

ANNUAL REVIEW



A NATION IN CRISIS
CHANGING LIVES:
SAVING LIVES

2024-2025

IMPACTING A NATION IN CRISIS CHANGING LIVES: SAVING LIVES

2

Welcome to WIZOuk's Annual Review for the financial year ending 30 September 2025.

As the last financial year began, we were still desperately awaiting the return of the remaining hostages and praying for peace in Israel. Whilst the hostages are finally home, Israel is still facing one of its most difficult and uncertain periods in recent memory.

Lives have been lost, hundreds are wounded and thousands of families, children and the elderly are overwhelmed with fear. The psychological toll of war is immense and many are grappling with panic and anxiety, unsure of what tomorrow will bring. In these desperate moments WIZO has once again stepped up to provide essential support.

WIZO continues to focus on building resilience and recovery whilst running its existing 800 projects and programmes throughout Israel. WIZO's comprehensive, diverse programme of specialist grief and emotional therapy is aimed at people of all ages from toddlers and teenagers to adults struggling to cope with the trauma of war, with women being disproportionately impacted. Women in Israel, particularly mothers are often left with the challenges, both financially and emotionally of supporting the family whilst their partners are away, many of whom for several months.

Throughout the conflict, WIZO, with its aim of providing the highest quality of education and care, has ensured the continued operation of our boarding schools and youth villages. Students, including those with no other home to go to, have been cared for with all efforts to ensure that crucial education is not missed.

We have been rolling out Sensory Motor Rooms throughout our shelters in our Day Care Centres. These create an educational and comforting place of safety, removing the fear for the children of being in a shelter.

Further information on some of our vital initiatives are contained within this Annual Review.

As we mourn the many members of the WIZO family who have lost their lives in the current conflict, we thank you for supporting WIZO. It is only with your continued generosity that we are able to care for so many and to help to ensure a strong, stable, happy Israel for generations to come.

Warm regards



Danielle Shane
Chair WIZOuk



3

WIZO IN ACTION	4	WIZO – BUILDING RESILIENCE	
WIZO'S WARTIME IMPACT AT A GLANCE	6	ONE HOUR AT A TIME	12
WIZO'S SAFETY NET	8	WIZOuk IN NUMBERS	13
TAKING WIZOuk FORWARD	10	WIZOuk IN PICTURES	16
		THANK YOU	18
		BETTY'S LEGACY	20

WIZO IN ACTION

4



REACH AND PEOPLE POWER

70,000
lives touched daily

2,400
volunteers

300
activity hubs

6,000
dedicated staff

109
seniors in the Parents
Home including 35
Holocaust survivors

38
centres serving
communities
nationwide



ELDERLY AND COMMUNITIES

10,200
preschoolers
in 161 day care
centreswartime
resilience

33
core programmes
for emotional
therapy and
wartime resilience

2
centres for
treating girls
at high risk
of abuse and
violence

3
hotlines



WOMEN, CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

18
foster homes
for babies and
children at risk

1
vocational high school
for students with
learning difficulties

45
bigudit (second-
hand shops)

400+
women and children
breaking the cycle of
violence in emergency
shelters and Safety
Net programmes

100
teens at the only
vocational high school in
Israel for students with
learning difficulties

18
centres for
children and
youth at risk

6,100
young people in 8
schools and youth
villages

5

WIZO'S WARTIME IMPACT AT A GLANCE

6

Women's Resilience through Wartime Challenges

1,500 training hours for women navigating major life changes intensified by the war

450 partners and families of reservist took part in tailored art, movement and play therapy sessions



1,000 new mothers found a safe, supportive place in the Mothers After Birth in the Shadow of War Forum

Women Choosing Protection and Empowerment

7,700 young people, professionals and caregivers took part in education programmes to identify and prevent violence

87% reduction in returns to a violent spouse following our Safety Net programmes

300 calls in **60** days to the Emergency Legal Hotline during the immediate post Oct 7 conflict



