



Dear friends and lovers of Israel,

In this newsletter update, we are presenting a change to how My Brother's Keeper International operates. To begin with, I would like to present to you our new mission statement that reflects how we are adapting to the ever-changing landscape of Israel at war.

But first, allow me to describe the present situation that has caused us to shift.

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### **Situation Report**

As of this writing, over 100,000 Israeli citizens are displaced within their own country. Thousands of our regular army and reserve soldiers have been wounded, many struggling to re-enter their lives after intense combat in the Gaza strip.

The destruction of the remaining Hamas battalions in the Gaza Strip is not completed. The terror war in Judea and Samaria is not represented in the media or your social media. Yet the IDF and Border Police have been fighting for over 10 months.

Two divisions of regular army and reserve soldiers are deployed on Israel's northern border with Lebanon training and waiting for the government to give the green light to change the paradigm of Oct 8th 2023 from an Iranian/Hezbollah initiated war of attrition that has emptied the entire Galilee from Mt. Hermon to the Mediterranean sea to an invasion of southern Lebanon.

There are no tourists, and hotels are filled with internally displaced Israeli families. Small businesses - from the ma and pa grocery to mid-sized industries - are suffering. Everyone is ready for the proverbial shoe to drop. Will Hezbollah succeed in hitting key infrastructure in Haifa, Tel Aviv, Dimona? Will Iran send Iraqi, Afghani and Yeminite

jihadists to join Hezbollah's Radwan commandos invade the Galilee? The picture looks downright apocalyptic.

My Brother's Keeper International believes in the resilience of the Israeli people. We believe in the strength and determination of our armed forces. We believe in the love and support of our Jewish and Christian allies. We believe in the G-d of Israel.

There isn't a day that goes by when I don't struggle with melancholy from the loss we experienced on that Black Sabbath in October. I feel rage when I see the astronomical rise of anti-semitism across the globe and realize that everything has changed.

There is no turning the clock back. This is the new reality, and we are ready for whatever comes.

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### **New Mission Statement**

My Brother's Keeper International exists to build and strengthen the resilience of Israeli children, families and communities by developing innovative projects and subsidizing existing school and community-based programs throughout Israel.

Since our founding in 2005, we have always targeted the most vulnerable of Israel's society with efficient and effective delivery of social, educational, recreational and practical services and programs for children, teens, families and those with special needs.

We are now creating a **Resilience Fund** where our county, municipal and grass-roots community partners can receive seed funds for new initiatives as well as sustaining support for our effective long-running projects.

We would like to highlight a few of the projects we are committed to. These projects are where your donations go.

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**Kibbutz Nahal Oz Resilience Program for Children and Teens** (in memory of Ilan Fiorentiino hy"d and Maayan Idan hy"d)

MBKI subsidizes animal, art and recreational therapy for the children and teens who have survived the attack on the kibbutz and have been displaced since October 7, 2023.



*Ilan's Daughter*



*Maayan's Brother*



**Shar HaNegev Special Olympics Swim Team** (in memory of Ofir Libstein hy"d Mayor of Shar HaNegev)

MBKI is a sponsor of the county's Special Olympics swim team. Since October 7th, the county hosted a special swim meet honoring the memory of the parents of one of the athletes. Her parents - Ofra and Sami Kadar hy"d - were murdered at Kibbutz Beerli. Their daughter, now an orphan, continues to train and compete.

Here is a quote from our partner in the county:

*"We see this team as a real mission that helps support stability and build personal resilience. There is no doubt that the strength of the team, along with the amazing parents and instructors has proven invaluable during such a difficult time."*



*The athlete whose parents were murdered.*



## Gush Etzion Mother's Forum

MBKI is a founding sponsor for a grass-roots forum of mothers of children with special needs. In partnership with the Gush Etzion county, we subsidize monthly retreats, field trips, seminars and therapeutic workshops just for the moms.

The success of this grass-roots program is evident in their expansion to include a new group for English speaking moms.



*New English-speaking mom's group*



## Singer House Orphanage

The Singer House is one of the oldest orphanages in Israel and sits in Moshav Kfar Yehezkel in the Jezreel valley. The orphanage is home to 90 children from 5-18 years old.

MBKI's focus is to help the children who "age out" of the orphanage and become "lone soldiers." These teens move into secondary housing during their army service and have access to continued counseling and life skill training.

Since the war began, many of the Singer House teens have experienced combat related trauma and are in need of more extensive care. We are helping to provide this extended care.



The way we are restructuring allows us to distribute funds to our partners in a timely and efficient manner that meets practical needs in real time with fiscal accountability.

The best way you can partner with us is by committing to contribute monthly via a recurring donation; however, we are grateful for any and all donations!

Thank you for continuing to stand with the nation and people of Israel in their hour of greatest need.

**For the sake of the children.**

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