

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

STRENGTHENING ISRAEL AND HER PEOPLE



Fighting poverty, providing security, and bringing the Jewish people home



SOPHIA IN 2014

FROM OUR FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT: SAVING SOPHIA

When I first met Sophia, she broke my heart.

Three years ago, I was visiting Tikva Children's Home, a facility *The Fellowship* has been supporting for years. Sophia, then two years old, was one of the many homeless, abandoned, and abused Jewish children cared for at Tikva.

Sophia's parents lived in the slums of Odessa and were in the savage grip of alcoholism and mental illness. Sophia arrived at Tikva weighing only 13 pounds and suffering from malnutrition and a case of severe flu that could have killed her had it not been treated.

As I fed her lunch during that visit, I was both deeply touched and struck by how utterly dependent she was on the people around her. Surely, it is children like Sophia the Bible speaks of when it tells us to "*speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute*" (Proverbs 31:8).

Thoughts of this struggling little girl have haunted me ever since, and she has been in my prayers. I saw the answer to those prayers in 2017, when I made another visit to Tikva and saw Sophia again.

Today, Sophia is on the way up. She's receiving help from psychologists and teachers for children with special needs. Though she still has developmental problems to overcome,



everyone at the home says she shows extraordinary determination – and with that, and your continued prayers and support, I have no doubt she will succeed.

Your loving care surrounds Sophia every day. Thanks to you, she is well fed, receives medical treatment that will help her overcome her challenges, and lives in a warm, supportive environment. Her progress is nothing short of a miracle, and though she still has a long road to walk, you are walking it with her.

I cannot begin to tell you what a blessing you have been to this little girl and to so many other people like her – in Israel, the former Soviet Union, and around the world. Thank you, my friends, for your loving and compassionate heart for God's people in need. You saved and transformed untold lives in 2017, and this report offers just a glimpse at those stories and my eternal gratitude for your partnership in this mission to strengthen Israel and her people.

With prayers for *shalom*, peace,

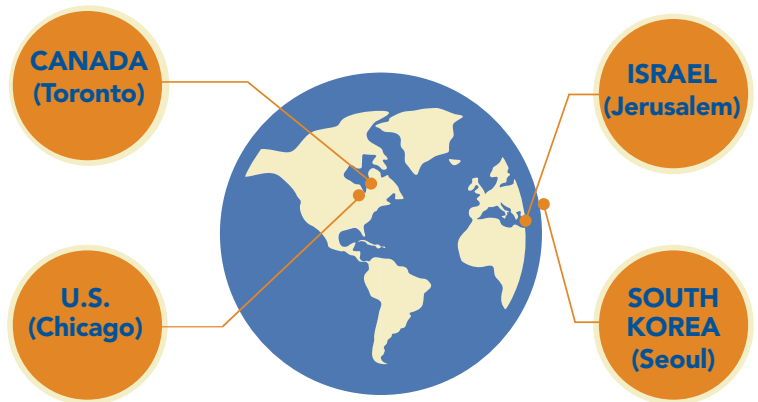
Rabbi Eckstein

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein
Founder and President

THE FELLOWSHIP'S GLOBAL IMPACT

In 2017, our
donors helped
1,598,203 people
in need. 

FELLOWSHIP OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN:



That assistance –
fighting poverty,
providing security,
and helping Jews
make *aliyah*
(immigrate to
Israel) – was
given through
The Fellowship's
hundreds of lifesaving
projects in Israel and
around the world.

