



From adversity to opportunity

How WIZO Australia is empowering Israel's most vulnerable





Thank you Australia

WIZO Australia, your dedication and commitment is truly inspiring. Your support in fundraising efforts, volunteering, and advocating for the rights and well-being of women and children in Israel cannot be overstated.

Your contributions make a significant difference in the lives of those in need, allowing us to continue our vital work. And though you are far away, you should always remember that you are part of a great, worldwide movement, whose headquarters and spiritual home, here in Israel, is one of the largest and most important social welfare and educational organizations, deeply affecting the lives of tens of thousands of Israeli children, families and women.

Thank you for being an integral part of the WIZO family and for playing such an important role in making the world a better place. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

With gratitude,

Anita Friedman
Chairperson of World WIZO Executive

A global force for good

WIZO is a global, Zionist and activist women's movement. We are committed to volunteerism and strive for excellence in education and for innovative social action to benefit all of Israeli society. We prioritise the evolving needs of individuals at every stage of life and stand for all those who need our help.

For children who need care.

For teenagers who need an education.

For women who need a safe haven.

For the elderly who need companionship.

And for families who need to see a brighter day.



Over 100,000 members in 38 federations around the world.



Educates 5,500 youth in 8 educational institutions, 5 youth villages, 2 schools and a therapeutic boarding school.



Runs 170 day care centres that care for over 12,000 children and babies.



Supports and uplifts women with 10 Safety Net groups, 2 women's shelters and a domestic abuse prevention program for high school students.

WIZO Australia

In Australia WIZO is represented by over 2,500 dedicated women across five states – New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria.

Through membership and various fundraising activities throughout the year, WIZO Australia raises funds to support projects and programs in Israel for the betterment of Israeli society.



Dear WIZO family,

As the Federal President of WIZO Australia, I am extremely proud of WIZO Australia's dedication to supporting WIZO projects and programs in Israel.

By showcasing these efforts, we are not only recognising the impact they have on the Israeli community, but we are also inspiring others to contribute. It's through the collective efforts of WIZO Australia and our donors that a positive change is fostered, and lives are improved in Israel. Our commitment to these causes is an embodiment of the spirit of philanthropy and volunteerism.

As we continue to enrich and provide for the welfare of infants, children, youth, women and the elderly in Israel, by providing a framework for youth at risk, assisting women and girls in distress and victims of domestic violence, we are reminded of the true values of WIZO – humanity, partnership, excellence, equality and innovation.

We must not forget, that despite our continued efforts, WIZO's needs in Israel are ongoing and the support of donors and volunteers is paramount to continuing the vital work we do and I am truly grateful for the generosity of our donors.

Michelle Spiro

President, WIZO Australia

Our Projects

WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim.
A Residential school for troubled youth
Haifa

**The Chorley
Day Care Centre**
Ra'anana

**The Raya Jaglom
Multipurpose
Day Care Centre**
Tel Aviv

**The Shikun Mizrach
Day Care Centre**
Rishon Le Tzion

Joy Balkind Day Care Centre
Jerusalem

**The Rae & Tom Mandel
Family Centre for Women
and Children**
Modi'in

**Makom BaLev
Centre for Girls
at Risk**
Be'er Sheva



WIZO came into my life when I was about to become a mother for the first time. How fitting that my work began then and that it involved two of my passions – Israel and children.

WIZO has fulfilled my need to have a relationship with my place of birth and with my strong principles of Tikun Olam. WIZO, through its far reaching welfare network has committed me to my Jewish identity along with my strong sense of Zionism.

It has brought me pride, confidence, meaning and fulfilment. Because of WIZO Israel is now an even more significant element of my life and my children's lives. **Nilly Berger, President WIZO NSW.**



A home for children with special educational needs.

WIZO AHUZAT YELADIM A residential school in Haifa for troubled youth

Housing 80 students, Ahuzat Yeladim is a therapeutic and post-hospitalisation residential boarding school for children and teenagers who come from broken homes and as a result suffer from behavioural, emotional and psychiatric problems. All the students have special educational needs and for many of them this is their last chance at a normal childhood.

