fire of Quassam rockets. 11 youth were integrated into this initiative, guided by a professional. Donors and Associates: Elite-Strauss Coffee, Partnership 2000, The Rashi Foundation, Gvanim Organization, the Cinematic and Sapir College.

#### "KishMebayit" Rehovot

A unique initiative engaging high risk girls at the "Adi" Center, through the baking and selling of quality, homemade quiches. The project integrated 8 girls and operates with the guidance of a professional chef and an "Adi" staff member. Donors and Associates: Applied Company, and Partnership 2000 and Ziv Bakery Shop.

#### "Siba Le Mesiba" (Reason to Party) in Tel Aviv

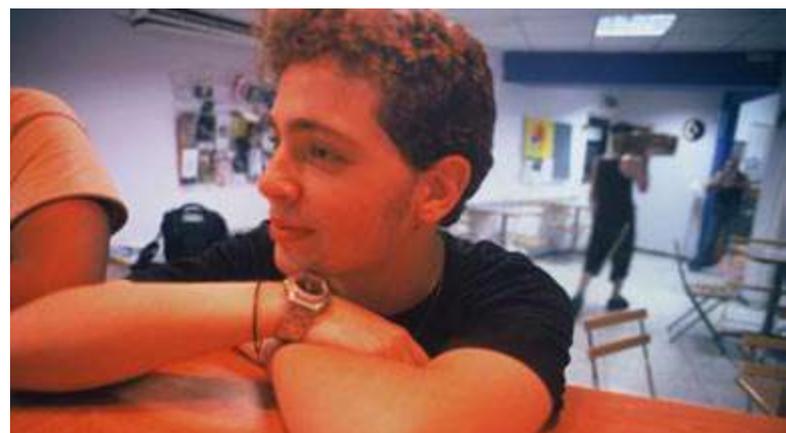
An initiative that offers entertainment and activities for children's birthdays and events. The implementing team includes at-risk youth who receive comprehensive professional training and guidance. During 2007, 10 youth were integrated. Donors and Associates: Hamizrachi Bank.

#### "B-Good" in Haifa

Managing and operating a booth, that sells designer clothing donated to the project. The booth is located in the Grand Shopping Mall in Haifa and has successfully integrated 4 girls.

#### Coffee Shop for Youth in Be'er Sheva

Establishing the foundation for a youth coffee shop at "Elem House", located in Be'er Sheva's old city quarters. The coffee shop is expected to open its doors in February 2008 and in the past year, 8 teenagers were integrated into the program to help with the development phase. Donors and Associates: Ha Chevra Le Israel, Kivunim Company and the Rishonim Bakery.



### Detailed Description of the Solutions:



## Lilith Restaurant

Lilith is a gourmet restaurant in Tel Aviv run by ELEM as an active rehabilitation program aimed at the prevention of the deterioration of youth at risk, providing them with professional tools needed to return to a normal and positive course of life.

### The Project's Activities:

- The youth receive theoretical and practical training in the culinary professions: cooking, baking, serving and bar tending.
- The training lasts 18 months and is carried out in small groups, allowing an individual adaptation to the unique needs and abilities of each youth.
- The apprentices work in the kitchen with the chef and take responsibility for the preparation of the food served in the restaurant. Parallel to their training, a long-term therapeutic program tailored to fit their individual situation is begun under the supervision of a social worker. This process of support and guidance includes individual and group meetings and conversations, follow-up conversations, and cooperation with all bodies involved: social workers, project managers, psychiatrists, parents, etc.

Upon completion of the training, the youth are directed to restaurants that are willing to employ them.

The restaurant's staff works on two levels at the same time: training youth and operating a full-scale restaurant. Therefore, the entire staff receives continuous support and assistance to help them handle everyday difficulties in the training of the youth and to make the rehabilitation project a success.

### Summary of Data and Characteristics of Youth:

29 youth participated in the project during the past year. The youth are accepted into the project according to available places and the ability of the kitchen team to train them. The project can train about 18 youth at the same time - the current group includes 8 girls and 10 boys.