Protecting the Youngest, Empowering the Caregivers

7

80 bomb shelters upgraded into sensory motor rooms creating playful, calming spaces

900 young children's educators trained in trauma-informed care

70% of WIZO caregivers qualified compared to the national average of **36%**



Youth Rising above Adversity

45,000 hours of psycho-social therapy for our youth

75% of Nahalal Tec graduates entered elite army units, higher education or tech careers – breaking intergenerational cycles of disadvantage and poverty

4 WIZO graduates honoured with President's Award for Excellence

130 athletes from diverse communities competed in the WIZO Sports Academy, building resilience in the shadow of war



Volunteers Powering National Resilience

660,000 volunteer hours annually, strengthening Israeli society and saving lives

43.5m NIS – estimate value of the hours WIZO volunteers dedicate annually

93% of surveyed volunteers said their efforts made a significant difference showing dedication and pride.

WIZO'S SAFETY NET- MORE THAN A PROGRAMME– A VITAL COMMUNITY

8

One of the many consequences of the post-October 7 period has been an upsurge in domestic violence as the stresses of military service and bomb attacks on Israeli cities exacerbate fraught relationships.

WIZO's Safety Net post-shelter programme has long supported those impacted by abuse but now has to meet the increased demand for legal, financial and practical help. The Safety Net programme has already assisted around 375 women and children across 11 communities. Providing direct support, connection to professionals and a safe environment for recovery and decision-making, they enable women and their children who have escaped a violent home environment to rebuild their lives, starting with a prolonged period in a shelter. As they rehabilitate, the women have to address numerous problems, both practical and emotional.

The programme has proved a hugely effective resource for integrating domestic violence survivors back into the community to enjoy safe, sustainable and independent lives.

Operated by professional staff and WIZO trained volunteers, Safety Net incorporates weekly support groups and professional counselling sessions. In addition to emotional support, participants are also made aware of financial and legal resources so they can claim housing assistance and other government benefits, secure legal aid for divorce proceedings and custody battles and set up bank accounts and other life essentials. To develop their education and enhance their career prospects, the women can also take advantage of training and certification courses and guidance on job applications and interviews. Safety Net can additionally call upon a network of employers who are ready to hire.



9

Safety Net is more than a programme. It's a community dedicated to supporting these families as they rebuild their lives. Help includes free clothing supplied to women and families in need from the WIZO Bigudit (second-hand clothing stores) together with furniture and home appliances for a new apartment as well as babysitting, school supplies, food vouchers for the holidays, field trips and so much more.

The success of Safety Net can be gauged by one startling statistic. Research suggests that up to 40 per cent of abused women return to their violent partners or end up in new and harmful relationships. For those who have come through Safety Net, the rate is below 5 per cent. It is testament to the way that, for more than a century, WIZO has been a pioneer in identifying critical needs in Israeli society and developing cutting edge social and educational services to address them.



"The Safety Net Community at WIZO Herziliya gave me amazing support. The volunteers were like grandmothers to my children. I had a personal and employment mentor who helped me organise my day and move forward. We had a therapist who helped rebuild my confidence as a mother and my children's confidence in me. They even gave us self-defence classes so we could feel safe again. Without WIZO, I don't know what I would have done and one day, I want to be a volunteer myself."

Ayelet, participant of the WIZO Safety Net Programme.

TAKING WIZOUK FORWARD FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE

10

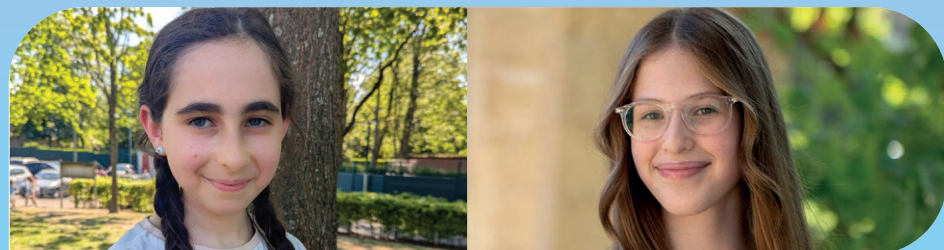
For over 100 years, WIZO has been a leader and an innovator, evolving to meet the ever-changing needs of Israeli society. WIZOUK is no different and this past financial year has been one packed with varied and exciting fundraising campaigns and events - from networking and careers to politics and fashion, all to appeal to a wide-ranging and often new audience, to entice and safeguard the future of our organisation.