 COUNTRIES FELLOWSHIP FREEDOM FLIGHTS ORIGINATED FROM IN 2017

 COUNTRIES WHERE THE FELLOWSHIP PROVIDED SECURITY FOR JEWISH SCHOOLS, SYNAGOGUES, AND COMMUNITY CENTERS IN 2017

 COUNTRIES WHERE THE FELLOWSHIP HAS OFFICES



ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE:



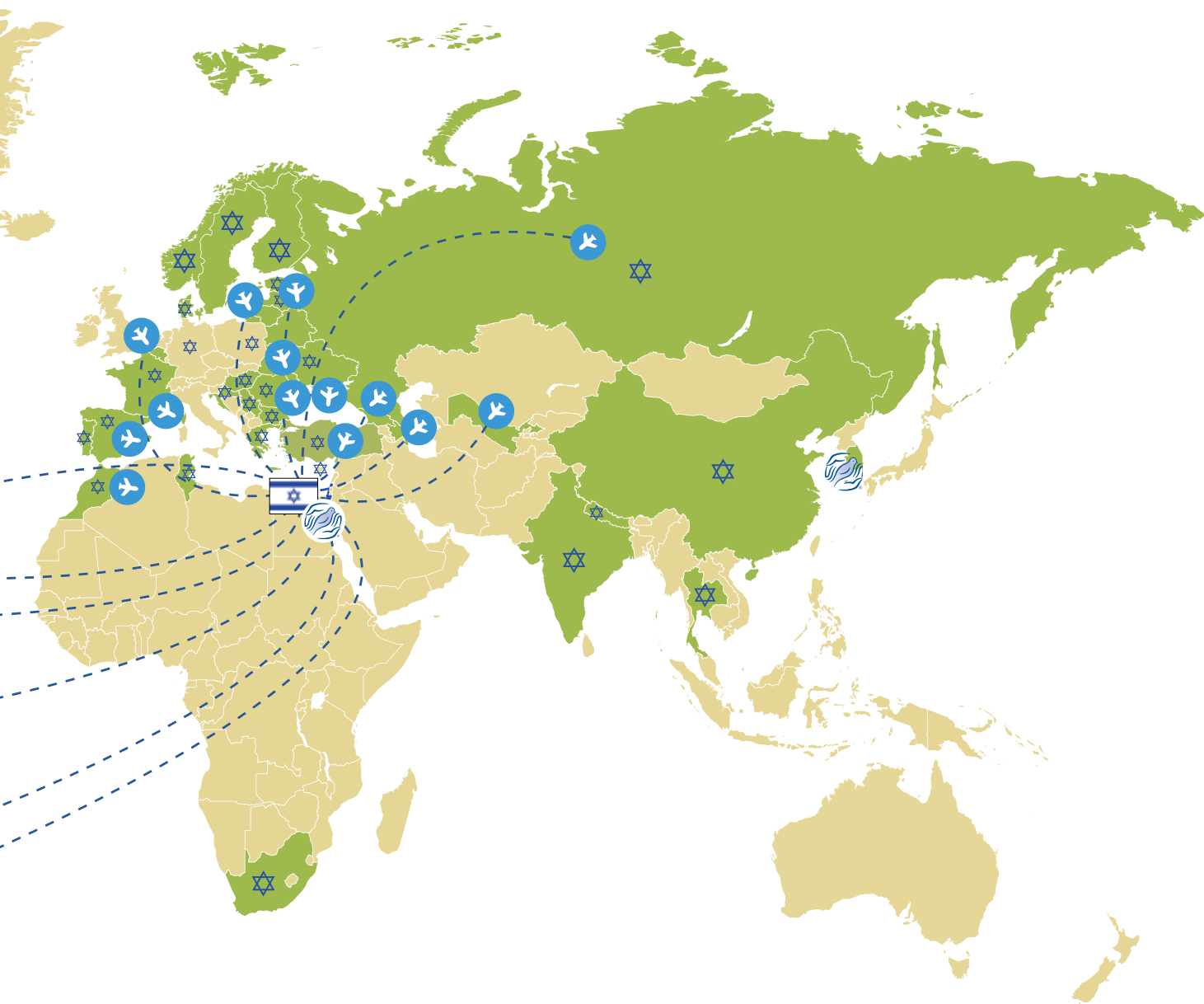
AID TO THE ELDERLY IN MOSCOW

AID TO THE ELDERLY AND
ASSISTANCE TO ORPHANS IN UKRAINE

AID TO THE NEEDY IN MOROCCO

SUPPORT FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT

AID TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN



YOU PROVIDED

IMMEDIATE HELP TO ISRAELIS IN CRISIS

The *Fellowship* Crisis Hotline was launched in 2016 to help solve a big problem. Though Israel boasts a broad range of social and welfare organizations – including more than 400 aid projects run by *The Fellowship* – many of the nation's citizens, especially the high number of elderly and immigrants, were still without the help they desperately needed. With no national 911-type emergency number, many Israelis in need didn't know how to connect to the services available to help them.

So the *Fellowship* Crisis Hotline was created to give everyone in need a place to call and find immediate help. In 2017, the Hotline's first full year of operation, the only challenge was keeping up with demand.



The Hotline's 29 trained staff answer an average of 4,500 calls per month in 7 languages.

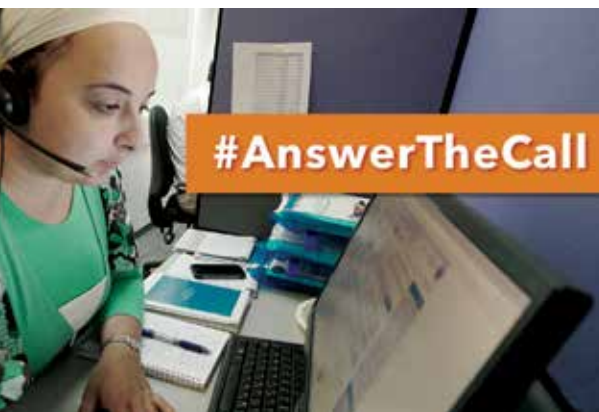


Yitzhak was a prisoner in his own home. A double amputee Israel Defense Forces (IDF) veteran, he's wheelchair bound and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. He can't navigate the couple flights of stairs from his apartment to the street below. When his daughter realized he hadn't left his apartment in several months, she called the *Fellowship* Crisis Hotline to find a solution. The Hotline workers connected Yitzhak to someone who donated a wheelchair lift, finally allowing the former soldier to leave his apartment and enjoy life outdoors.



