Letter from the Founder

Dear Friends and Partners,

When I started the Jaffa Institute 38 years ago, my main goal was to keep Israel’s neediest children safe.

Over the years, our program graduates have gone on to serve their country, earn advanced degrees, launch meaningful careers, and start healthy families. This last year, the overwhelming majority of graduates from our Bet Shemesh Educational Center's mainstream program passed their matriculation exams! We are not just protecting the youth in our care, we are preparing them to be Israel’s next generation of leaders.

For each child, we ask: What does this individual need to grow into an independent adult? How can we support their entire family to break the cycle of poverty?

In 2019, young people continued to need many of the same things that they needed in 1982—food, love, education, recreation, and enrichment. On the other hand, we live in a world with technologies that I never even imagined. In today’s economy, computer skills are as important as knowing how to read.

To address the growing “digital divide” in Israel, we launched the Science Mobile Program this past year. Operating in a traveling RV, this initiative provides participants with hands-on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) activities.

The successful implementation of this new project, along with our important ongoing programs, is thanks to our generous donors, dedicated staff, and caring volunteers.

I thank you all for your steadfast support and warmly invite you to review our 2019 Annual Report, which describes the impressive results that you helped us to achieve this past year and our vision for 2020.

With Gratitude,

Dr. David J. Portowicz
The Jaffa Institute assists severely impoverished children and their families to escape the cycle of intergenerational poverty in Israel.

Strategy
Using a holistic approach, the Jaffa Institute addresses the numerous ways in which poverty affects our community by offering 40 different programs across five key areas: education, enrichment, housing, nutrition, and therapy. Each year, we serve more than 4,000 diverse individuals, ranging in age from infancy to 100 years old.

Qualifications
The Jaffa Institute is a tax-deductible nonprofit organization registered in Israel and six other countries. In our 38 years of operation, we have developed partnerships with the municipalities of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Yehud, Bat Yam, and Bet Shemesh. Demonstrating our programs’ positive impact, the organization has a “Seal of Effectiveness” from Midot, a nonprofit monitoring association, and has twice received the Ministry of Education’s top award for academic excellence as well as the President’s Prize for Most Outstanding Volunteer Organization.

Transparency
In 2019, the Jaffa Institute’s operating expenses totaled approximately $8.9 million, 88% of which comprised direct programming costs. In addition to governmental support and nominal participation fees, 73% of our funding came from generous Israeli and international donors.
**Our Community**

Israel has the highest poverty rate in the developed world, with 22% of citizens living below the poverty line.

To address this, the Jaffa Institute serves some of the country’s most disadvantaged communities. Our namesake, Jaffa, is a short drive south of affluent Central Tel Aviv, yet 50% of residents are impoverished.

Over the years, we have expanded our operations to disadvantaged areas of South Tel Aviv and the neighboring cities of Bat Yam and Yehud as well as to Bet Shemesh, located outside of Jerusalem. To identify children and families who are most in need of our support, the Jaffa Institute works with the local welfare authorities in these cities. Beyond economics, all of our program participants face additional social and personal challenges to escaping the vicious cycle of intergenerational poverty into which they were born.
Education
Breaking Poverty through Education

The Jaffa Institute’s flagship After-School Educational Enrichment Centers close the academic gaps between 300 disadvantaged children, ages 3-12, across over one dozen program sites located in impoverished areas of Jaffa, South Tel Aviv, Yehud, and Bat Yam.

All of the program participants are referred to the Centers by the local Welfare Department. Without intervention, the children are at a high risk of dropping out of school before completing the 12th grade due to a variety of personal and familial issues.

Empowering the children to overcome their challenges, these Centers provide holistic support, including homework help, hands-on learning, arts education, recreational activities, hot meals, and therapeutic services along with workshops for their parents. Ensuring the children’s safety, the Centers operate after-school every weekday during the year and in the morning during the Summer Camp Program.

Based on the community’s needs, three of the Centers are specifically designed to serve children with special needs, providing structured programming, regular breaks, and remedial instruction to support their emotional, social, and learning difficulties.

In 2019, the Jaffa Institute launched a new Early Childhood Center for children ages 3-6 from impoverished families in the city of Yehud.

“When I met Maya three years ago, she struggled with reading and frequently called herself ‘stupid.’ Three years later, she has completely changed — she is on grade level and confident.

It is clear to me that Maya will go places!”

― Counselor,
Makom Ba’Lev Center for Children with Special Needs
Ensuring a continuum of support, the Jump Start Program provides middle and high-school students (mostly graduates of our After-School Centers) with individualized instruction in core subject areas, such as English, Hebrew, and math, as well as emotional support.

**Activities**
- 100 program participants
- 25 dedicated tutors
- Eight program sites
- 2,529 hours of instruction (more than double 2017-18)
- 72% of lessons were one-on-one

**Results**
- 14% average increase in grades (English, Hebrew, and math)
- Four students successfully graduated from high-school
- Three students transitioned from general to special education
- One student earned acceptance into a gifted STEM class
- One student received their school's "Certificate of Excellence"

**Looking Forward**
Based on the program’s success and the ongoing unmet demand for this type of academic support, Jump Start is expanding during the 2019-2020 school year to assist additional at-risk adolescents as they navigate the difficult transition from elementary to secondary school.
Removing Barriers

In 2019, our Higher Educational Scholarship Program provided 220 disadvantaged students with financial assistance to support their tuition and expenses. For these young adults, earning an academic degree is the final step to achieving financial independence.

“Shalom! My name is Chaim and I am from South Tel Aviv.

Thanks to your kindness and generosity,

I am pursuing my B.A. in Early Childhood Education so I can become a teacher.