In October, we were delighted to invite globally recognised author, speaker, educator and influencer Hen Mazzig to a cocktail event at a West End restaurant with our Young Patrons and Benefactors. Hen, a WIZOUK Commitment Award winner spoke to a captivated crowd and answered questions about his journey into Jewish activism and how we can use our voice online and face to face to help fight antisemitism.



This was followed later in the year by two impactful Networking events for our Young Patrons and Professionals in partnership with St Johns Wood Young Professionals and Westminster Next Dor. The panels, which included Claude Littner, Michael Abraham, Rosanna Burr, Alex Littner, Hannah Feldman, Danny Sinitsky and WIZOUK Commitment Award winner Charley Young MBE, told stories of their careers, gave advice and answered questions from the enthralled audiences about their concerns on how to progress and succeed with their futures. Guests enjoyed sushi, cocktails and networking.

Our annual Young Writers Competition in conjunction with the Jewish News and PJ Library for primary and secondary school students celebrated strength whether physical, inner, emotional or communal. As always, we were hugely impressed by all entries which reflected the spirit of WIZO: strength in adversity and hope through words.



Primary school winner Bobbi Freeman

Secondary school winner Ori Rum Zemet

11



The WIZOUK Women's Professional Network launched in January with a sold out event discussing "Is there such a thing as dressing for success?" Over 100 women flocked to Covent Garden to hear valuable insights and tips from Lisa Armstrong, the Telegraph's head of fashion, Jessica Diner, Vogue's global beauty & wellness director and Sarah Jossel, beauty director-at-large and columnist for Sunday Times Style. Panel chair, Telegraph Magazine deputy editor and JC columnist Naomi Greenaway together with the audience quizzed the fashion insiders. The women discussed having successful careers in fashion whilst juggling young families. Discussions also included the power of a red lipstick, good tailoring, a great blow dry and owning multiple concealers.

At our Speak up for the Jewish community in the UK and in Israel event in Highgate, Natasha Hausdorff and Rachel Riley reflected on the challenges facing the community at this time and their own sense of pride in the coming together and the speaking up that encourages and influences more to do so.



Following our highly successful Commitment Awards, this year saw our brand new Entrepreneur Awards. Sponsored by British businessman and philanthropist David Dangoor, the awards reinforce WIZO's commitment to championing excellence and spotlighting individuals who embody the values of courage, determination and social responsibility.

David presented the awards alongside businesswoman Linda Plant at WIZOUK's Gala Dinner. Winners were 18 year old Ukrainian refugee Andrii Cherkashyn, co-founder of an AI-powered algorithmic trading start-up; film maker and founder of Tech Talk Media and Impossible Media, Jonny Caplin; Cezar Roden, founder of Ice Kitchen; Alexia Baron, founder of Porto & Bello producing port-accessible clothing for cancer patients helping them feel empowered during some of their most vulnerable moments; Dr Deborah Hirshler, pioneer of a same-day triage system for patients; Stephanie Daniels, founder of Life Begins at Menopause; and Tash Grossman, founder of Slip.

WIZO – BUILDING RESILIENCE ONE HOUR AT A TIME

12

One of the vital ways WIZO is helping a traumatised nation is by prioritising the emotional wellbeing of children.

WIZO's programme **An Hour with a Child** is currently operating in 21 Centres across Israel. As part of this initiative trained adult volunteers are matched with vulnerable children for one hour each week, during which they receive dedicated emotional support. Each hour is devoted entirely to individual attention, presence and quiet connection.

