



JFN IL
IMPACT
REPORT

REFLECTIONS ON A
CHANGING
LANDSCAPE



JEWISH FUNDERS NETWORK

Israel has some of the most fascinating, innovative and hands-on private funders. For that reason, upon arriving in Israel five years ago, JFN IL sought to listen to these individual funders, identify their objectives, and so solidify its own value proposition.

The process was a short one. Established in 2009, we gave ourselves a year to plan and prepare. When we launched, it soon became evident that the best course of action was to build on our greatest asset: **our network**. If our aim was to create an Israeli community of funders, it was necessary to initiate a fresh conversation with the overseas funding community. Equally, we wished to find ways in which, together, they would boost social investment in this country.

Although JFN is not a social change organization, we wanted to develop an approach to creating change that would result in a larger funding pool and more strategic private giving. This, we believed, would increase collaborative efforts that would, in turn, have an impact in responding to social needs in Israel.

Five years on, we look back on a remarkable journey. During this short time, members of our funders community have transformed the local philanthropic ecosystem, created important collaborations, shared information and embraced a new chapter in Israeli-overseas funding relationships.

We recall this initial period and understand that such change is never just about JFN IL. Its strength lies in the power of our network, and the individual members that make it up.

On this fifth anniversary we'd like to use the opportunity to share some of the highlights of our journey:



NAVIGATING THE PATH TO KNOWLEDGE

The greatest asset of Israel, the start-up nation, is the coming together of its best and brightest. The same is true of its philanthropists. To mobilize their combined wisdom, we facilitated a sharing of best practices and of detailed and thought-provoking information. Consequently, our members have become more connected funders who are designing strategies that cope with complex and ever-changing social challenges.

THE RESULT: The past five years has seen the formation of a philanthropic community that has begun to change the culture of giving in Israel.



MEMBER-TO-MEMBER
INTRODUCTIONS



NETWORKS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

In the past 10 to 20 years funders from Israel and the Jewish world have established vital nonprofits that espouse their personal values and concerns, and lead to change in a particular area of need. JFN IL strove to increase their involvement in more wide-ranging issues. To do so, we made highly successful use of such tools as issue-based peer groups, matching grants and funder guides.

THE RESULT: A considerable increase in our network's involvement and investment in a variety of social fields. Among these were: the environment, "Hitchadshut Yehudit", workforce development, Jerusalem renewal, the Ethiopian community, funding through a gender lens, next generation funders and more.

COLLABORATING TO AMEND AND TRANSFORM

As a philanthropic community, we now understand that when tackling more complex social needs, collaborative efforts yield greater results. Five years ago our goal was to encourage JFN members worldwide to initiate new forms of significant funder collaborations. These would then produce a more direct and noteworthy effect on some of Israel's pressing needs.

THE RESULT: JFN members established new collaborative models that allow for greater funder engagement and which result in broader impact.

Among these were: Committed to give, Youth Village Forum, the disabilities roundtable, JDC youth at risk, young adults, The Opportunity Fund, and more.



SUPPORTING THE INFORMED FUNDER

Working closely with our members has helped us develop unique services that provide them with individually-tailored strategic consulting. The uniqueness of this service is that it harnesses the collective wisdom of the JFN network, leveraging it to initiate significant and innovative social investment.

THE RESULT: A significant increase in "smart money" investments in Israel that are implemented in a strategic and collaborative manner.

Taking stock of these first five years, our presence has been defined by the success of our members, and by the establishment of a philanthropic community in Israel.

We are well aware that for the philanthropic sector in Israel to flourish, there is a great deal more to accomplish. To this end, JFN IL plans to continue listening to our members and working with them to find the ways and the means to continue and grow informed and strategic giving in Israel.

2009

ESTABLISHED

\$560,000

ANNUAL BUDGET

4 FULL
TIME
STAFF 

JFN ISRAEL BOARD MEMBERS

Avi Naor, Oran Foundation

Benny Levin

Irina Nevzlin Kogan,
Nadav Foundation

Alan Feld

Dafna Meitar-Nechmad,
Zvi & Ofra Meitar
Famiy Fund

Shlomit de-Vries,
The Ted Arison
Famiy Foundation

Amir Halevy

Noam Lautman,
The Lautman Fund

Oudi Recanati,
The Dina and Raphael
Recanati Foundation

JFN IL could not have accomplished so much in this short time without the consistent and generous support of its funding partners both from Israel and from the Jewish world beyond.

JFN IL STAFF

Maya Natan, Emily Friedman-Novak, Dalia Bekerman, Sigal Yaniv Feller

“We make a living by what we get,
we make a life by what we give.”

Winston Churchill