Every student at Ahuzat Yeladim is unique and as such receives individual learning programs and therapies, coordinated by a team of psychologists, social workers and teachers.

Animal assisted therapy and therapeutic gardening programs at Ahuzat Yeladim are an integral part of enhancing the student's welfare. These programs are highly effective in improving the physical and psychological wellbeing of children, further enhancing their therapeutic benefits.



40 - 50% of the children at Ahuzat Yeladim have been removed from their homes by court order.



All children are referred by the welfare services in their respective communities.



During school holidays, Ahuzat Yeladim operates "Beit Hachofesh" (a holiday house) for a maximum of 20 students who cannot go home.

WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim holds a special place in my heart because it has become a beacon of hope for those in need. Recognising the essential role this organisation plays, I felt compelled to contribute to their cause in a meaningful way. **Simonne Abadee**

Ahuzat Yeladim also offers students the opportunity to learn professional baking skills. The kitchen is the heart of any home, and food, with all its flavours and smells, evokes memories and sentiments. Working together in the kitchen is an intimate experience, enabling emotional development and improving communication skills. The enjoyment of baking is increased by sharing the activity with others. Baking together encourages a direct, authentic dialogue, it is a comforting and an empowering therapeutic tool.

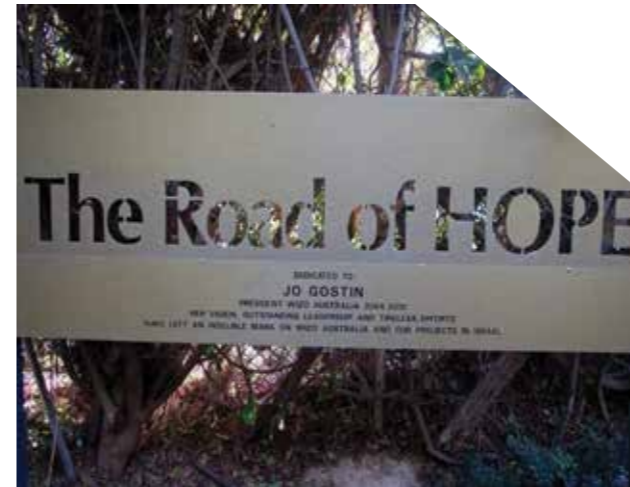
There is simply nothing like Ahuzat Yeladim, a vital project supported by WIZO Australia, which ensures at-risk children have a safe home, with innovative programs, managed by experienced staff.

Ha'ahuza Ha'ktana

Ha'ahuza Ha'ktana operates adjacent to Ahuzat Yeladim and caters for young boys between the ages of 7 to 12 years. All the boys have been removed from their homes because their parents could not manage them. They attend school in the Haifa community.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the following initiatives have been sponsored at Ahuzat Yeladim:

- '21 Renovation of the Jonas therapeutic treatment dormitory by WIZO Australia members and supporters.
- '22 Renovation of the main dining room thanks to WIZO Australia members and supporters.
Renovation of the basketball court by Simonne Abadee and members of WIZO Rachel Yaffa (Sydney, NSW).
- '23 Renovation of the staff quarters, including 8 apartments, in 2 buildings – through a generous bequest received from the late Joy Balkind z"l (Sydney, NSW).
The new quarters are dedicated to Yossi Saragossi, Director of WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim from 1999 - 2024, for his passion, dedication and commitment to the countless children who benefited from his exemplary care.



**THE ROAD OF HOPE
WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim, Haifa**

Help us pave WIZO's Road of Hope – launched in 2009 in honour of the late Jo Gostin OAM z"l.

This unique path leads from the entrance at WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim Youth Village in Haifa and continues to wind its way through the school.

Purchase a brick on the Road of Hope and support those in WIZO's care, while acknowledging an individual, celebrating a milestone or a special occasion. It is a wonderful way to remember those you wish to honour.



\$2.5k Sand brick

\$5k Grey Brick

\$10k Gold brick

Saving the lives of young women at risk.