### Activities During 2007:

- After a year and a half of operations in a new site, at Tel Aviv's Asia building and with the menu change from dairy to meat, an additional preparation kitchen was opened, with the aim of improving work facilities and increasing the potential of accepting more youth to the project.
- Special Chef Nights - Chef Meir Adoni, owner of the exclusive "Catit" Restaurant, was a guest chef at Lilith, preparing a special dinner with the youth apprentices and staff.
- Expanding the operation of the restaurant by increasing the number of seating areas inside and outside of the building and opening an exclusive area for private bookings and corporate events.
- Conducting research on the impact of the Lilith on all the youth graduates since the inception of the project, initiated by Elem Board of Directors and headed by Prof. Aharon York of Bar Ilan University.

**Beginning of Activities:** 2000.

### Donors and Associates:

The Kremerman family, Mr. Stenberg, The Carolito Foundation, Eric and Erica Schwartz, The Rich Foundation for Culture, Education and Welfare, Mr. Mati Teiber, the Ibtzen family, Tabor Winery, Carmel Mizrahi Wineries and the volunteering assisting chefs: Erez Komorovsky, Daniel Zach and Eyal Lavi.

## Solutions for Youth at Fatal Risk

# "Someone to Run With" and "Galgal" Day Centers for Homeless Youth

### The Current Situation:

Hundreds of youth are unable to integrate into Israeli society and find themselves on the streets, maintaining themselves with criminality and prostitution, and abusing drugs. These are youth who have been victimized from an early age on, and have experienced continuous neglect and severe abuse. Some of them are immigrants (some of which immigrated without their parents), and most of them have been living in institutions and other frameworks away from home.

Welfare services have failed in their attempts to rehabilitate them and they became detached from any framework of treatment. They are homeless, suffer from hunger, illnesses, loneliness, severe detachment and abandonment. Most of them concentrate in the big cities - Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

### ELEM's Solution:

The "Someone to Run With" center in Tel Aviv and the "Galgal" center in Jerusalem were established as therapeutic, humanitarian projects for homeless youth and young persons. The purpose of the projects is to reach out to these youth, make initial contact with them, winning their trust so that they will then come to the day centers for continuous treatment, the beginning of individual rehabilitation processes, and their gradual return to normative life in the community.

### The Project's Activities:

- Actively reaching out to youth on the streets and creating first ties.
- Providing basic humanitarian needs: food, shower, laundry, rest, shelter, medical care, and a lot of love and warmth.
- Identifying the individual needs of each youth, and assigning a personal mentor who guides, supports and accompanies them in activities outside the center.
- Empowerment activities for individuals and groups: psycho-educational treatment, holistic treatment, Hebrew lessons, etc.
- Developing a rehabilitative process and guiding the youth towards renewed absorption in society in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the community.

### Summary of Data and Characteristics of Youth:

A total of 354 youth were treated in these centers.

#### Division by gender:

Boys	<b>74%</b>
Girls	<b>26%</b>

#### Division by origin:

Immigrant boys	<b>58%</b>
Native Israeli boys	<b>33.5%</b>
Other	<b>8.5%</b>

In the last few years there has been a significant increase in the number of native Israeli youth who deteriorate to a life on the streets. This trend is even stronger among girls. As women in a patriarchal and overtly masculine society, they are more exposed to sexual and physical violence, and therefore their potential to end up on the streets is higher compared to that of boys, even without having lived through a crisis of immigration. Girls are doubly victimized when they live on the streets without any support, since they are more exposed to sexual exploitation and are sexually harassed on a daily basis.

#### Range of ages in the project: 15-26

Ages 15-18	<b>9.5%</b>
Ages 18-26	<b>77.5%</b>
Age of +26	<b>13%</b>

#### Referrals to treatment entities:

Service	Number of applications
Various welfare entities	<b>31</b>
Rehabilitation centers	<b>35</b>
Hospitals	<b>57</b>
psychiatrists	<b>16</b>
Other centers	<b>39</b>
Employment	<b>22</b>
Legal consultation	<b>33</b>

### Activities During 2007:

- Enhancing the multi-cultural outreach to youth on the street from diverse backgrounds including: youth of Ethiopian origin, English speaking youth and ultra-orthodox youth (mainly in Jerusalem).
- Focusing new strategies to enhance outreach to homeless girls.
- Developing 'Girl Focused Days' where the professional team consists of females only and outreach focuses on the specific hardships girls face due to their gender, such as: sexual exploitation, deterioration to prostitution, dependence on pimps, exposure to violence and more.
- Establishing a shelter for homeless girls in Jerusalem. Homeless girls are particularly vulnerable and exploitable on the streets, often controlled by pimps and forced into prostitution, just to find a place to rest for the night. Due to these circumstances and the lack of available protection for this specific population, Elem initiated and advocated for the establishment of a shelter that offers immediate respite from the streets. The shelter began operating in January 2008.
- Following new operating schedules and expanding activities to 5 days a week
- Directing homeless youth to potential employment opportunities, essential in their re-

integration to society. Despite the complexity of such a task, the nurturing approach of the "Derach Ha Melech" project has made this process more accessible to youth, enabling a significant increase of referrals.

