

Telfed: Seven decades of service to the SA community

Promoting the quality of life of Southern Africans in Israel and supporting their participation in and contribution to Israeli society



"You guys are really special and do remarkable work. We ex-Southern Africans are very lucky to belong to this very special organization. Keep up the good work" Ruth Mor

Proudly entering its 70th year of operation, **Telfed - The South African Zionist Federation (Israel)** is as busy as ever catering to the needs of hundreds of new Southern African olim and tens of thousands of veteran SA olim.

The Southern African Jewish community is renowned for its altruism and community-minded spirit. From its inception, Telfed has ensured that Southern Africans living in Israel have the opportunity to make their mark by actively contributing to the welfare of the country and its citizens. We strive to adapt to the demands of time, serving our community's evolving needs and just this year instigated two new initiatives: the SASI (Southern Africans Studying in Israel) academic support programme and the Employment Mentorship Programme.

Telfed's role in the community is vital and its services in demand more than ever. Whilst the overall number of immigrants to Israel declined from 31,013 in 2015 to 27,000 in 2016, South Africa was one of the few countries to note a significant increase in emigration. Looking to the future, we will continue to support, inform and provide for all Southern Africans who are considering – or choose to make Israel their home.

Telfed has been recognized by the Israeli Ministry of Absorption and Immigration as one of the most productive and active Aliyah support organizations in Israel today, twice receiving Ministry awards of Excellence (in 2014 and 2016). Whilst not the largest, it is one of the most effective Aliyah organisations in the country, impacting on the lives of more than 17,000 people each year.

Due to its experience in providing exemplary klita (absorption) services, Telfed has been commissioned over the years to shoulder the task of helping in the absorption of olim from other countries, including Yemenites, Russians, Iranians – and most recently, olim from Australia and the Netherlands.



SO WHAT DOES TELFED ACTUALLY DO?

Many Southern Africans have heard of Telfed but not all appreciate the range and scope of its charitable services. Telfed's main areas of activity are:

- **OLIM ABSORPTION** – with a 48% rise in Southern African Aliyah over the past two years, Telfed is catering to the needs of close to 300 new SA African olim each year. From pre-aliyah counselling to greeting new arrivals at the airport, social events and assistance in navigating the notorious Israeli bureaucracy, Telfed is a much-needed resource for prospective and new olim.
- **HOUSING** – Telfed is the only Aliyah organization in Israel today which provides (up to 25%) below market-rate housing for new olim. With a newly-renovated building in Raanana and two other buildings in the heart of Tel Aviv, Telfed offers olim a desirable and affordable start to life in Israel. 220 olim have found affordable homes in Telfed apartments this year. In addition, 70% of rental income is utilized to provide for social welfare assistance, fed straight back to the community.
- **SOCIAL WELFARE** - Hundreds of former Southern Africans, including numerous elderly people, live below the poverty line. Unprecedented numbers of new olim request financial assistance in their 1st year of Aliyah. In 2016 Telfed distributed NIS 2,400,000 to 466 Southern African families in financial distress.

"The support provided by Telfed to find me a home, a job and the financial relief I needed when I was stuck, is the greatest help I have received from others in an effort to support me. I don't think I will ever be able to express to these individuals how much their care and effort meant or means to me. I know that I wouldn't be here in Israel right now if it wasn't for them" Sharon P.

- **LONE SOLDIERS** – The number of young people wanting to begin their lives in Israel serving in the IDF is growing. Telfed provided support to 103 lone soldiers in the past year. Lone soldiers find themselves without familial support at a stressful time in their lives and Telfed endeavors to step in and fill the gap, both during and especially following their military service.



"Telfed is one of the most professional organisations that I have had the pleasure of working with"

Phillip Levy, Independent Internal Auditor

- **SCHOLARSHIPS:** Each year, Telfed distributes over NIS2M in scholarships to some 400 students in total.

Financial Need – In 2016 we helped 272 students lacking financial means to achieve their academic ambitions. Means-tested scholarships enable bright youngsters who lack funds to gain an academic education at Israel's finest universities and colleges. 70% of the awards are made to students of Southern African heritage and 30% to Israeli students, in keeping with the tradition of giving back to Israeli society (with special attention being given to lone soldiers).

PRAS Community Service Programme – The PRAS project offers an opportunity for Southern African students to get involved and help where it is most needed. Those who commit to 94 hours of community service per academic year are rewarded with a generous scholarship. They voluntarily assist new olim, people with special needs, children, families at risk and senior citizens. The students receive enrichment training and ongoing guidance throughout the year. PRAS is one of Telfed's most sought after services (from both students and clients). In the 2015-16 academic year 150 PRAS scholarships were awarded.

The public bursary ceremony evening was not at all what I expected. Telfed made me feel truly proud to be a Jew living in the Eretz Yisrael. I left the evening with a strong feeling that I would like to give back to the community and that by helping others one gets more than what he gives. Ronit Abdo

The Samson SASI (South Africans Studying in Israel) Programme – This project was established in response to a growing local need in SA to provide scholastic support for young South African Jews facing affirmative action and an increasingly hostile higher educational environment. Telfed negotiated substantial discounts for foreign SA students to study their Bachelor degrees in English at universities in Israel, offering guidance, support and a needs-based accommodation grant to eligible students. After a pilot year in 2016, demand for the 2017 programme has tripled. Telfed expects to be supporting a delegation of +/- 50 SASI students per annum.