MAKOM BALEV **Emergency Housing and Treatment Centre** **for Young Women in Be'er Sheva**

Keeping women safe, and giving them back control of their lives, is an integral part of WIZO's work.

Meaning "A place in the heart", Makom Balev is a safe, nurturing, and therapeutic home for girls and young women. The dedicated women who run the facility provide a refuge for young women and girls who have been exploited, many of whom are involved in prostitution just to make ends meet.

Working in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Social Services, Makom Balev offers treatment, support and emotional and vocational rehabilitation for young women who are at very high risk and who want to take steps to leave the cycle of sexual exploitation.



Keeping women safe at Makom Balev.



Makom Balev provides professional counselling and support to a maximum of 50 young women at any one time.



Women in need receive emergency housing with hot nutritious meals and referrals for medical care.

Our Day Care Centres

Supporting families in need.

WIZO DAY CARE CENTRES

WIZO operates over 170 day care centres throughout Israel, caring for children from infancy to 3 years of age. This includes 19 comprehensive centres that enrol children referred by welfare services which operate for extended hours and include specialised therapeutic programs for at-risk children.

WIZO Australia is dedicated to, and is the major supporter of, 4 key day care centres in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Ra'anana and Rishon Le Zion.



WIZO has 170 day care centres across Israel.



Cares for more than 12,000 children.



Employs 3500 caregivers.





The Joy Balkind Comprehensive Day Care Centre

Katamon, Jerusalem

The newest day care centre supported by WIZO Australia, this centre contains 3 classrooms and 3 playgrounds, plus an additional comprehensive after-school classroom with its own playground.

Maintaining close contact with the local welfare office and with the community, children and families benefit from the services of an in-house social worker who provides support, counselling, and advocacy to assist parents care for their children effectively and lovingly. Parent/child activities include story time, theatre, movement, art, and cooking.



Thanks to a generous bequest received from the late Joy Balkind z"l (Sydney, Australia) in 2022, the day care centre was fully renovated.

Joy Balkind was an extremely well respected and long-standing member of WIZO NSW whose commitment and dedication to education and WIZO was unwavering – in her honour, the day care centre was named after her.



The Raya Jaglom Multipurpose Day Care Centre

Tel-Aviv

One of the city's most popular day care centres, this centre cares for over 90 children. 20 – 25% of the children come from single mother (by choice) families and same sex couples.

The main objective of the centre is to create a high quality, comprehensive support system model that focuses on the interaction of children and parents.

Caregivers and allied professionals help parents develop skills for taking care of their children at home, assisting in preventing the disintegration of the family unit.



Thanks to generous donations in 2023 from WIZO Ayelet members (Sydney, NSW) a new Sensory Motor Room was installed to advance gross motor skills and to promote physical, emotional, cognitive and social development of all children at the centre.

The Shikun Mizrach Day Care Centre

Rishon Le Zion

Shikun Mizrach Day Care Centre has 3 classes which cater for 80 children, a quarter of whom are welfare referred. The centre provides therapists from the municipality, who are supported by WIZO volunteers, to work with parents to assist them in caring for their children, many of whom suffer from emotional problems.

The centre has a beautiful orchard in the grounds, where the children pick fresh fruit which is served in the centre and used for cooking, making marmalade and sweet treats.



At least 10 of the children are from Ethiopian families and 9 from single parent families.



The Chorley Day Care Centre

Ráanana

The Chorley Day Care Centre was inaugurated in 1997. Most of the children enrolled in the centre come from the neighbourhood and from different socio-economic classes.

Programs in the centre support the child's development while encouraging curiosity, experiential learning and self-expression in a supportive and warm environment.



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Our Community Centre

RAE & TOM MANDEL FAMILY CENTRE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN Modi'in

When there is a need WIZO is there. Especially when it comes to families at risk.

The Rae and Tom Mandel Family Centre provides the women and children of Modi'in with a range of services including family counselling and legal advice and is a major welfare resource of the area.