- Developing and expanding volunteer positions within the centers.

### Beginning of Activities:

"Galgal" - 2002, "Someone to Run With" - 2003.

### Nationwide Distribution:

"Galgal" in Jerusalem, "Someone to Run With" in Tel Aviv.

### Donors and Associates:

**"Galgal"** - the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, the Youth Advancement Unit, the Jerusalem Union of the Israel Anti-Drug Authority, the National Inheritance Committee, The Dan and Gloria Schusterman Foundation, The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, and the Rashi Foundation.

**"Someone to Run With"** - the Jewish Agency, Galit and Steve Edery, the National Inheritance Committee, and the Israel Anti-Drug Authority, IFCJ - International fellowship of Christians and Jews, the Carolito Foundation, the Rashi Foundation, The Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust and the Rashi Foundation.



## Solutions for Youth at Fatal Risk

# "Awake At Night"

## Project for Youth Involved in Prostitution

### The Current Situation:

More than a thousand youth in Israel are involved in prostitution. They often begin practicing prostitution after experiencing severe distress, a physically, sexually and emotionally abusive environment, strong rejection and severe neglect. Some of the youth still go to school and live at home, while others escaped their abusive environment and live on the streets in extreme detachment, risk and distress, exposed to the exploitation of adults.

Prostitution of minors is being moved increasingly from the streets to closed apartments and to the internet. Most youth work today through dating sites, chats and forums on the internet. The underground trend of this phenomenon is getting stronger, which makes it more complicated to deal with the situation.

### ELEM's Solution:

The "Erim Balayla" Project is the only address in Israel for youth practicing prostitution. The project attempts to reach out to these youth and reduce the harm caused to them through their occupation and tailors a personal rehabilitative program that will pave their way to reintegration into the community.

### The Project's Activities:

The project offers different kinds of support for youth:

- **Day center** - offers youth a shelter and provides for their basic needs: hot meals, laundry services, shower, sanitary products etc'...
- **Interpersonal relations** - building a warm and supportive relation with an accompanying mentor and arranging individual therapy for those in need.
- **Nationwide Hotline** - available at all times.
- **Locating and reaching out** to youth in the various scenes: places of recreation, the internet, streets.

### Summary of Data and Characteristics of Youth:

The project offers assistance to teenagers (male, female and transgender youth) ages 13-22, who are commercially sexually abused and practice prostitution.

**During 2007 a total of 34 youth and young adults were treated through the project.**

### Activities during 2007:

- **Night Shifts:** a late night pilot program was established that meets youth on their own terms.

- **Support Systems:** a unique system was established to help ensure that youth are escorted and receive support during much needed basic treatments and harm reduction programs.

- **Establishing Interpersonal Relations:** weekly mentorship meetings are established with youth on an individual basis. Special attention is also given to youth who would otherwise drift from all frameworks.

- **Improving ongoing assessments** of the demographic characterization of minors engaged in prostitution and linking them with Elem services.

- **Providing a three and a half month professional training program** for volunteer mentors.

- **Strengthening ties and cooperation** with parallel organization.

### Special initiatives resulting from the relocation of the Day Center to a new site:

During the transition period, special efforts were made to preserve and maintain existing relationships with youth being treated through the project. This helped to ensure a continuity of treatment and access to basic services as well as continuous mentorship.

- **Operated a clinical group** that focuses on various issues such as how to deal with: changes, breakups and new beginnings, especially as they relate to past experiences and changes that took place at the center.

- **A special program** was developed with the aim of providing much needed consistency in the lives of the teenagers, enabling them to be active in programs that are not self destructive.

- **In the beginning of 2008** the center moved to a new location, allowing the project to grow and to treat more youth and teenagers.