A fresh START

Hila didn't know where to turn. She had barely escaped her abusive husband, who beat her and left her with back problems. She was desperately trying to find work to support her 12-year-old daughter, Agam, and 13-year-old son, Liav. When she called the *Fellowship* Crisis Hotline, she had no food and no beds in her home. Hotline counselors quickly arranged for the delivery of both, as well as help with utility bills, so the family could get settled in their new life of security and freedom.



In addition to phone calls, the operators at the *Fellowship* Crisis Hotline answer requests for help via:

- Email
- Fax
- Postal mail
- Facebook Messenger

They've also turned to social media to help answer needs, most recently through our Answer the Call mini-campaigns on Facebook, which allow donors to give immediately and directly to a caller's specific need.

"Sometimes when we've not known of an organization that can help someone with their specific need, we've mentioned it on our Facebook page – and every time people have

stepped up to help," explains Joelle Eckstein, Rabbi Eckstein's wife and a dedicated volunteer with the *Fellowship* Crisis Hotline.

YOU PROVIDED

LOVING CARE TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Part of our collective cry to “never forget” the horrors of the Holocaust is a pledge not to forget those who miraculously survived. Tragically, many Holocaust survivors today live in poverty and experience cold, hunger, and desperation that reminds them of those terrible years. *The Fellowship* is determined to give help and hope to as many of them as possible. In 2017, we provided 116,067 elderly and Holocaust survivors in Israel with food, housing, clothing, medical care, and winter heating assistance – and, most importantly, loving companionship that reminds them they are not forgotten.

