



Shana Tova

Rosh Hashana 5782
September 2021

Dear partners and friends,

This past year, the COVID pandemic forced Israel, like many countries worldwide, to cope with complex challenges that mainly impacted the weaker populations. While causing social gaps to grow wider, the acute problems that surfaced or intensified during the crisis have also created opportunities for new thinking and out-of-the-box solutions in key areas such as education, employment, domestic violence, and community resilience.

These opportunities can be leveraged for significant social change, and this in turn can narrow the gaps. Now is the time for us to look forward, and to continue to drive the partnerships and long-term processes that can bring about fundamental improvement in Israeli society.

We wish you and your loved ones a happy and successful new year. May it be filled with good health, positive action and growth, and social and personal renewal.

Shaul Shani
Chairman

Francois Leven
President

Michal Cohen
General Director



Opening the new year with new initiatives

Rashi at the UN

The Rashi Foundation has been appointed as a consultant to the United Nations. In this capacity, it will contribute to debate and policy recommendations in areas such as equal social and economic opportunities, food security, violence against women, and more.

We are pleased to highlight below new initiatives, programs, and activities that will be launched this year by the Rashi Foundation, together with our partners in philanthropy, civil society and the business sector: the Gandy Foundation, the Menomadin Foundation, the Samis Foundation, JDC-Ashalim, JDC-Elka, the Zalman Shazar Center, Ascola (Branco Weiss Institute & Education Cities partnership), Bank Hapoalim, CISCO Systems, and Google, alongside public sector partners.

12 municipalities will assist their residents in better exercising their rights to receive government benefits through the new Cities Promote Rights & Benefits initiative, which is slated to double in scope in the next stage.

Partners: Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services | municipalities

19 municipalities in two regions will take part in the pilot stage of WORKIT, a new initiative to advance gainful employment in the periphery.

Partner: the Israeli Employment Service

8 schools in the Western Negev will institute hybrid in-person and online learning, which promotes both guided and independent study through use of advanced technology and pedagogy. In keeping with trends in higher education and the professional world, the focus here is on 'learning how to learn'.

Partner: the Western Negev regional cluster

50 organizations will partner in the Resilient Community initiative, which aims to strengthen local communities and empower their members to achieve social mobility and better quality of life.

Partner: Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services

1500 young people from across Israel's social spectrum are expected to participate over the next five years in programs run by Yesodot – the Center for Public Service. These programs will provide them with the training needed to take leadership positions in the public sector, whether at the national or local level.

Partners: Prime Minister's Office | Ministry for Social Equality | municipalities

New centers and programs for treatment of victims of domestic violence

Partners: Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services | National Insurance Institute

4 new regional Centers will provide **holistic interventions** to victims of domestic violence.

5 groups of women victims of domestic violence will undergo **professional training** that will enable them to secure employment in the hi-tech sector.

5 new **technological solutions** will be developed to identify and assist women victims of domestic violence. This is part of a national initiative that includes building an inter-ministerial database for domestic violence.