As well as coping with the anxiety of war many of the children referred to the programme by school counsellors also face challenges at home, in the classroom, or in their social environments. These can include emotional neglect, anxiety, instability or behavioural struggles. For many, the presence of a stable caring adult, even for just one hour a week, provides a sense of consistency and calm, otherwise missing from their lives. Trust can be built and emotional resilience can take root. There is no pressure to perform, only to be heard, seen and supported.

To date, WIZO has trained over 320 volunteers, with 485 children currently benefitting from the support.

One little girl, speaking about Dvora, her group's support adult said "She has really helped us all. I miss her already."

An Hour with a Child provides more than a thousand hours of emotional support each month. The benefits of the initiative go both ways. Volunteers often describe the experience as deeply meaningful and rewarding. Many build lasting connections not only with the children they support, but with the wider WIZO community and its mission.

According to WIZO experts, in today's Israel where conflict, displacement and emotional strain are ever-present, this programme offers a vital lifeline. Ora Korazim, Chairperson of WIZO Israel said: "Children living through instability need anchors. A trusted adult who shows up, listens and provides consistency can be the difference between isolation and empowerment. WIZO understands that emotional strength is as vital as physical safety. An Hour with a Child embodies this belief, creating thousands of small but powerful moments of healing each year. Ora added: "We need the generosity of our supporters now more than ever to keep this vital lifeline going. We want to support even more children in the coming months and we hope we can."



WIZOuk's INCOME 2024-25

13

WIZOuk's gross income for 2024/25 was £1.785M (2023/24 £2.142M). Income was lower when compared to last year because in the previous year we benefitted from additional income from our Emergency Appeal, although legacy income was also higher than in the previous year. Overall income is about £400,000 lower than in the previous year.

Legacies

WIZOuk is deeply grateful to our supporters who left a legacy towards WIZO's work through gifts in their wills. Their generous legacies, which totalled £585K in 2024/25, helped support hundreds of vulnerable families in Israel. We extend our sympathy and heartfelt thanks to their loved ones. We are also grateful to our supporters who have informed WIZOuk of their plans to leave a gift in their Will. We applaud their foresight and leadership in making future generations of Israeli families a priority.

Group fundraising

Through volunteering their time and organising a wide range of successful events, our loyal, dedicated, and generous supporter groups across the UK raised £423K during 2024/25. The Trustees are grateful to all the Group Chairmen and their committees for their tireless work at raising much needed and valuable funds. Group fundraising includes amounts raised in respect of the Jewish Women's Week campaign which is detailed further below.

Events, appeals and campaigns

A variety of successful fundraising events which raised a total of £659K took place during the year and forms a part of events, appeals and campaigns income in the accounts. Events included the Emergency Appeal (£45K), Rosh Hashanah Appeal (£86K), Bridge at Home (£4K), Gala Dinner & Commitment Awards (£266K) and Quiz@ Home (£21K).

Jewish Women's Week, which takes place every May, continues to be our most consistently successful fundraising

campaign. Carried out by WIZOuk's volunteers through door-to-door collections, Jewish Women's Week in 2024/25 raised £115K.

Volunteers

Our volunteers are the backbone of WIZOuk's success and achievements. Volunteers, including our Trustees, Lay Advisors and supporter groups, donated many hours of their time during 2024/25. Fundraising activities were carried out by 94 supporter groups across the UK and through centrally organised events and campaigns. These groups work on a purely voluntary basis, whilst Head Office and regional offices use both salaried and voluntary workers.

Charitable expenditure

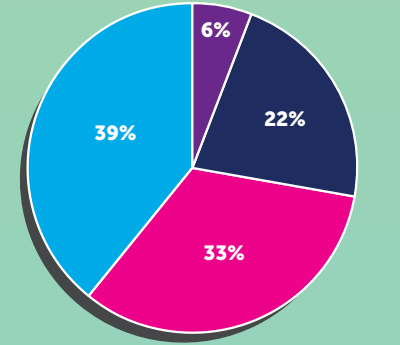
During 2024/25, £0.713M (2023/24 £1.632M) was made available for projects, programmes, and capital renovations in Israel. This included £405K from general funds, £63K from designated funds and £245K and from restricted funds. The previously committed grant funding ceased on 30 September 2024 and therefore grant commitments has reduced accordingly as a result.