The centre supports many community members, offering workshops for young mothers looking to re-enter the work force after maternity leave, pilates and dancing classes, whilst also caring for the elderly by organising day trips, performances, and workshops for the senior citizens group.

The centre is self-funded through funds raised from an extremely successful second handing clothing store "Bigudit" and a second hand bric-a-brac store, both run by volunteers. Additional funds are raised by hiring out the main hall, for various community events and activities hosted in the centre.



Thanks to the generosity of Tom z"l and Rae z"l Mandel (Melbourne, VIC) - who donated funds during their lifetime - the centre was opened in 2011 for the benefit of women & children in Modi'in.



Provides free legal services to women allowing them to establish contact through various social platforms and in person if required.

Our Programs

WIZO Australia is dedicated to helping all those who are underprivileged and at-risk. From newborns and teenagers to young mothers and the elderly, the women of WIZO Australia are there, ready to do whatever it takes to support the most vulnerable.

In addition to our vital projects across Israel we also run many vital programs that literally save lives.

The thing I love most about WIZO is the fact that it transforms lives everywhere. WIZO educates children, empowers women, and ensures the wellbeing of the elderly in Israel through their various services and programs.

But it does so too in the diaspora . The community that WIZO builds here in Australia is meaningful. We instill love for Israel and inspire tzedakah within our families. **Ronit Chrapot & Family**



Leading the fight against domestic violence.

WIZO'S SAFETY NET PROGRAM

When victims of domestic violence are ready to start their lives again, there are so many risk factors and barriers including poverty, unemployment, and exclusion from educational frameworks, alongside an array of psychosocial and emotional needs.

Safety Net guides these women and girls back to a life of independence and a life free of violence after leaving a WIZO shelter.

The enormous demand for the Safety Net program is the best proof that WIZO once again has identified an acute problem, utilised its expertise and innovative spirit to address the need, and created a life-changing program for the women and children of Israel.



Approximately 10,000 women, men and adolescents on the ground have been directly reached by programs.



Impact via legislation is estimated at one million women and children.

Three levels of Safety Net:

- 1 Maintaining a reasonable standard of living for the families by providing food baskets, groceries, electric appliances, toiletries, and more.
- 2 Providing the women with a trained WIZO 'mentor' who builds an ongoing relationship with the family. There are also weekly group meetings and therapy sessions to create a much-needed support network.
- 3 Occupational rehabilitation, with the goal of finding and maintaining jobs. The women are provided with training programs, digital orientation, and suitable employment solutions.

Statistics show that up to 40% of women return to their violent partners. After participating in the WIZO Safety Net program, this harsh statistic drops dramatically to less than 5%.

Helping the children of Israel.

SPONSOR A CHILD IN ISRAEL

Right now one in three Israeli children live below the poverty line. That's over 800,000 children that go without adequate food, shelter, education and other basic needs. In a recent report by the UN Agency for Children, it states that Israel has the second highest poverty rate amongst most developed countries around the world. Our Israel.

So when it comes to how we think about the children of Israel – we need to think differently. And that's why the Sponsor a Child in Israel initiative is vital. WIZO's Sponsor a Child in Israel program is making a real difference on the ground. As the largest welfare organisation in Israel, and with over 800 facilities across Israel, WIZO has the experience and the knowledge to combat the war against poverty.

Please sponsor a child
in Israel and change
a life today:

\$1k

Monthly payment: \$85
over 12 months

\$1.8k

Monthly payment: \$150
over 12 months

\$5k

Monthly payment: \$420
over 12 months



Become a WIZO Woman

IT ALL STARTS WITH MEMBERSHIP

For over 100 years WIZO has been the largest welfare organisation in Israel, helping to strengthen Israeli society by supporting the most vulnerable. But truth be told WIZO does so much more.

WIZO stands for empowering women around the globe.

WIZO stands for a thriving Jewish homeland.

WIZO stands for uplifting the underprivileged.

WIZO stands for improving the lives of women and children across Israel.

To keep making a difference in the world, we need you to stand with us.

Your membership ensures we can continue our vital work.



