



Proposal to Support

A Scholarship in Memory of Adi Vital-Kaploun Z"l

Presented to the Jewish Federation of Ottawa

February 2024

Israel's greatest resources are its human resources—the people who drive the country's advancement, address the needs of its diverse population, and develop the technologies and solutions needed to protect the country from harm and sustain life in its arid climate. The evidence of this is abundantly clear today as Israel fights for its existence and seeks to ensure the safety and well-being of its citizens. The entire country has mobilized, and everyone is doing their part, whether they are serving on the front line, volunteering, or caring for those at home.

While an educated workforce is critical to Israel's ability to sustain itself, a surprisingly large percentage of Israeli adults lack higher education, and in many families, neither parent has obtained a college degree; without academic role models, children in those families are statistically much less likely to pursue academic degrees than their peers from families in which one or both parents have an academic degree. This deepens Israel's long-entrenched social gaps which developed due to limited investment in the periphery, systemic bias, and the many demands on the national budget. These gaps are likely to widen—the significant financial costs of the war will likely result in major budget cuts to educational institutions and social services, causing weakened populations and those in the periphery to further suffer, and expand the social divide. This social inequality means that many individuals, and even entire regions, neighborhoods, and segments of the population, will have limited access to high-quality education, curtailing their social mobility and decreasing their chances for a brighter future.

The challenges facing Israel in the years to come are great, and the solutions required to effectively address them demand the input and involvement of educated and informed people across Israel's population. Academia serves as a platform from which one and all can become part of the social discourse and leadership, to effect change, create and implement solutions, and drive Israel forward.

Undergraduate scholarships at BGU also play an important role in community outreach. At BGU, scholarship recipients participate in community service projects, and their meaningful involvement in the community improves the welfare of Negev residents specifically and Israeli society in general. The skills and experiences gained in these activities continue to impact the participating students long after their graduation from BGU. The social awareness acquired increases their sensitivity to the needs and perspectives of their fellow citizens and fuels their ongoing community involvement and commitment to improving Israeli society.

In this way, scholarship support has broad impact, enabling individual students to realize their potential, fulfill their academic aspirations, and advance professionally, while strengthening the community, bolstering Israel's workforce, and fueling the country's economy.

Adi Vital-Kaploun

Adi Vital-Kaploun, was an outstanding graduate of BGU 's master's program in desert studies, solar energy and environmental physics. Tragically she was brutally murdered on October 7th on Kibbutz Holit. According to Professor Muhammad Bashouti with whom she worked closely, "Adi was the brightest student I ever worked with". Adi was an incredible, humble, giving, loving, precious, and accomplished person who died a hero – protecting her children and her father until her last breath.

Adi was a Canadian and an Israeli citizen, with deep ties to Ottawa's Jewish community and many of the donors who gave generously to Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign. **As you know, it is important to her family that Adi be remembered not for how she died, but how she lived. As a brilliant scholar, it is fitting to honour her memory with a scholarship in her name to a needy student studying in a related field.**



Adi Vital-Kaploun

Enlisting Your Support for an Undergraduate Scholarship in Adi's Memory

An endowed fellowship can be established in Adi's memory with \$81,000 CDN, providing scholarship support to one student each year in perpetuity. We have secured \$39,000 CDN from other sources and ask you to please consider an allocation of \$42,000 CDN from Israel Emergency Funds.