Projects supported in 2024/25
Priority Needs of the Emergency Appeal
Day Care Centres
WIZO Centres
Youth Centres & Youth Clubs
Schools
Youth Villages
Shelters

Full accounts are available on request. Please email central@wizouk.org

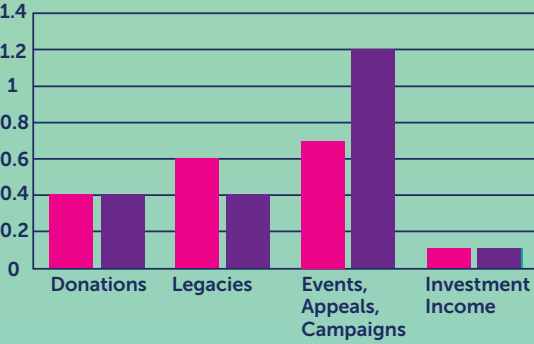
SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
	2025	2024
	£ mill	£ mill
INCOME	1.8	2.1
EXPENDITURE		
COST OF RAISING FUNDS	0.4	0.4
CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE	1.3	1.7
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1.7	2.1
INVESTMENT GAIN /(LOSS) IN THE YEAR	0.1	0.8
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) IN THE YEAR	0.2	0.8
GRANTS TO ISRAEL		
	2025	2024
	£ mill	£ mill
COMMITTED IN THE YEAR	0.7	0.9
REMITTANCES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS	—	0.7
TOTAL	0.7	1.6

INCOME 2024-2025 £1.8m



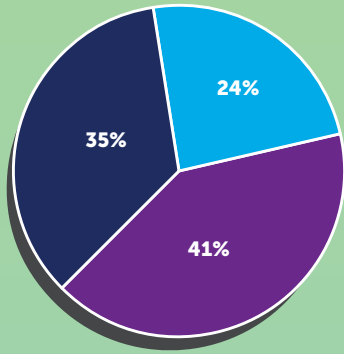
Donations
Legacies
Events, Appeals, Campaigns
Investment Income