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Tatiana, a 92-year-old retired math teacher, lives in a run-down shack in a remote village in Ukraine. She eked out a modest living for years on her teacher’s pension and by tutoring children in her village. But now she suffers from a lung infection that went untreated for some time because she didn’t have the money to pay for medical care.

Tatiana also lost both of her sons in the recent military clashes in Ukraine and Russia. Today, her only companions are the stray cats that make her dilapidated home smell horrible.

When Yael Eckstein delivered aid to the needy in Ukraine last year, she visited Tatiana to deliver a warm winter blanket, a bag of groceries, and the reminder that Tatiana is loved and cared for by *Fellowship* friends around the world. We now give Tatiana regular food and heating assistance. Her warm smile shows how much this aid means to her!

NOT
forgotten





WARMING body & soul

At 101, Zelig is still sharp. He lives alone in a small apartment in Israel and, due to his limited mobility, spends most of his days alone. He has to choose between food and winter heating, as he can't afford both. So when *Fellowship* volunteers delivered him a check to help pay for his heating bill last year, you warmed both his home and his heart.

Thanks to your generosity:

38,397 PARTICIPANTS in *The Fellowship's With Dignity* and Fellowship project received monthly prepared meals or food cards, medications, home visits, and emergency funds for basic needs

100,000 ELDERLY in the former Soviet Union received food and medical aid through Hesed community centers

9,000 VISION-IMPAIRED OLDER ADULTS in Israel received audio books

10,000 HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS received emergency call buttons in partnership with the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel

15,000 ELDERLY in Moscow received meals in soup kitchens or delivered to their homes, medical equipment, and toiletries



YOU BROUGHT

JEWS IN PERIL TO THEIR BIBLICAL HOMELAND

*"I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered – with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm" (Ezekiel 20:34). We aren't just witnessing the fulfillment of this prophecy in our time, we are participating in it with every Fellowship Freedom Flight bringing Jews from around the world home to Israel. In 2017, your faithful support helped 5,577 Jews make *aliyah* (immigrate to Israel) from more than 25 countries.*

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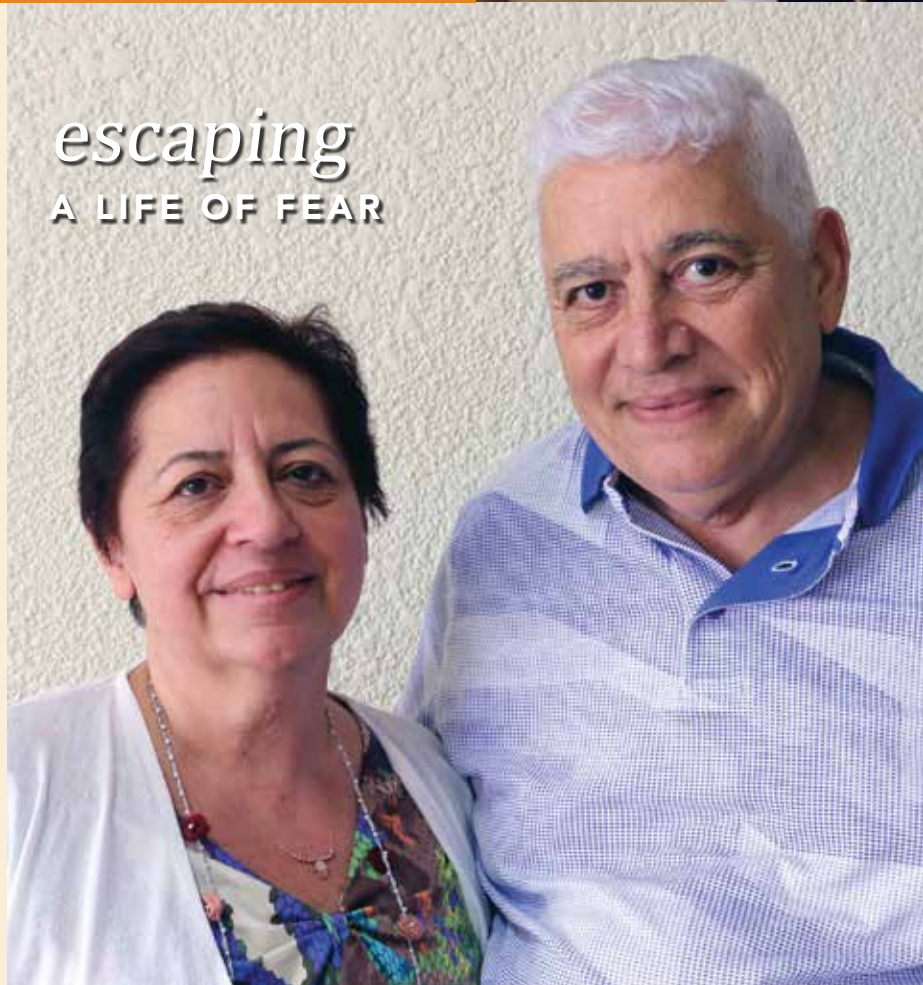


