1

00:00:03,125 --> 00:00:06,886

Between 2006 and 2012,

2

00:00:06,977 --> 00:00:10,420

when Israel finished building the wall

along the southern border,

3

00:00:10,535 --> 00:00:14,051

thousands of asylum seekers entered Israel.

4

00:00:14,136 --> 00:00:17,681

They were mainly fleeing

 from Eritrea and Sudan.

5

00:00:17,736 --> 00:00:20,183

The asylum seekers were brought

6

00:00:20,315 --> 00:00:23,390

straight to South Tel Aviv,

 to the Central Bus Station

7

00:00:23,417 --> 00:00:25,651

or Levinsky Park.

8

00:00:25,747 --> 00:00:29,021

One night in 2012, at 2:00 AM,

9

00:00:29,060 --> 00:00:33,833

Molotov cocktails were thrown

with the aim of burning down

10

00:00:34,013 --> 00:00:39,128

a daycare center for refugee

 children in the Shapira neighborhood.

11

00:00:39,198 --> 00:00:41,315

I decided that I would go there,

12

00:00:41,386 --> 00:00:43,440

just to offer my help.

13

00:00:43,479 --> 00:00:47,043

We established Elifelet in January, 2013.

14

00:00:47,137 --> 00:00:49,692

It’s a kind of

extended family for the children,

15

00:00:49,762 --> 00:00:51,996

meant to improve their situation,

16

00:00:52,059 --> 00:00:54,284

to save their lives,

17

00:00:54,354 --> 00:00:56,456

to help them have a future.

18

00:00:56,550 --> 00:00:59,520

The organization grew very quickly,

19

00:00:59,660 --> 00:01:05,214

from five to six to thirty-five

"babysitters" of sorts,

20

00:01:05,269 --> 00:01:07,621

helping over 1,000 children.

21

00:01:07,698 --> 00:01:11,459

Our project in 2015

22

00:01:11,567 --> 00:01:14,973

was to install air conditioning

in each of the daycare centers.

23

00:01:15,069 --> 00:01:17,324

We started a project of volunteers

24

00:01:17,387 --> 00:01:19,933

who brought cooked food

25

00:01:19,987 --> 00:01:22,925

from restaurants and other places.

26

00:01:23,032 --> 00:01:25,107

In the winter of 2017,

27

00:01:25,177 --> 00:01:29,563

we started Elifelet's

emergency food project.

28

00:01:29,675 --> 00:01:33,370

This way we not only

 make sure that they can live,

29

00:01:33,590 --> 00:01:37,449

but we earn the community's trust.

30

00:01:40,925 --> 00:01:46,479

At the heart of Elifelet's activities

31

00:01:46,667 --> 00:01:50,089

is the understanding that every

 child deserves to have a childhood.

32

00:01:50,168 --> 00:01:52,379

Every child deserves a hug.

33

00:01:52,480 --> 00:01:56,003

Every child deserves

to encounter good people,

34

00:01:56,042 --> 00:01:58,309

a family that will embrace them,

35

00:01:58,402 --> 00:02:01,925

that will nurture them,

that will help them believe in themselves.

36

00:02:05,292 --> 00:02:07,902

Elifelet started out as an organization

37

00:02:07,938 --> 00:02:11,592

to help these improvised daycare centers

38

00:02:11,745 --> 00:02:15,214

that operate in crowded,

unventilated apartments.

39

00:02:15,305 --> 00:02:20,424

Elifelet helps

in a lot of different ways –

40

00:02:20,524 --> 00:02:23,663

with repairs in the apartments,

installing safety equipment

41

00:02:23,725 --> 00:02:26,967

like guard rails

in places where kids might fall down,

42

00:02:27,157 --> 00:02:30,804

safety handles, all kinds

of things like that.

43

00:02:30,870 --> 00:02:36,737

Elifelet provides the centers

 with food every week.