Being involved with WIZO has always resonated with me, particularly in understanding their core mission to provide for the welfare of underprivileged women, children and families in need, in Israel. Together with a strong belief in philanthropy and the philosophy of giving back, I think it is very important to be a role model to my children and grandchildren and to instil in them the value of being actively engaged in the community we live in, as well as a love of Israel. When providing resources and time to WIZO, I find fulfilment that can only be found in making someone else's life a little brighter. **Benita Kam**

"I feel privileged to be fulfilling the most important WIZO obligation which is to teach my children to share and donate with heart and soul.

I am proud to have imbued my passion for WIZO onto my daughter Helen and my son (Nicky) Nathan who proudly support WIZO on an ongoing basis to help women and children in Israel." **Ruth Scheuer OAM**



A Real Sisterhood

Be part of the WIZO family and worldwide network of members where you'll create lifelong friendships.



A Deep Connection to Israel

Join WIZO Australia at the World WIZO EGM - hosted in Israel every 4 years - or simply visit a WIZO Australia project when next in Israel.



Other Ways to Give

WIZO GIFTS IN WILL

Leaving a gift to WIZO in your Will is an act of kindness that can change the lives of future generations in Israel. WIZO Australia has partnered with HWL Ebsworth Lawyers to provide you with expert advice and assistance with your Estate Planning.

For people looking to leave a Gift in Will to WIZO, HWL Ebsworth will provide a one-hour complimentary consultation with Michael Henley - a Partner in the firm and one of only 70 accredited Will specialists in Australia - as well as a free Will Kit (valued at \$650). A minimum gift will be required to obtain the free consultation and will kit. This offer is open to all States.

For more information contact:

Jenny Yehuda
Treasurer | Legacy Manager WIZO Australia
Mobile: + 61 421 236 526
Email: treasurer@wizoaustralia.org.au

BAR/BAT MITZVAH SPONSORSHIP

Every year, WIZO branches throughout Israel organise Bar and Bat Mitzvah programs for children whose families cannot afford to pay for lessons and a personal celebration.