"The prime minister [of Turkey] regularly rails against Jews and against Israel, implying that if Jews ceased to exist, all the problems in the world would disappear."

That's Shlomo, talking about life in his native Turkey. Thanks to you, he made *aliyah* in October with his wife, Ester.

"We feared for our lives, for our children and grandchildren. We thank God every day for sending us *The Fellowship*, making it possible for us to move to Israel."

escaping
A LIFE OF FEAR





MAKING *aliyah* AND HISTORY

On September 7 of last year, 19-year-old Victoria stepped off a plane at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport and into history. When she made *aliyah* from Ukraine with her 51-year-old mom, Larysa, and her 88-year-old grandma, Kateryna, Victoria became the 10,000th new immigrant *The Fellowship* has brought to Israel since we started our own, independent *aliyah* program in 2014. At the airport, Rabbi Eckstein spoke for all of us when he greeted Victoria and her family by saying, "Welcome home!"

Did you know? Each person on a *Fellowship Freedom Flight* receives help with:

MOVING ARRANGEMENTS

- Applying to Israeli consulate
- Connecting to an employment agency
- Registering for school and Hebrew language study

TWO-DAY PRE-FLIGHT ORIENTATION PROGRAM

- Learning how *The Fellowship* will help with their transition
- Learning about Israeli culture from experts in the fields of health, education, employment, and housing

TRAVELING TO ISRAEL

- A fully funded flight to the Holy Land
- Receiving help with luggage transportation

WELCOME AT BEN GURION AIRPORT, TEL AVIV

- Registering new Israeli IDs
- Transportation to their first home in Israel

GETTING ESTABLISHED

- Opening a bank account
- Registering for health insurance
- Receiving food for their first few days in Israel

YOU HELPED

IDF SOLDIERS KEEP ISRAEL SAFE

For Israel, national defense is a very serious matter. Because it must constantly remain on guard against attacks from its hostile neighbors, military service is mandatory for Israelis.

Some of those serving are lone soldiers, young men and women who have no family in Israel to offer financial or emotional support. Soldiers from immigrant and poor families struggle as well. The Israeli government spends a high percentage of its budget to keep the military strong and citizens safe, but often isn't able to do all it wants to for its fighting men and women.

This is where *The Fellowship* comes in, providing for soldiers in need, supporting veterans with physical and emotional wounds, equipping hospitals to treat the injured, and offering immediate help when other needs arise in this volatile region.

Chaim doesn't just have the security of Israel on his shoulders – he's been working since he was 13 to support his family. He's financially responsible for his disabled mother and provides for his sister and her two young autistic sons.