### Beginning of Activities: 2001.

**Nationwide Distribution:** Tel Aviv.

### Donors and Associates:

The project is operated in collaboration with the Municipality of Tel Aviv, Matan - Your Way to Give, the Sonia and Edward Kossoy Foundation, Carolito Foundation, Check Point Technologies Company Ltd., Galit and Steve Edery, and Reuveni Pridan Advertising Company as a voluntary strategic partner.

# Community Resources and Volunteering

ELEM considers the treatment of youth in distress and at risk the responsibility of the entire Israeli society. Thus, the organization works hard to make the community a partner in its social activities.

The community resources and volunteering field deals with the development and recruitment of resources and human capital among the local communities for youth at risk in their area, furthering the involvement and cooperation of the community in their treatment, and developing innovative solutions for them - on a voluntary basis.

ELEM was established as a volunteering organization. There are 1,500 volunteers, of which 200 are youth volunteering to help other youth.

## **ELEM volunteers work on several main levels:**

- Headquarters volunteers are active within the organization's administrative institutions and professional committees. This year, ELEM reestablished the Volunteering Committee, as a subcommittee to the Professional Committee. Committee members consist of academics, office and field workers and members of the Professional Committee.
- Field volunteers are active in a variety of programs and projects, some working directly with the youth and others through training professional teams and guiding volunteers.
- Youth volunteers contribute their time and efforts for the benefit of other youth as well as for their own personal development and growth.
- Special Events volunteers are recruited for specific activities including canvassing days, fundraising events and for special summer festivals.
- The spirit of voluntarism in the organization inspires many youth who are assisted by Elem, and very often they become active volunteers themselves. The chairman of the organization, the board of directors and the review committee - are all volunteers.

## **Activities During 2007:**

- Continuing the development of local area branches that help to coordinate various Elem projects in the field and maximize the professional resources for youth in the community as well as create stronger community involvement.
- Engaging 4 local community leadership groups in Kfar Saba, Be'er Sheva, Ramla and Haifa comprised of senior officials and executives who assume responsibility and work together with Elem

professionals to find meaningful solutions to the various problems facing youth.

- Providing guidance to Elem branches in the field of volunteer management, including recruiting, selecting and training volunteers, as well as professional guidance to project and program managers.
- Strengthening volunteer retention through training initiatives, inspiring enrichment programs, courses related to placements and national volunteer appreciation days.
- Continuing to develop the 'Derech Hamelech' program which offers new and innovative solution for high risk youth in collaboration with the National Insurance Institute and the Juvenile Probation Service at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services (see separate section about the program).
- Extending partnerships with businesses active in the community to include individual and/or group volunteer placements which broaden their involvement with Elem and local youth, aside from their important financial contributions.
- Launching Project "Hamama" at Elem's branch in Ramla, in partnership with the Volcani Institute, where 24 youth benefited from a comprehensive agricultural training program focusing on growing organic food.
- Launching "Atzmai Ba Shetach" (Independent in the Field) in Elem's Be'er Sheva branch where 25 youth received various vocational training in fields such as the culinary arts and hair styling. Upon completion of the course, several youth were integrated into relevant employment positions.
- Launching "Seeds of Change" in Elem's Kfar Saba branch where 79 youth benefited from training and enrichment in areas of personal interest such as dog training, horse riding, theatre, drumming and graffiti arts.
- Building an "Elem House" in Be'er Sheva for youth, operated with the assistance of adult and youth volunteers, and establishing a coffee house for youth in conjunction with the Jerusalem Bakery.

## **There are 8 local branches nationwide:**

Be'er Sheva • Ramla-Lod area • Jerusalem and its surroundings • Netanya - Kadima - Tel-Mond towns • Kfar-Saba and Hasharon - Ramat-Hasharon, Kochav-Yair, Hertzliya, Matan, Ra'anana, Hod-Hasharon • Tel Aviv-Jaffa , Bnei Brak, Ramat-Gan • Haifa • Hadera

# Professional Counseling and Knowledge Management

During 2007, Elem established a new department specializing in strengthening performance of the organization by establishing stronger connections between professionals, the various projects in the field and the bodies of knowledge and practical experiences. A thorough mapping exercise of the knowledge gaps and training needs were identified, based on field research and consultations with key stakeholders. A comprehensive training program was developed to address the specific needs, spearheaded by a diverse team of professionals who provide important tools to Elem staff.