INCOME 24/25 - £1.8m, 23/24 - £2.1m



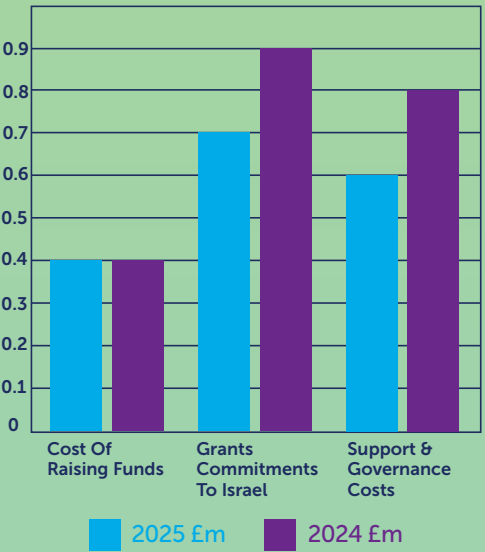
2025 £m
2024 £m

EXPENDITURE 2024-2025 £1.7m



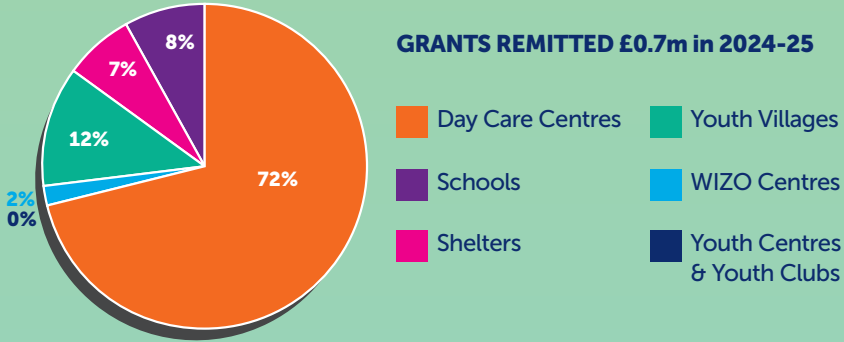
Cost of raising funds
Grants Commitments to Israel
Support & Governance Costs

EXPENDITURE 2024-2025 £1.7m



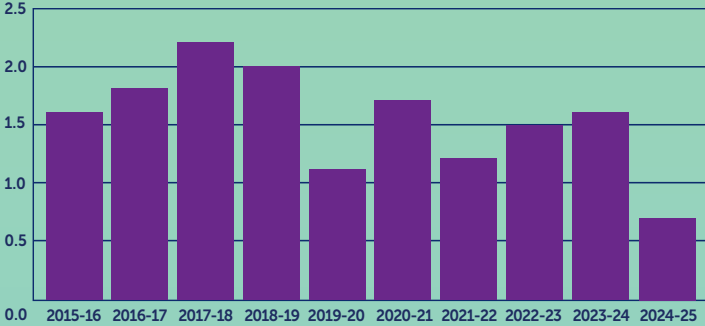
2025 £m
2024 £m

GRANTS REMITTED £0.7m in 2024-25



Day Care Centres
Youth Villages
Schools
WIZO Centres
Shelters
Youth Centres & Youth Clubs

REMITTANCES TO ISRAEL 2016 to 2025 £m



WIZOUK IN PICTURES

16

Once again WIZOUK ran a successful, enjoyable and diverse programme of events across the country including:



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

1. Young Patrons and Benefactors Event with Hen Mazzig – October 2024
2. Women's Professional Network – Can you Really Dress for Success? – January 2025
3. Young Patrons and Professionals – Impacting Your Future – February 2025
4. Celebrity Quiz@Home – February 2025

5. James Lakeland Fashion Show – March 2025
6. Young Patrons and Professionals – Impacting Your Future 2 – March 2025
7. Café Bridge/Duplicate Bridge – May 2025
8. Rebecca Sieff Day – July 2025
9. Entrepreneur Awards – September 2025

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO WIZOUK

Chair

Danielle Shane

Vice Chair

Francine Barsam

Trustees

Francine Barsam
Nicholas Berman
Stephen Brower
Kate Schnelling
Danielle Shane
Jeremy Wootliff

Honorary Presidents

Sarah Glyn
Brenda Katten
Gina Monty
Michèle Pollock
Ronit Ribak-Madari
Jill Shaw
Ruth Sotnick
Annabel Stelzer
Michele Vogel
Loraine Warren OBE

Honorary Patron

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

Life Benefactors

Judy and David Dangoor
Dame Vivien Duffield DBE
Sarah and James Glyn
Mina Goodman and Suzanne Goodman
Esther Isaacs
Myrna and Isaac Kaye
The JE and AV Posnansky Charitable Trust
The Archie Sherman Charitable Trust

Platinum Patrons

The Locker Foundation

Gold Patrons

Jackie and Rob Ellert
Frances Kirsh and Wendy Fisher
The Sybilla and Leo Friedler Charitable Trust
Dr Roy Gehl and Family
Sarah and Jacob Levy
Cheryl and Stuart Lewis
Zea Lewis
Ilana and David Metzger
The Brian and Jill Moss Charitable Trust
Annabel and Joe Stelzer
Ann Susman

Silver Patrons

Ruth and Henry Amar
The Dr. Benjamin Angel Foundation
The Bradfield Family
Miriam and Alex Falk
The Harris Family Charitable Trust
Anne and Malcolm Jacobson
Sally and Chris Prendergast
Michele and David Vogel