When *The Fellowship* discovered Chaim's family was in debt and couldn't afford enough food, we began providing the family with food cards, grants to help with electric and water bills, and beds to replace the worn out mattress his nephews had been sharing on the floor of their apartment. This assistance gives Chaim peace of mind and helps him continue to perform the military service that keeps Israel safe.



lightening CHAIM'S LOAD





“Some of the soldiers in our battalion were breadwinners at home, and now we ask them to put their time and life on the line to serve their country. This is a huge sacrifice,” explains Officer Gilad of Air Defense Battery L38. This unit is part of *The Fellowship’s* Adopt a Battalion program, which offers assistance to soldiers whose families are experiencing financial difficulties, freeing the soldiers to focus on keeping Israel and her citizens safe. “*The Fellowship’s* Adopt a Battalion program is vital to Israel’s security.”

Ready for the Next Attack

In addition to assisting nearly 150,000 IDF soldiers each year, *The Fellowship* also provides medical equipment to Israel’s hospitals, so they are ready and able to treat soldiers and civilians injured in the next war or terrorist attack.

IN 2017, *THE FELLOWSHIP* HELPED TO FUND:

- A fortified emergency unit for HaEmek Medical Center in Afula
- Equipment for the emergency and trauma unit at Soroka Medical Center in Be’er Sheva
- A fortified emergency command center for Rambam Hospital in Haifa
- Neurosurgical equipment for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem
- Renovation of the hospice unit for Dorot Hospital in Netanya
- Establishment of a PET CT institute for Ziv Medical Center in Tzfat
- Renovation of trauma unit waiting rooms in 12 hospitals across Israel

YOU GAVE

AT-RISK CHILDREN HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

One in three children in Israel lives in poverty, making Israel's children the second poorest in the developed world. And in Ukraine, a country mired in chaos and unrest, more than half the population lives in poverty, a reality that hits children the hardest. Studies show that children raised in poverty are less likely to do well in school or enjoy good health, and more likely to be unemployed and remain poor when they grow up. This is why reaching out to this vulnerable population is so important and is such a priority for *The Fellowship* and our supporters.

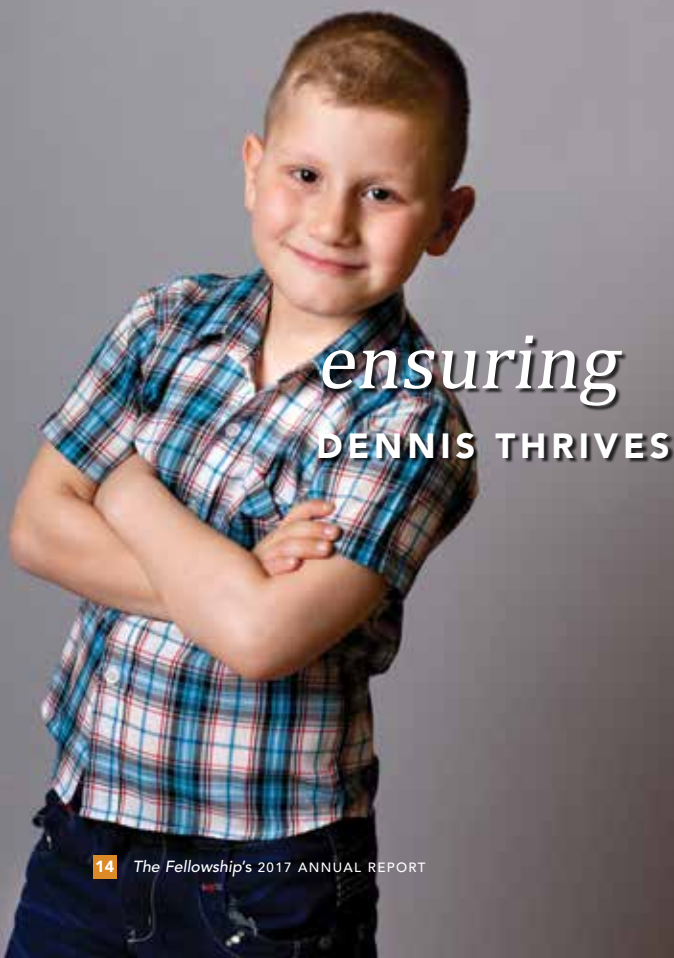
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Dennis's mother abandoned him at birth; he spent his first three years neglected and unloved in a state-run Russian orphanage. Thankfully, the Tretyakov family, members of the local Jewish community, decided to adopt Dennis. Their love transformed him – but his rough start in life left him with anger issues and learning disabilities.