## The professional training structure functions on two main levels:

- **Training teams of youth workers:** Training and consultation for professional youth workers within the organization highlighting best practices related to a variety of topics.
- **Organizational learning and professional development:** Consultation and guidance is provided to enhance program development and includes: documenting and sharing best practices in the field, identifying key challenges and providing professional solutions, assimilating work methods and principles and capitalizing on unique knowledge and experience acquired in the field as well as developing relevant training programs across the organization.

## Activities during 2007:

- **Round Table** - A monthly forum was established engaging all the professionals and advisors, including the exchange of professional ideas and brainstorming.
- **Management Development Course** - A unique course for managers to further enhance organizational learning, management and change.
- **Senior Management Workshop** - facilitated by an external organizational consultant. working together to create comprehensive and integrated work plans and methods and developed new strategies for improving overall program and knowledge management across the organization.
- **Trauma Training for Youth Workers** - emergency trauma intervention training in partnership with Natal - The Israel Center for Victims of Terror and War.
- **External Training Courses:**
  1. "Potchim Atid" - A three week course for 300 staff of the Jewish Agency of Israel.

2. An eight day training course for youth workers in Acre working with the MENA program.
3. Comprehensive training provided on a bimonthly basis for project managers.

## Conference on Stabbings, Alcoholism and Youth in Israel

A professional conference was organized to address the growing phenomenon among youth, in partnership with The Ministries of Welfare and Education, the Israel Police, and The Authority for the Fight Against Drugs. The conference exposed the severity and prevalence of the disturbing trend while participants discussed the factors behind the phenomenon and potential interventions and services needed at both the community and national levels. The conference was held in partnership with The School of Social Work at Tel Aviv University and the support of the Besen Family.

## Knowledge Management

New strategies were developed to enhance knowledge management across the organization, through the use of advanced information technologies and systems. Two complimentary

### Projects developed in 2007:

Elem developed and produced a database system to assist with the overall management of programs and projects within the organization. The system helps to track personal records, intervention progress and follow up of therapeutic programs. The database offers quantitative and qualitative information. This information helps measure the long term impact and progress of the organization.

An optimal management software system was chosen and a comprehensive change strategy, including training, was developed. In 2008, managers will be trained to facilitate and implement these changes.

An intranet portal was developed to help centralize, disseminate and exchange accumulated organizational knowledge and information. In addition, ROM Knowledgeware, lead a precise mapping of the Elem's key sources and centers of knowledge and information within all levels of the organization and began the process of creating a suitable organizational portal for the management of professional content.

# Marketing Communication

ELEM works hard to raise public awareness and increase social responsibility and involvement in the subject of youth at risk, with the conviction that the entire Israeli society is responsible for this matter, and that the future of the state lies in its youth, the future generation.

Raising the awareness of the general public increases the opportunities for effective cooperation with the public sector, other associations and the business sector, and helps to locate additional resources. Thus, we can extend and reinforce the solutions Elem operates by in the field, and develop new relevant solutions, so that more youth in need can enjoy them.

To achieve these objectives, ELEM runs an extensive marketing and public relations campaign in the media, based on a strategic cooperation with commercial bodies and the various medias, together with massive P.R. in the different medias. All this is done in order to make the subject of youth in distress a central topic on the Israeli society's agenda.

The **"ELEM Lights of Hope"** project is the flagship project of the organization in the field of marketing and public relations, designed to increase the awareness of the Israeli public on the subject of youth in distress, and to locate resources for the various projects of the association.

**Nava Barak, the president of the organization, led this project for the fourth year.**

In a creative campaign accompanied by broad media coverage, the public and the business community were called to light the bulbs of an immense flag of lights constructed on the front of Tel Aviv's city hall. The flag consists of more than half a million light bulbs and is in fact the largest flag of Israel in the world.

Each bulb could be lit by sending an SMS, which denoted a donation of 10 NIS to the organization. The first bulb was lit by the president of Israel and, close to Israel's 59th Day of Independence, the Star of David was lit by the Prime Minister, Mr. Ehud Olmert. The first flag of lights campaign was launched in 2004 and was the first cellular phone donations campaign in Israel.

**"ELEM Lights of Hope"** project positions the problem of youth in distress in Israel as a national problem. The project was widely visible, covered enthusiastically by the media, received an overwhelming response from the public and the business sector, and allowed the organization to

present its entire range of projects and its diverse work in the field.