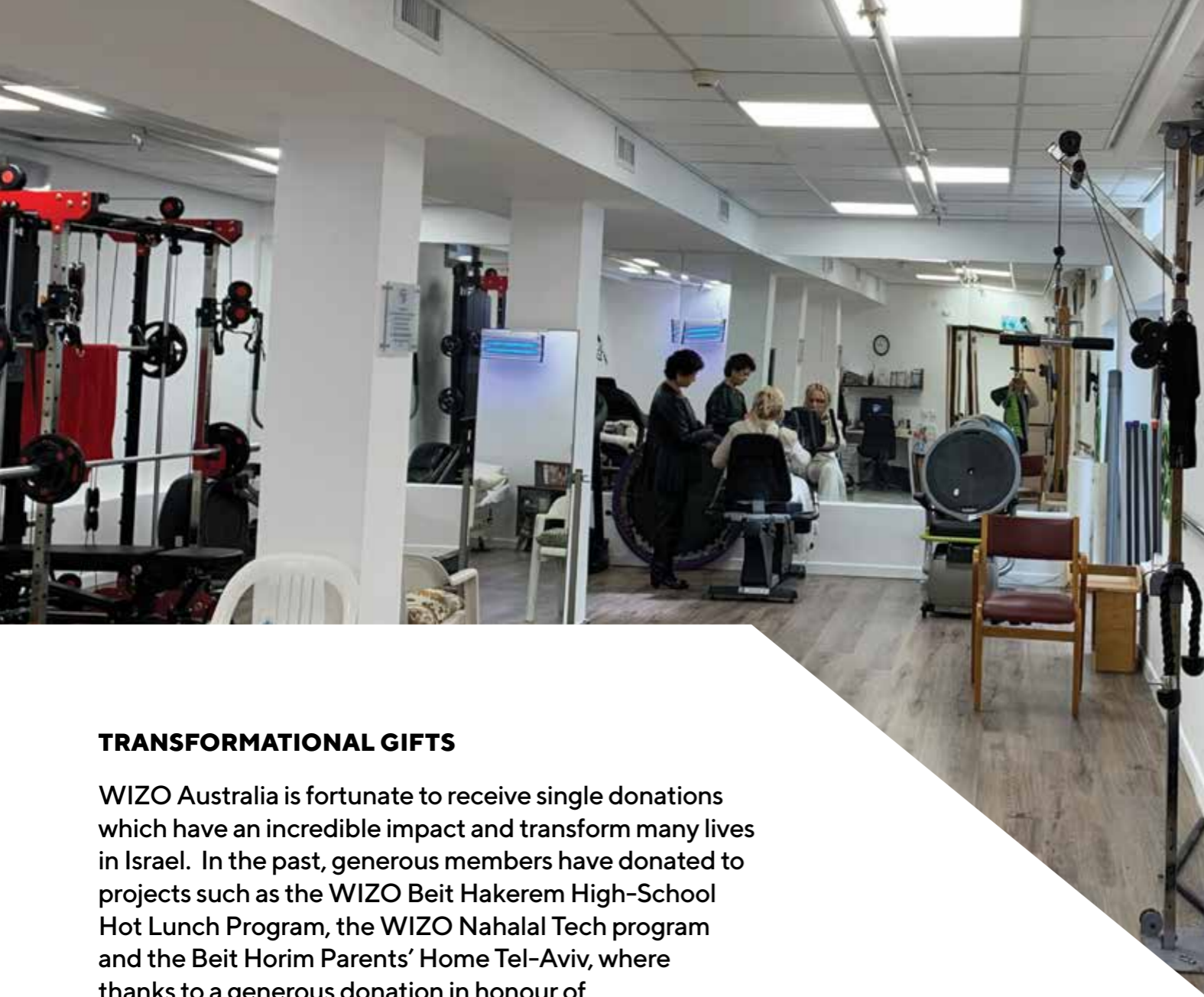
A donation of \$1,000 will provide a child the opportunity to participate in a Bar or Bat Mitzvah program which includes classes for a year, volunteer activities, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony, an outing to Jerusalem and religious gifts. You will also have your name inscribed on a plaque at WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim

To help a child to celebrate their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, please consider requesting your guests donate to WIZO in lieu of a gift.

“For my Bat Mitzvah I really wanted to help provide people in need with access to therapy dogs because I know what a significant difference the endless love a dog can make in an individual’s life”

Alexis (Melbourne, VIC)





TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS

WIZO Australia is fortunate to receive single donations which have an incredible impact and transform many lives in Israel. In the past, generous members have donated to projects such as the WIZO Beit Hakerem High-School Hot Lunch Program, the WIZO Nahalal Tech program and the Beit Horim Parents' Home Tel-Aviv, where thanks to a generous donation in honour of Venetia Kalinko (Sydney, NSW), the Physiotherapy room was renovated.



Your donation can make a world of difference.

The needs of the community and our WIZO projects are constantly evolving. Your contribution ensures that we can adapt and respond to the ever-changing challenges faced by individuals and families in Israel.

Your support will go a long way in improving lives and strengthening our communities.

Please consider making a donation today by contacting WIZO Australia or your State office to donate.

All donations are tax deductible.

WIZO Australia offices

WIZO Australia

Phone: 0408 894 962

Email: admin@wizoaustralia.org.au
wizoaustralia.org.au

WIZO New South Wales

Phone: 02 9387 3666

Email: wizo@wizonsw.org.au
wizonsw.org.au

WIZO Victoria

Phone: 03 9272 5588

Email: wizo@wizovic.org.au
wizovic.org.au

WIZO Queensland

Phone: 0408 894 962

Email: admin@wizoaustralia.org.au
wizoaustralia.org.au/queensland

WIZO South Australia

Phone: 0408 894 962

Email: admin@wizoaustralia.org.au
wizoaustralia.org.au/south-australia

WIZO Western Australia Inc.

Phone: 08 9276 7420

Email: wizowa@wizowa.org.au
wizoaustralia.org.au/western-australia