As his parents pour much of their meager incomes into giving Dennis the care he needs, *The Fellowship* provides the family with monthly food packages to help make ends meet.

"We love Dennis with all of our hearts and souls, but his needs are immensely draining emotionally and financially," Dennis's mother says. "We cannot thank *The Fellowship* enough for making our load a little bit lighter."





help FOR THE HELPERS

Ksenia and Zach's mom never dreamed that her children would one day need the kind of assistance she regularly gave while helping needy elderly in their hometown in Ukraine as a *Fellowship* volunteer. But when the family made *aliyah* last year, they became recipients of *The Fellowship's* care. While Ksenia, 14, and Zach, 9, started learning Hebrew and their mom looked for a job, *The Fellowship* provided them with furniture and a refrigerator, and Rabbi Eckstein brought them a supply of food. With this help, these brand-new Israelis have the strong foundation they need to thrive in their new homeland.

Funding Our Future

***The Fellowship* helps impoverished children by providing a wide array of assistance, including:**

- Vouchers to buy clothing
- Backpacks filled with school supplies
- Funds for extracurricular activities
- Transportation to Jewish schools located far from home
- Summer camps for children with chronic illness or special needs
- After-school clubs
- Orphanages
- Hostels and boarding schools for at-risk youth
- Homeless shelters and counseling for kids on the street



MANY THANKS!

Nearly every day *The Fellowship* hears from people we help, expressing gratitude for the lifesaving assistance you make possible. Here's a sampling of their thanks:

REVIVED

"Suddenly, there were people who understood me. They gave me back my sanity. They let me know that I can live with the pain and not fall apart because of it. I'm grateful to *Fellowship* donors who have funded this program. You've saved my life. More than that, you've saved my family."

– Yehuda, a former IDF soldier who suffered from PTSD and found help at Fellowship-supported Retorno



HELP FOR THE HOLIDAY

"I live in public housing and I just received your holiday food card in the amount of 300 shekels (\$85). I was surprised by your blessed initiative in which you search out those who are despondent. I was impressed and so happy to see how you are a living example of wonderful people who take care of the weaker sectors of society."

– Vered, one of 8,500 single mothers who received a Fellowship food card for Rosh Hashanah





FINALLY FREE

"Our *aliyah* process was easy and we have the *Fellowship* staff to thank. The way they held our hands during the entire process was wonderful. Also, the financial assistance you've given us is so helpful. There are so many expenses that come along with *aliyah*, including furnishing our apartment. We also know that *The Fellowship* will be with us during these first crucial months in Israel. All we can say is thank you!"

– Yoel and Aurelie, who fled anti-Semitism in France by moving to Israel on a Fellowship Freedom Flight with their 5-year-old son, Eyal, their 2-year-old daughter, Shirel, and their infant son, Lior

A NEEDED RETREAT

"My name is Pastor Faiz Luka from Egypt; now I live in Israel. I am the director of the Grace Evangelical Church in Gush Halav, Israel.

First of all, thank you for your support. This means so much to us. We are in need of your prayers and ongoing support. You have no idea how much trouble Christians are being subjected to in Egypt.

Thanks again to Rabbi Eckstein and his supporters for being there for us. They are the reason this project came through. Thank you all for believing in this project."

– Father Luka, who helped organize the Fellowship-funded therapy camp for persecuted Coptic Christians in Egypt

PEACE OF MIND

"I remember the school felt like a family. Thanks to the free transportation and hot meals, we all felt cared for and were able to focus on our studies.

