Jewish Federation
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Rebuilding Northern Israel

Restoring the Galilee Panhandle



Rebuilding Northern Israel

An opportunity to do more

You already support Jewish life in British Columbia through the Jewish Federation of British Columbia's Annual Campaign. Many donors have also asked how they can make a meaningful additional gift to help rebuild the communities of Northern Israel.

Rebuilding Northern Israel is an opportunity to do just that.

Your Annual Campaign gift provides critical unrestricted support for the many needs of our Jewish community. A supplemental gift to Rebuilding Northern Israel provides additional support specifically to initiatives helping communities in the Galilee Panhandle recover, rebuild and create a stronger future.

There is no minimum gift. Every additional contribution, at whatever level is meaningful to you, can help make a difference.

Restoring the Galilee Panhandle

The road home following the prolonged evacuation of residents from the Galilee's frontline communities, from October 2023 to March 2025, has been a rocky one.

As community leaders work to rebuild communities, support local businesses and re-establish educational systems, recurring rounds of escalation have created significant challenges and setbacks to work plans and budgets. These include two wars with Iran in June 2025 and March–April 2026, as well as the current re-escalation in the North amid a formal cease-fire and negotiations between Israel and Lebanon.

Fewer people are seeking to return home or move north and make the Galilee their home.

Yet, amidst the challenges and fatigue of war, failure to support those who have returned, and to continue building for those who will, is not an option.

Our partners and friends, leaders in the northern communities of Etzba HaGalil, the Galilee Panhandle, remain focused on caring for their residents and building back better. We continue to stand with them, sharing in both the vision and the work of rebuilding for today and for generations to come.

Why your additional gift matters

For more than three decades, the Jewish Federation of British Columbia has partnered with northern communities, strengthening education, social services, and regional development.

At a time when the ties that bind people to the Galilee are fragile, and uncertainty and vulnerability remain prevalent, our support is more vital than ever.

We continue to support community infrastructure, leadership programs, care for vulnerable populations, research and academia, mental health initiatives, and educational programs, with a focus on both immediate, tangible impact and long-term strategic growth and resilience.

Your additional gift can help turn rebuilding into renewal.

The Northern Galilee Regeneration Fund

This fund is allocated in its entirety toward programs and initiatives for children, youth, families, and seniors in the communities of the Galilee Panhandle. These are examples of some of the programs and initiatives supported, but not the full extent of the work being done.

Helping children reconnect, rebuild, and belong — The Equalizer

10 Teams | 170+ Children | Ages 9–16

Utilizing the power of sports to promote education, equality, and social cohesion, The Equalizer (Shaar Shivion) is a non-profit organization transforming lives, one child and one community at a time.

Through after-school programs combining team sports with social and educational development, The Equalizer helps bridge social and educational gaps for youth in underserved areas, ethnic minorities, and marginalized communities.

For children in the region, where school has been disrupted and families continue to face unprecedented strain, The Equalizer provides more than a chance to play. It offers a stable, continuous setting where friendships are formed, skills are developed, and confidence grows.

In partnership with the Jewish Federation of British Columbia, The Equalizer operates 10 teams in the Galilee Panhandle: six in Kiryat Shemona, one in Raghjar, one in Metula, one in Mevo'ot Hermon Regional Council, and one for children with special needs.

Together, these programs engage more than 170 children ages 9–16 in weekly sports and educational programming.



Helping teens build a future — Unistream

Unistream is a national initiative that has worked for two decades to ensure that every child in Israel, including those living in the periphery, has equal opportunities in life. Its programs draw on Unistream's expertise in entrepreneurial education to provide productive, inspiring and innovative educational activities that help young people develop skills, confidence and new possibilities for their future.

In Kiryat Shemona, Unistream is supporting youth and teens who have endured the trauma and disruption of war and displacement. Many struggle to establish productive routines at school, at home and in their communities. Through entrepreneurial education, problem-solving and social and emotional support, the program helps these young people regain stability while developing the skills and confidence to move forward.

The program creates a caring, forward-focused environment where teens can develop a sense of personal agency, discover their potential and begin to envision a future shaped not by the experience of war, but by opportunity, resilience and hope.

Supporting mental health and community resilience

Mental health initiatives run by expert organizations support families, youth at risk, and communities across the North.

As residents struggle to resume normal life, they face a range of mental health challenges, including anxiety, eating disorders, risky behaviours, stress, and more. The professionals and caregivers who support them, many of whom are residents of the North themselves, also need support as they balance increasingly demanding professional responsibilities with their own personal challenges.

Community resilience programs run by local municipalities aim to rebuild the bonds that tie communities together, empowering individuals and groups to regain agency over their lives and those of their neighbours.

The past two and a half years have underscored the power of community, with an increased focus on giving local leadership the tools and resources needed to invest in this critical work.

Your additional gift helps strengthen the people and communities behind the rebuilding.



Your Annual Campaign gift matters. This is an opportunity to make an additional impact.

Your Annual Campaign gift supports the broad and critical needs of Jewish life in British Columbia.

A supplemental gift to Rebuilding Northern Israel is an opportunity to provide additional support specifically to the communities of the Galilee Panhandle.

Whether you make a modest additional gift or a more significant contribution, there is no minimum donation required.

Every additional gift can help children, families, and communities recover, rebuild, and thrive.

Beit Vancouver

Established in 1980, Beit Vancouver serves as the main hub for youth and children's programs in Kiryat Shemona. More than 1,000 children and youth from across Kiryat Shemona take part in the activities and programs offered at Beit Vancouver every week.

Programs include Youth City Council, NETA, Idan Movement, Tzameret Movement, Krembo Wings, Deoraita, Bet Gesher, dance classes, Matmon, a youth-at-risk program, The Studio social-emotional therapeutic program, a music centre and many more.

Over the years, the relationship between the Vancouver Jewish community and the Community Centre has deepened and grown. At its core stands Beit Vancouver, a vibrant home for learning and growth for the youth of Kiryat Shemona.

Throughout the Iron Swords war, during the return home and through recurring escalations, the community centre network played an essential role in maintaining resilience and connection among residents. An adapted community model allowed the centres to reach thousands of residents and create meaningful social and community bonds. This model was based on the initial Better Together community model, of which Vancouver was a central facilitator and supporter.

Today, with residents returning to the region, the city's leadership and volunteers are driving a focused process to generate resilience and motivation among returning residents of all ages.

As the central hub for youth activities, organizations and services, Beit Vancouver provides children and families with a sense of stability, belonging, and support as they return home. After more than a decade since Beit Vancouver's last renovation, and following two years marked by war and displacement, the facility is in dire need of refurbishment and renewal.

Renovating Beit Vancouver is a vital step in rebuilding a stronger, more resilient community in Kiryat Shemona and creating a brighter future for the youth of the city and the entire region.

A renewed Beit Vancouver can once again be a place where children connect, families find support, and a community builds its future together.

HELP REBUILD THE NORTH.
MAKE AN ADDITIONAL GIFT TODAY.

Together, we can help build a stronger future for the communities of Northern Israel.

jewishbc.ca/rebuilding-the-north

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