



Caring for the Elderly

Statistics – Average Life Expectancy

Israel: 82.5 yrs
World: 71.5 yrs
OECD: 79.0 yrs

אל-תשליכני לעת זקנה
ככלות כחי אל-תעזבני
"Cast me not off in the time
of old age; when my strength
faileth, forsake me not"

Psalms 71: 9

Happy New Year from Telfed

Last year 40% of the food cards issued by Telfed's Assistance committee went to elderly people. Longer life expectancy, increasing health care costs, isolation from family members and devaluation of the Rand have led to high rates of poverty amongst the older members of our community. Today, 5,132 senior citizens (aged 65+) are registered with Telfed, 38% of them 80 years old or more. They have become our major concern.

Whilst it's great news that Israel places 2nd in the world for life expectancy (exceeding the international average by 12.2 years), there is a downside! Too many of our senior citizens are outliving their savings. The 'Bituach Leumi' (National Insurance) pension payout of 2,301 ₪ (couple) and 1,531 ₪ (single) is simply not enough to get by, especially for the Southern African elderly who live off ever-diminishing work pensions from South Africa.

HOW TELFED HELPS

Telfed alleviates the stress of our ageing community members. In addition to food cards, one-off subsidies and emergency assistance, elderly people who are in danger of destitution can also apply for financial assistance to help cover rent, utilities

or medical expenses. Counselling services provided by Telfed ensure that elderly people have a listening-ear to turn to when they need emotional support, social interaction, practical advice or a professional referral.

Our commitment at Telfed is to be here for you, whenever you need us.

Only a tiny percentage of elderly southern Africans can afford to live in retirement villages or sheltered accommodation. Hundreds of our elderly will struggle this Rosh Hashana to buy essentials and put food on their tables. This holiday season, we ask you to join with us in making this a good year and a happy chag for the elderly members of our extended Southern African family.

As we celebrate the festivities, we wish you כתיבה וחתימה טובה. May you and your family be inscribed and sealed for good health and abundant blessings – and may there be Peace for all Am Israel.

With warm Shana Tova wishes,

Batya Shmukler
Chairman

Dorrn Kline
CEO



MAKE YOUR RH DONATION

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