44

00:02:36,901 --> 00:02:41,650

We provide things

like games, clothing, mattresses.

45

00:02:41,814 --> 00:02:44,979

A lot of it comes from donations.

People come to us with items,

46

00:02:45,003 --> 00:02:47,253

and we pass them on to whoever needs it.

47

00:02:47,352 --> 00:02:49,757

Volunteers have a shift once a week

48

00:02:49,819 --> 00:02:53,576

at a set time, working

under careful supervision.

49

00:02:53,753 --> 00:02:56,769

Obviously, we first establish that

that they are suitable for the work.

50

00:02:56,862 --> 00:03:01,051

They tell the children stories,

play with them in the courtyard.

51

00:03:01,120 --> 00:03:04,612

We have partnership projects

 with Tel Aviv University

52

00:03:04,774 --> 00:03:08,054

involving both its Medical School

 and School of Education.

53

00:03:08,128 --> 00:03:11,212

Volunteers come to the daycare centers

54

00:03:11,259 --> 00:03:14,066

and work with the children

in a variety of areas

55

00:03:14,136 --> 00:03:17,065

with supervision from those institutions.

56

00:03:17,157 --> 00:03:20,498

Medical students, for example,

 expose the children

57

00:03:20,581 --> 00:03:23,495

to topics like hygiene and nutrition.

58

00:03:23,581 --> 00:03:27,200

The teachers

are taught how to identify

59

00:03:27,245 --> 00:03:29,151

children at risk.

60

00:03:29,237 --> 00:03:33,714

We have volunteer doctors

who come

61

00:03:33,913 --> 00:03:36,280

and do evaluations for the children,

62

00:03:36,374 --> 00:03:39,869

and help us refer children

 for further treatment.

63

00:03:40,068 --> 00:03:43,350

We have a great project

to provide children with eyeglasses.

64

00:03:43,381 --> 00:03:45,329

We provide free dental care.

65

00:03:45,391 --> 00:03:49,070

When Elifelet started expanding, we noticed

66

00:03:49,523 --> 00:03:55,704

that when the children were

old enough to go the municipal preschools

67

00:03:55,789 --> 00:04:00,211

and elementary school,

they had nowhere to go in the afternoon.

68

00:04:00,313 --> 00:04:04,401

So we established after-school programs

69

00:04:04,464 --> 00:04:07,129

that offer hot lunches, help with homework,

70

00:04:07,210 --> 00:04:10,511

a place to play,

instead of going back to daycare.

71

00:04:13,430 --> 00:04:16,557

There's a sentence that we

repeat over and over,

72

00:04:16,611 --> 00:04:20,103

all Jews know it.

73

00:04:20,173 --> 00:04:23,709

It's the Torah commandment

to love the stranger.

74

00:04:23,973 --> 00:04:29,416

It's an idea we

grow up with from birth,

75

00:04:29,478 --> 00:04:32,955

as Israelis and as Jews.

76

00:04:35,870 --> 00:04:38,287

The organization's main target audience

77

00:04:38,420 --> 00:04:41,852

is children of refugees or asylum seekers

78

00:04:41,993 --> 00:04:45,110

from African countries,

living in South Tel Aviv.

79

00:04:45,188 --> 00:04:48,739

And, of course,

the second target audience is Israelis.

80

00:04:50,879 --> 00:04:55,152

Our annual budget this coming year

is 1.4 million shekels.

81

00:04:55,339 --> 00:04:58,230

Most of our funds

come from private donors,

82

00:04:58,339 --> 00:05:00,714

we have a large community of these donors.

83

00:05:00,753 --> 00:05:02,674

Commercial firms also donate.

84

00:05:02,769 --> 00:05:06,045

Like other non-profits, we submit

grant requests and receive funds.

85

00:05:06,083 --> 00:05:10,313

Twelve to thirteen percent of the budget

goes to administrative expenses

86

00:05:10,469 --> 00:05:13,002

and the rest goes to our various projects.