The project also helps to position ELEM as the leading organization in the field of treating youth at risk, which enables an expansion of the continuous activities throughout the year with the various entities, institutions, companies and donors.

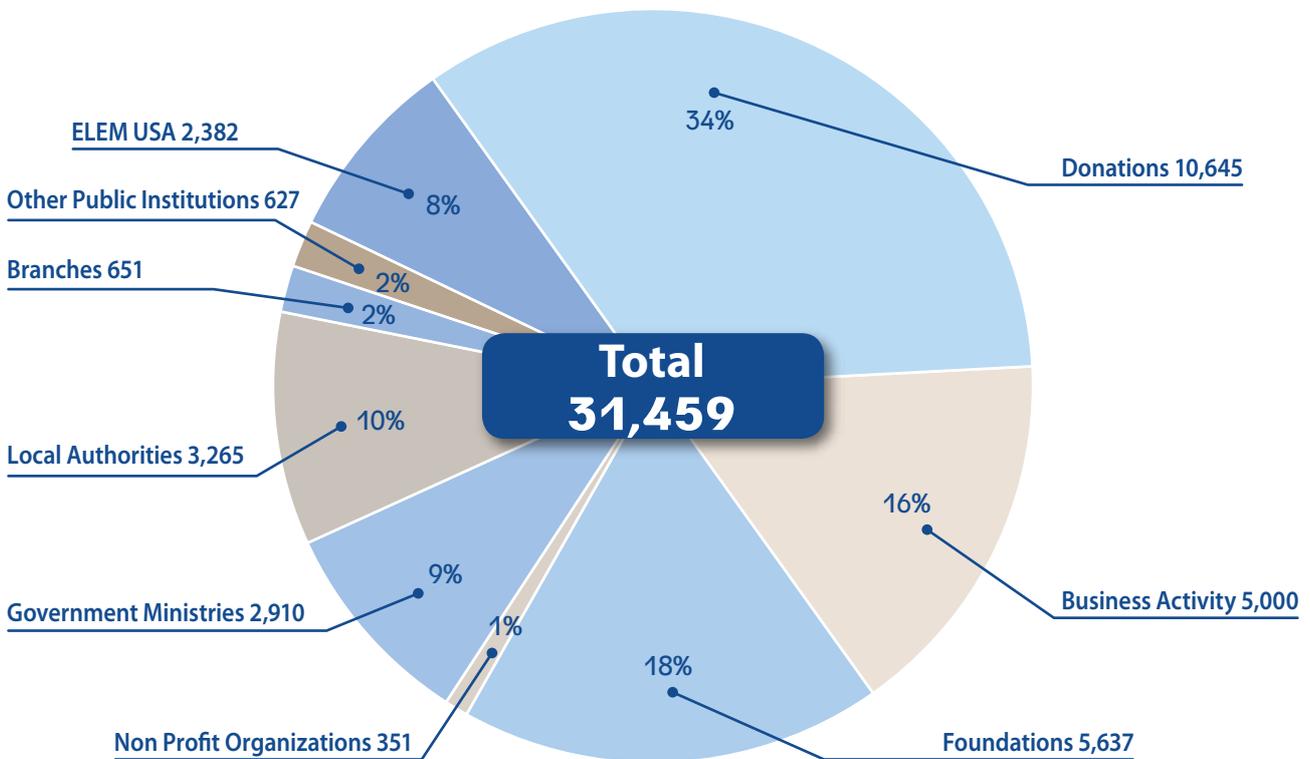
**This year the project was made possible with the help of Bank Hapoalim and Partner Communications Ltd., the sponsors who took up the cause of youth at risk. The project was professionally accompanied by Gitam, the advertising agency that donates its services in accompanying the organization.**