Listings correct as of May 2026

Bronze Patrons

The Barrington Family Charitable Trust
Lady Bourne
Merlis and David Cohen
Susan Cresswell
Gerald Kraftman

Angela Landau
Lord and Lady Leigh
Jill Shaw
Esther Tager and Romie Tager QC
Diana De Yong Charitable Trust

LEGACIES

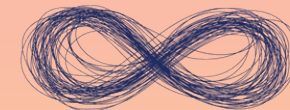
The care and protection WIZO provides today is only possible because of the compassion of supporters who believed in a better future.

We are extremely appreciative of gifts received from those who remembered us in their Wills during 2024/5 and extend our sympathy and gratitude to their loved ones. We are also most thankful to our supporters who have informed us of their plans to leave WIZOUK a gift in their will to help us to continue to empower and impact the future of those in our care and strengthen Israeli society for now and the future.

WIZOUK is part of the Jewish Legacy campaign which aims to raise awareness of the importance of Legacy Giving across the Jewish Community.

Grateful thanks to:

Mr Michael Barrington
Mrs Sybil Henrietta Cohen
Mr Joseph David
Mr Jef (Jeffrey) Melvyn Harris
Mr Stuart Anthony Jackson
Mrs Ella (Ellen) Lentin
Mrs (Anita) Shirley Levinson
Mrs Cynthia Pamela Marks
Mrs Irene May Silver
Mr Marcel Thun
Mr Ian Elliot Vellins
Ms Sandra Myrtle Gillian Wright



Jewish Legacy

By remembering WIZO in your Will, you can ensure that women and children in Israel will always have somewhere to turn – not just today, but for generations to come. After providing for your loved ones, even a small percentage of your estate can help create safe homes, provide vital therapy, and give families the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

For further information please contact central@wizouk.org or call **020 7319 9169**.

HOW A HOLOCAUST REFUGEE'S ACTIONS TRULY IMPACTED THE LIVES OF VULNERABLE TEENAGERS

When Holocaust refugee and committed Zionist Betty Shane died in London in February 2023 at the age of 91, we at WIZOUK discovered that Betty had made a decision in her lifetime that would shape the future of some of Israel's most vulnerable young people.

Betty left a gift in her will to WIZOUK of more than £220,000 in memory of her beloved father, Moishe Shayngesicht, who perished in Auschwitz.

This legacy will fund a transformative investment at the WIZO Beit Hakerem Special Education Secondary School in Jerusalem, Israel's only vocational high school designed specifically for teenagers with learning difficulties, which integrates therapeutic education. The school supports around 100 students aged 13 to 18 each year, many of whom have experienced trauma, unstable home lives or exclusion from mainstream education.

Betty's donation will modernise classrooms, expand therapeutic services, improve staff facilities and establish a new "Maker's Room" – a workshop space designed to foster creativity, confidence, enterprise and emotional healing through hands-on learning.

Born in Antwerp in 1931, Betty was the youngest and last survivor of seven children. In 1940, she, her mother and siblings fled rising antisemitism in Europe to the UK, settling in London. She spent several formative years living in Israel between 1956 and 1961.



In a letter to Betty's executor, Koby Hillel, director of WIZO's Rebecca Sieff Centre, described the donation as "a living legacy of compassion and belief in the power of education to transform lives", adding that Betty's memory would live on "in every corner of our school, in the joy of learning and in the confidence of every child who finds hope here".

Betty's legacy reminds us how one person, quietly and deliberately, can change the trajectory of hundreds of lives. She has chosen to give so much to young people who need it the most. Her actions are a testament not only to communal responsibility but to the enduring power of legacy.

Through this gift, the names of Betty Shane and her father Moishe will be carried forward, not only in remembrance, but in rebuilt classrooms, restored confidence and futures made possible.

We at WIZOUK are truly grateful for Betty's kindness and generosity.

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Registered charity number: 1125012. Registered company Number: 6634748.

