

Otfim BeChesed: Inaugural Newsletter

Number 1 | Tishrei – Adar [November 2024 – March 2025]



The "Otfim BeChesed" association was established by me during the October 7 War as a response to the needs that arose from the field and out of the understanding that Israel as a pre-war country is not the post-war State of Israel. This change applies to all residents of the State of Israel, but with a special emphasis on the communities of the "Gaza envelope" that experienced severe trauma on the day of the outbreak of the war.

The association's goals include:

Supporting and empowering residents from the Gaza Envelope. Promoting national unity. Memorializing the fallen and their values.

Our goals are: Support and empowerment of the residents of the "Otef" area, in various aspects, assistance to IDF soldiers and commemoration of the fallen and their values.

In the years before the current war, I had the privilege of establishing, together with partners, a number of social projects:

- A CHAMAL [civilian operations room] to assist our soldiers in Operation Protective Edge and in other operations since then.
- PINA CHAMA [A refreshment point] for the soldiers of the , 'Otef'
- A regional Beit midrash for the study of contemporary Judaism and Zionism
- A Bar/Bat Mitzvah project in partnership with the surrounding kibbutzim [a long-standing project of Kfar Maimon that has been renewed in recent years]

The establishment of the association is intended to enable the continuation and expansion of existing activity, and the expansion of activities according to the needs that arise from the field.

Our goal is to add unity, Love and good deeds

We are happy to share with you the association's first newsletter, which describes the activities in recent months.

You are more than welcome to use the various projects of the association, and volunteer in one of the various projects.

Yours,
Uriel Nachum

Cemetery Pavilion

Attending a memorial service or funeral in the pouring rain or extreme heat can be an unpleasant experience. Otfim Bechesed decided to construct a mobile pavilion to enable cemetery goers to have a more dignified experience. The pavilion is dedicated to the founders of Kfar Maimon, in whose merit we live in this beautiful place.

The pavilion is mobile and can be moved to nearly every area within the cemetery. Families holding a funeral or memorial service are encouraged to arrive early to position it over the gravesite. A QR code on the pavilion provides a video guide on how to move it safely [requires at least two people]. Those using the pavilion are requested to move it carefully to avoid causing damage to the surrounding area.

Special thanks to Matanya Cohen for constructing the pavilion with funding from the association.



Event Décor Gemach

The Hirschberg family, in partnership with Otfim Bechesed, launched a decorations gemach offering beautiful event décor for all types of celebrations.

Contact Information: Chaya Hirschberg – 052-516-4125



Tools and Work Hours Gemach

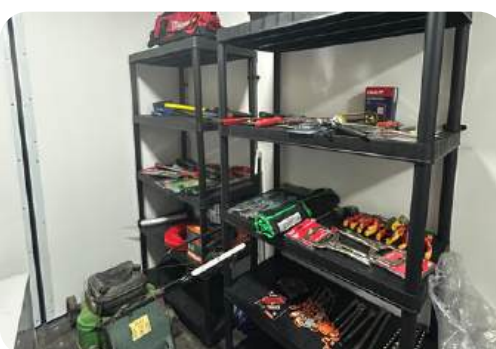
In memory of Maor Lavi HY"D, Otfim Bechesed launched a gemach for tools and work hours. Maor, a resident of Susya in the southern Hebron Hills [brother of Talia Haddad], fell in battle in Gaza on the 14th of Tevet, 5784, leaving behind his wife and four children, parents, brothers, and sisters.

Maor, true to his name, was a bright beacon of kindness and generosity, always ready to lend a hand. He volunteered for various charitable organizations, including Hatzalah and Yedidim. When he moved to Susya, he founded a tool-lending gemach for the members of the community. Besides lending tools, Maor also shared his expertise and even dedicated his extra time to assisting others with home repairs.

Maor fell heroically in battle in the War of Iron Swords. In his memory, this new gemach will serve the community of Kfar Maimon-Tushiya, with plans to expand to additional communities. It will also coordinate volunteer efforts to assist elderly residents in need of physical and technical support. The gemach is managed by Nachum Ben Hamo and the Haddad family.

The gemach was inaugurated on the 14th of Tevet 5785, marking Maor's first yahrzeit. It will officially open to the public before Pesach. Special thanks to the Rohr family from New York for their generous support.

Contact Information: Nachum – 050-994-1447, Talia – 054-288-0033



Barnash Celebrations Gemach

In loving memory of Lt. Col. Yonatan Tzur Bernstein [Barnash] HY"D, who fell in the War of Iron Swords while heroically leading the Givati Reconnaissance Unit, Otfim Bechesed began a gemach for celebrations. The gemach lends out tables, chairs, decorative garlands, and more, available for community use.

Contact Information: Iris Bernstein – 050-665-3155



Assistance for Families in Need

During the High Holidays, Otfim Bechesed, in collaboration with Rabbi Michael Adraei, distributed vouchers to dozens of families in need. We are now preparing to do the same ahead of Passover.

Tehillim Group for Children

For the past few months, Otfim Bechesed has been supporting the children's Tehillim group, managed by Rafael and Merav Harush, by providing treats and prizes. A huge thank-you to the Harush family for this meaningful project!

Mishloach Manot for Children in the Gaza Envelope

To bring joy and support to children living in the Gaza border communities, Otfim Bechesed distributed mishloach manot, Purim gift baskets, during the holiday.

Megillah reading with IDF soldiers in Shuva Achim

On Purim night, Otfim Bechesed organized a Megillah reading and Purim celebration in conjunction with IDF soldiers and Sderot Negev hesder yeshiva students. The event was filled with joy and dancing, attended by local soldiers, representatives from Kibbutz Hatzerim, and guests from Palm Beach, Miami.



Tactical Boots for Soldiers

Recognizing the needs of IDF soldiers serving in the Gaza Envelope, Otfim Bechesed purchased and distributed Lowa Elite Desert tactical boots to dozens of soldiers.



Wives of Recruits Project

Otfim Bechesed recently launched a new initiative to support the wives of deployed soldiers, providing assistance with babysitting, laundry, cleaning, and homework help for children.



We encourage you to visit the organization's website on the donations page, and to support the organization's activities as you see fit.

Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers!
Your generosity and dedication help us continue these vital projects.



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