**ELEM Lights of Hope on Azrieli Towers**

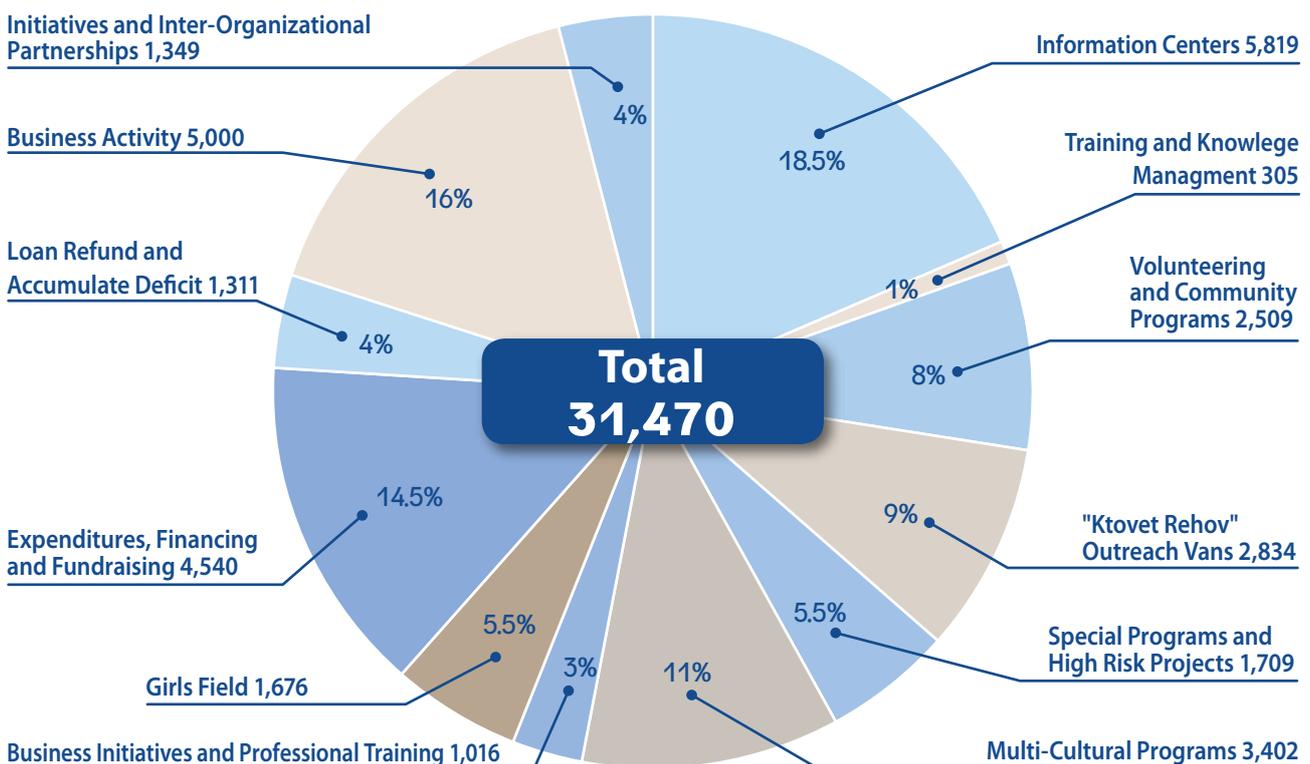


# Income and Expenses for 2007 (in thousands of NIS)

## Income



## Expenses



# Donors and Associates

**Elem's broad activity is made possible thanks to the financial support of hundreds of private donors, foundations and businesses in Israel and abroad, and thanks to the close cooperation with state institutions and business companies. The following donors and associates are especially honored for their generous donations and blessed cooperation:**

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The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services

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Kiryat Shmona and Upper Galilee	

## Warm Thanks

Achinoam Nini  
Avi Kushnir  
Dana Dvurin  
Sasi Keshet  
Tuvia Tzafir  
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- 1 "Hafuch-Al-Hafuch" - counselling and information centers for youth
- 2 "Derech Hamelech" - mentoring and rehabilitative employment
- 3 Local Branches
- 4 Outreach Night Vans
- 5 Centers for Homeless Youth
- 6 Therapeutic Rehabilitation Program for Youth Involved in Prostitution
- 7 Centers for Girls at High Risk
- 8 "Migdalor" - social-therapeutic-educational centers for immigrant youth at high risk
- 9 Multi-Cultural Programs/Multi-cultural programs
- 10 Independent Business Initiatives
- 11 The Center for the Prevention of Sexual Violence Among Children and Youth
- 12 "Hafuch on the Beach"



העמותה לנוער במצבי סיכון (ע"ר) youth in distress

ELEM - The Association for Youth in Distress

7 Kehilat Saloniki St. P.O. Box 53373

Ne'ot Afeka, Tel Aviv 69513 ISRAEL

Tel: +972-3-7686666

Fax: +972-3-6470319

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

[elem@elem.org.il](mailto:elem@elem.org.il)