



Jerusalem, 6/11/23

Dear Friend

When the horrors of Hamas' brutal, unforgivable attacks on Israel became clear in the painful days after October 7, 2023, our partners at the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center (FJC) assessed their capacities and resources and asked us how they could help people in desperate need of respite and sanctuary.

For more than fifty years, IYHA, the Israel Youth Hostel Association, has proudly partnered with FJC to bring hundreds of thousands of people from North America, Israel, and around the world to explore Israel based at the ANA Agron Guest House we manage on the FJC campus.

By October 10, we had created a plan together whereby hundreds of displaced individuals from the South could stay in our facility free of charge. FJC raised money to cover all basic costs associated with these guests, the last of whom moved to more permanent housing by November 5. This not only helped our fellow citizens tremendously at a time of dire need, but ensured that the Guest House and its employees could continue to operate until government funding became available nationally several weeks later.

One of the families that stayed on campus for more than two weeks wrote this:

Hello Dear FRIEND. My name is Odelia Hazan. I live with my husband and 4 children in Ashkelon, in a neighborhood called Agamim, a southern neighborhood, a few kilometers from Gaza. We love living here very much but when over a thousand missiles are fired at us it is an abnormal and illogical reality. The children are in a war zone and their delicate souls cannot always bear the prolonged fear. I am grateful to you for allowing us to stay at the ANA Agron Hostel! Thanks to you my children were here peacefully and protected. May God protect you and bless you! We appreciate your help very much and thank you for your generosity and caring. Odelia

FJC's CEO Dr. Stephen Arnoff has informed us of your generosity and kindness in providing funds for our joint efforts. At a time of fear and anguish, you came forward with your hearts and hands. We will never forget this incredible gesture, and are gratified to thank you for it.

May you find much satisfaction in our fellowship, and may we all know better days.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Sincerely,
Ofra Shapira
Ofra Shapira

Deputy Director General
Israel Youth Hostels Association (IYHA)