The Fellowship became for me a model of kindness, justice, and warmth to all the children. Thanks to *The Fellowship*, we were protected, we were safe, and we always felt at home."

– Olga, a graduate of a Fellowship-funded World ORT school in Ukraine

THE BLESSING OF FOOD

"Every month I receive a coupon from *The Fellowship*, which allows me to go grocery shopping. What can I say? *The Fellowship* is keeping me alive."

– Maria, a 94-year-old Holocaust survivor living in Sderot



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE	2016	2017
Contributions	\$131,749,181	\$123,754,072
Net Investment Income	1,793,875	4,347,899
Other Income	87,322	141,514
TOTAL REVENUE	\$133,630,378	\$128,243,485

ALLOCATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS	2016	2017
Mission Services		
The Fellowship	\$11,370,589	\$9,866,635
Guardians of Israel	37,951,670	56,105,231
Isaiah 58	25,633,699	25,867,620
On Wings of Eagles	25,265,179	17,137,678
Stand for Israel	916,215	387,836
Subtotal, Mission Services	101,137,352	109,365,000
Support Services		
General and Administrative	13,743,191	12,989,286
Fundraising	20,265,187	15,936,124
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS	\$135,145,730	\$138,290,410

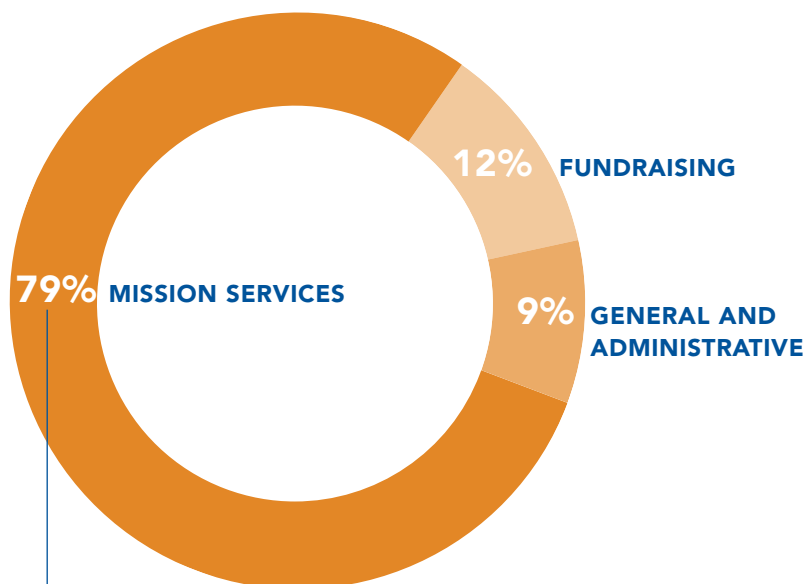
Other Items	\$750,191	-\$322,258
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	-\$765,161	-\$10,369,183

NET ASSETS	2016	2017
Beginning of Year	\$47,163,245	\$46,398,084
End of Year	\$46,398,084	\$36,028,901

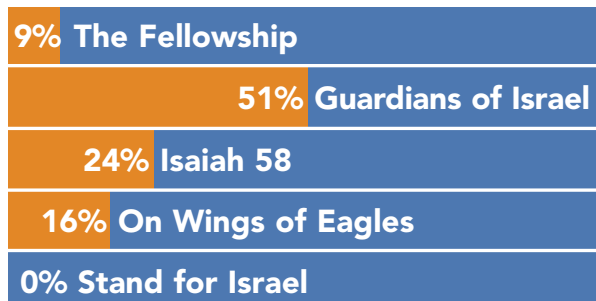


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EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



MISSION SERVICES Expense Breakdown:
Worldwide programs to support relief, outreach, and solidarity with Israel and her people



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