**Abstract Proposal:**

**The impact of a philanthropic foundation in promoting community development in urban renewal processes: A comparison between two philanthropy-government-local authority partnership models in two periphery cities in Israel**

*Dr Chen Chana Lifshitz, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Social Work, Ashkelon Academic College, Ashkelon, Israel.*

*Email: chenl@erech-nosaf.co.il*

a summary of the key issues and/or research questions the paper will address and its relevance to the special issue

This paper identifies the resources provided by a philanthropic foundation to help promote complex urban renewal and community growth/building processes in two socially deprived peripheral cities in Israel. This study examines a joint initiative by the Shahaf Foundation, a philanthropic partnership for the advancement of young communities in Israel, and the Neighborhood Rehabilitation Division of Israel’s Ministry of Construction and Housing, which promotes social urban renewal processes in peripheral cities. This joint initiative was conducted in two local authorities in the geosocial periphery of Israel. We examined the Shahaf Foundation’s working principles and strategies and evaluated their outcomes in order to compare its different models of implementation in the two cities.

methodology information should also be provided on the sample, methods, measures/variables

We employed qualitative methods to gather data from the field. In-depth interviews were conducted with key stakeholders in the joint initiatives in the two cities, including local authority officials (n = 6), representatives from young target communities (n = 8), local neighborhood program coordinators (n = 3), residents’ representatives (n = 8), Shahaf Foundation representatives (n = 4), government ministry representatives (n = 2), and representatives from developers involved in constructing buildings in the neighborhoods as part of the urban renewal initiatives (n = 3).

Data were collected on various aspects of the operation of the joint initiative, including engagement with local authorities, resource allocation and utilization, initial organization, community construction and urban renewal activities, implementation of social-community tools, partnership-building with local authorities and local government, the post-project results in terms of community building and urban renewal, and the stability and impact over time of the economic and human resources deployed by the joint initiative in both neighborhoods.

Results

The Shahaf Foundation identified a need for intervention in urban renewal and community building following the acceleration of urban renewal processes in the local authorities. Such processes promote the goals and requirements of central and local governments, including expanding commercial areas and increasing housing stock in buildings in older areas by improving their construction quality. However, urban renewal processes can result in the displacement of extant older populations and those who are less established in these areas. There is also a danger of excluding social subgroups and of “gentrification,” a process whereby more affluent residents move to weaker neighborhoods and gradually change or displace the original population. The Shahaf Foundation identified youth communities in peripheral neighborhoods as a resource that could help strengthen the established population and assist it in coping with these processes.

In both neighborhoods, the Shahaf Foundation made use of the unique resource of mission-driven young communities, took a professional approach, and sought to create partnerships with local residents. At the same time, the way in which the project was implemented varied greatly in the two authorities, both in terms of building partnerships with the local authority and of cultivating local leadership and creating community cohesion. In the local authority where fewer resources were invested in these two goals, there was almost no discernible change or impact in terms of community building and urban renewal.

The study describes a model of philanthropy-government-local authority partnerships for developing community building, initiating community-social initiatives (in this case, urban renewal), identifying and exploiting community resources (in partnership with local residents), and in encouraging government and local authorities to invest economic and human resources in these initiatives. Such partnerships can encourage the accumulation of existing professional and local knowledge to help strengthen residents in socially deprived neighborhoods and can also change power relations between residents and the authorities.

The study also highlights a number of obstacles in the initial stage of implementing these partnerships, as well as critical factors for helping to ensure their success, including the need to invest in integrating the initiative into the ongoing work of key stakeholders and budgets, as well as fostering local leadership and community coherence as key elements in implementing the program.

**Keywords**: local community development, private independent foundations, philanthropy, community partnership, target communities, community building, urban renewal

Dr. Patsy Kraeger,

Special Issue Editor,

Local Development & Society

Dear Dr. Kraeger,

**Abstract Proposal**

In response to your call for papers for the forthcoming special issue of *Local Development & Society* on “Placed-Based Philanthropic Institutions and Community Development,” I am pleased to enclose my draft abstract for a proposed paper on the contribution of a philanthropic foundation in promoting community development in the processes of urban renewal in two peripheral cities in Israel.

The proposal addresses the aims of the special issue in examining the impact of a philanthropic institution on community development in the context of an expanding field of urban renewal.

Thank you for considering my proposal. I would be happy to provide any other information you require and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chen Lifshitz

Faculty of Social Work,

Ashkelon Academic College

Ashkelon, Israel.

[chenl@erech-nosaf.co.il](mailto:chenl@erech-nosaf.co.il" \t "_blank) mobile: +922-50-3109162