- **EMPLOYMENT:**

Career Counselling: Some 390 people received employment counselling from Telfed in 2016. Finding a job after Aliyah is one of life's major stressors. Add to that the pressures of learning to navigate an unfamiliar country and language and you can appreciate just how stressful finding one's first job in Israel can be. Fortunately, Telfed's two employment counselors are here to offer a step-up. Telfed maintains an active online job bulletin board for English-speakers wishing to work in Israel. We also hold workshops and provide individual advice to help people improve their prospects in Israel's competitive job market.

Mentorship Programme – Launched in 2016, Telfed's Mentorship Programme matches job-seekers with an experienced mentor in the same profession or field. Mentors help job-seekers network in their field, navigate the Israeli job market and better understand local business culture. This vital project is expected to grow in the coming year.

- **Telfed's Ethiopian Community Initiative (TECI)** - Many Southern Africans want to give back to society. TECI was established by a group of Telfed volunteers 3 years ago to assist the 125,000 members of the Beta Ethiopian Community in Israel, many of whom are marginalized in Israeli society and largely destitute. With operations beginning in Hadera, TECI's reach has now spread to Mevasseret Zion and Netanya with a bustling 2nd-hand store being opened in Mevasseret Zion's absorption centre in 2016. The store is manned by volunteers and proceeds raised from the sale of (donated) goods are invested in programmes, workshops and seminars benefitting the Ethiopian community.

- **BUILDING SOCIAL NETWORKS and VOLUNTEERING** – Telfed excels at building and maintaining social networks. To ensure Telfed’s reach is as wide as possible, 24 active regional committees staffed by 300 volunteers are ready to welcome and absorb new olim in locations throughout the country. In 2016, Telfed’s Community Projects and Events Department, in conjunction with the national network of volunteers, organized over 90 gatherings, trips and events attended by some 4,300 people country-wide. Events provide invaluable social and networking opportunities and create a supportive, family-feeling amongst ex-pats.
- **INFORMATION SERVICES:** Telfed keeps the community abreast with news by maintaining a website, Facebook & LinkedIN page, bi-monthly email newsletters and quarterly magazines.

Telfed needs to raise approximately nine million shekels each year in order to assist Southern African olim in Israel. Keren Telfed is a self-help fund of the community, by the community, for the community. Our multifarious services in many respects incorporate those similar to the SA communal organisations, (the Chevrah Kaddisha, SA Jewish Board of Deputies, SA Zionist Federation and others). It is an independent extension of these South African community bodies in Israel, although we receive no formal funding.

Thank you

DONATION DETAILS

Please inform Nikki Leviner (nikki@telfed.org.il) so we can confirm safe receipt of your donation

Amuta registration #:58 001 7614 Tax deductibility according to Section 46 of the Israeli Tax Ordinance

GBP£ BANK DETAILS (Israel)

Bank: Mercantile
Branch: 655
Address: 109 Dizengoff St, Tel Aviv
£ Account #: 12040667
Account name: Keren Telfed
Swiftcode: bardilitxx
IBAN: IL63 0176 5500 0001 2040 667

US\$ BANK DETAILS (Israel)

Bank: Mercantile
Branch: 655
Address: 109 Dizengoff St, Tel Aviv
\$ Account #: 968-01-40665
Account name: Keren Telfed
Swiftcode: BARDILITXXX
IBAN: IL980176550000003040668

NIS BANK DETAILS (Israel)

Bank Mercantile
Branch 655
Bank Code: 17
109 Dizengoff St, Tel Aviv
NIS Account # 40665
Account Name: Keren Telfed
Swiftcode: bardilit
BIC Code: BARDILITXXX

Keren Telfed (Johannesburg)

(Receipt not valid for tax deductibility)

Account Name: Keren Telfed
Bank: Investec Bank Limited
Branch: 100 Grayston Drive
Branch Code: 58 01 05
Account Number: 10011796345
Ref: **TELFED/Name of donor/ID #**

United Jewish Campaign (Cape Town)

Account Name: UJC
Bank: ABSA
Branch: Adderly St, Cape Town
Branch Code 632005
Account Number: 01072 00 0010
Swift: ABSAZAJJ
Ref: **TELFED**

*Please include your **NAME** and **PERSONAL ID NUMBER** in the remittance info (or email to nikki@telfed.org.il).
Donations may be considered part of your Personal Discretionary Allowance (currently set at R1m per person per year).

USA DONATIONS 501(c)(3) tax deductibility

- All contributions must be made by cheque in US dollars payable to **PEF Israel Endowment Funds, Inc.**
- Please recommend “**Keren Telfed** – South African Zionist Federation, Israel” as recipient in the memo portion of the cheque or included in a separate note
- Also kindly include Keren Telfed’s Charity ID Registration #: **58-0017614**
- Please provide your name and mailing address with the donation so that PEF can acknowledge/receipt.
- Cheques and recommendations can be sent to: PEF Israel Endowment Funds Inc, 630 Third Ave, Ste 1501, New York NY 10017 USA
- Contact details: info@pefisrael.org Tel: (+1) 212-599-1260 or Fax: (+1) 212-599-5981
- To query tax receipts with PEF, write to info@pefisrael.org or heli@pefisrael.org (Heli Tharp, Donor Support)

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