

KEREN TELFED - SPECIAL URGENT RELIEF FUND

(Recognized by section 46 of the Israeli Income Tax Act)



INTRODUCTION

“From a deep concern for the future of the Jewish Community in South Africa we established a fund which was to have an important impact on the Southern African Community in Israel”. This is the way that Former Chairman Hertzal Katz described his motivation for initiating a self-help fund in Israel, in the early 1980s.

Today, over 3 decades later, Telfed collectively impacts on over 17,000 people each year, through a multitude of charitable activities and endeavours providing a range of opportunities for development of the Southern African community in Israel. In recognition of Hertzal's contribution to and passionate involvement in the Southern African community in Israel, a special fund was created in his honour on the 30th anniversary of Keren Telfed, the Special Urgent Relief Fund (SURF).

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY – ONGOING

On a regular basis, Keren Telfed provides assistance to 466 former Southern Africans in difficult situations, such as chronic physical and mental illnesses, unemployment, the loss of a family member or breadwinner and those who are struggling financially to get by. Our Social Worker maintains regular contact with these families and monthly assistance (approximately NIS1,100 per family) is monitored by the Assistance Committee, a team of voluntary Southern African lay leaders who meet on a regular basis to evaluate requests and are able to assist those in desperate need like

- A single mother of two toddlers who left an abusive husband and is working as a cleaner to support her family by herself
- A mother of three, whose husband was recently diagnosed with throat cancer and who has taken on a second shift to pay the bills and tend to the family needs
- An 85 year old man whose wife just passed away and who is now alone and faces financial difficulties
- A young couple who are working hard to make a warm and safe home for their three children on the salaries they receive from minimum wage jobs
- And elderly lady who battles meals with broken dentures, which causes gum pain that keeps her up at night



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE – SPECIAL URGENT RELIEF FUND

Cresting the wave of sudden predicaments or personal crises, SURF comes to the rescue, allowing for an immediate and adequate response to Southern African families with urgent needs for ‘one-time’ assistance. This fund provides specific financial assistance in times of tragedy or trauma, governed by the nature and scope of the urgent need.

The assistances have to date been granted for various cases including medical emergencies, one-time rental assistance to prevent a Southern African family from being evicted, purchasing a ticket for a student to return home and pay last respects to his ailing father and for living expenses due to emergency hospitalization. Critical assistance is provided to those whose income does not meet the basic costs of living or who have no other recourse or source of support in times of crisis.



Following the intervention of Telfed's Social Worker, who is familiar with all the circumstances and establishes the validity and urgency of the need, a request is submitted to a Committee comprising three respected Southern African lay leaders and members of Keren Telfed's Finance and Assistance Committees. Following their approval, urgent relief is promptly offered to assist the individual/family concerned.

Approximately 10-15 applications are received by Keren Telfed each year for emergency support, with a provision to allocate up to NIS10,000 per application.

CASE STUDIES

Miriam* made Aliyah 2 years ago with her husband, to be with two of her daughters and grandchildren in Israel. In May of last year, her husband was diagnosed with cancer and passed away two weeks later. After sitting shiva, she discovered that they had a bank loan and many bills in arrears that she was unable to pay. Determined to right the situation, she made arrangements to slowly pay off the debts and in September, at the grand age of 70, she returned to work and began teaching English in an afterschool programme for children. This was not an easy feat for a woman who had been a respected professional in another field in South Africa and was looking forward to retirement in Israel. Telfed was able to provide counseling and financial support to Miriam through this traumatic time, as she navigates the stress and changes in her expected lifestyle.



Most recently, the SURF Fund provided valuable assistance to Estie, (not her real name) a 22 year old South African who made Aliyah last year. The youngest of four children, Estie's father passed away when she was four, and her mother - who struggled with depression as a result - was unable to bring her up. When she was in high school she lived with her elder brother, and upon completion, fulfilled her dream to come to Israel. At the end of last year, she successfully completed kibbutz ulpan & a Sherut Leumi (National Service) programme.

Estie came to Israel with a small amount of savings which quickly depleted. (Sherut Leumi salaries are less than minimum wage). Having no family and support system in Israel, she is currently staying with friends in Jerusalem until she finds a job. A SURF grant was given to this gentle and soft spoken lady, to help her with immediate living expenses, food and transportation, as she looks for employment in the hopes of settling down. Our social worker has been in regular contact with Estie. Having someone to turn to has been a great comfort for her, as she strives to build a home for herself in Israel.

SUMMARY

In 2016, Telfed needs to raise NIS 6.68M to fund our activities and services tending to the welfare and wellbeing of the Southern African community in Israel. Following a 30% increase in Aliyah from South Africa since 2014, our services are increasingly in demand.

The SURF Fund provides the most vital assistance in hours of critical need, oftentimes being the final and only recourse for families who have experienced unexpected tragedies or illnesses. This fund is sustained by generous donations from members of the community, who embody the value that charity begins at home, and come together to help each other out. Every shekel distributed has a special meaning to someone in need and goes a long way, at a most desperate time.

Telfed – South African Zionist Federation (Israel)

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