This scholarship means a lot to me because my family has heavy medical expenses due to my little brother’s disabilities.

I wish there were more people like you in the world.”

- Chaim (2019 Scholarship Recipient)
Enrichment
Extracurricular Activities

Goal Getters
A critical component of our After-School Educational Enrichment Centers’ holistic approach, our Goal Getters program provides the children in our care with recreational activities to promote their healthy physical and emotional development. Sports include tennis and cycling provided in partnership with Israel Tennis & Education Centers and HaMaslul (“The Path”), respectively, as well as soccer. This year, the Jaffa Institute also launched a new partnership with HaGal Sheli (“My Wave”) to offer surfing lessons.

In 2019, HaMaslul’s therapeutic bicycle lessons reached 60 children across four of our program sites. Based on the children’s ages and abilities, the lessons featured basic instruction, obstacle courses, overnight trips, and special rides to parks and the sea. Through these activities, the participants developed their patience, perseverance, and self-confidence. The diverse group of children also strengthened their friendships with one another and learned that anyone can excel in sports, regardless of their gender.

In 2020, the advanced riders will have the opportunity to learn about bicycle maintenance.

“**All week, the kids look forward to their cycling lessons. They love getting out into nature and releasing all of their pent-up energy and stress. Afterwards, they return to the Center so happy and calm. It’s incredible, their behavior is like night and day!**”

- Counselor at the Jaffa Daled Center

Musical Minds
As a part of the Jaffa Institute’s commitment to equal opportunities, we provide music and arts education through our Musical Minds Program.

2019 Program Highlights
- Served 300 disadvantaged children
- Implemented at 10 After-School Educational Enrichment Centers and a public elementary school
- Offered lessons in recorder, drums, vocals, guitar, painting, drawing, sculpture, juggling, and movement
- Increased participants’ academic and social skills by 14.2%
Start-Up Nation

Science Mobile
In 2019, the Jaffa Institute launched the innovative Science Mobile Program to provide the children in our care with hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities. Operating inside an RV trailer outfitted with cutting-edge technologies, the program traveled on a rotating schedule to our Centers.

Technology and Teamwork
In one activity, the children worked in pairs to design toy airplanes using a laptop, 3D printer, and markers. The groups then tested which model stayed in the air the longest, teaching the children about aerodynamics and collaboration.

Program Expansion
Based on the pilot’s success, the Jaffa Institute is expanding its long-standing partnership with the Bat Yam Municipality to bring the Science Mobile Program directly into elementary schools in low-income areas of the city, located south of Tel Aviv-Jaffa. We are also building two new vehicles: a Space Mobile and a STEM Kitchen, which will teach science through a unique culinary “lab.”

Giving Back
During the 2019-2020 school year, the children are learning how to use technology to help their community. For example, participants recently created 3D-printed toothbrush and fork holders for individuals with disabilities.
Diversity Initiatives

The greater Jaffa area is one of Israel’s most diverse communities, home to observant and secular Jews, Arab-Israeli families, new immigrants, and asylum seekers.

Ethiopian-Israelis
Reflecting the neighborhood’s diversity, 85% of the children who attend our Jaffa Daled Center are of Ethiopian descent. In 2019, the Center celebrated Sigd, an Ethiopian-Jewish holiday, with festive songs, dances, and stories about this special day.

Since 2018, the Jaffa Daled Center has also operated a Youth Club for teenage boys during the evening hours. Building off of the program participants’ growth over the past two years, the Youth Club staff is empowering the teens during 2020 by offering them leadership opportunities, such as the power to choose the Club’s meals and activities.

Children of Asylum Seekers
Four of the Jaffa Institute’s After-School Centers in South Tel Aviv are tailored to address the unique needs of children, ages 3-6, whose parents are foreign workers or asylum seekers, primarily from unstable countries in Africa. With their parents working long hours, many of the children previously attended dangerously overcrowded “babysitters” where they received little supervision or stimulation. To address the children’s developmental gaps, the Centers provide critical linguistic and emotional support.

Building Better Bridges
A wide-reaching coexistence program, Building Better Bridges provides students, parents, and educators at four diverse public schools with curricular and extra-curricular activities, such as workshops in Hebrew, Arabic, gardening, singing, and theater.

“I used to be avoid speaking to my son’s teachers because I didn’t want to embarrass him with my poor Hebrew. Thanks to this Hebrew workshop, I am no longer scared. In fact, I’m actually excited for the next parent-teacher conference!
I feel confident with my speaking abilities. Plus, now I know a lot of the other parents, which makes me feel more comfortable.”

- Building Better Bridges Program Participant
Meet Ari

For all intents and purposes, Arielle (Ari) is your typical Bat Mitzvah girl — she likes sports, music, and English. Unlike most youth, Ari lives at the Jaffa Institute’s Neve Ofer House, a residential facility for children who have been removed from their homes by the Welfare Department.

As a resident of the House, Ari receives well-rounded support services provided by a professional staff and two loving “House Parents,” a married couple that lives at the House along with their biological children.

This past March, the staff made sure that Ari was able to celebrate her 12th birthday — a traditional rite of passage for Jewish girls — with a special party. Held at a venue in Petach Tikvah, her Bat Mitzvah featured food, dancing, and friends.

Looking Forward

An excellent student, Ari dreams of being a programmer when she grows up.

Ari and the other children at the House will remain in the program until a safe and healthy living arrangement can be found. Even after growing up or leaving the House, the children will always be a part of the Neve Ofer “family.”

“I love Hodaya [the House Mother] because she is always doing nice things for me and helps me with my difficulties.”

— Ari
(Neve Ofer House Resident)
Bet Shemesh Educational Center (BSEC)

Located in the city of Bet Shemesh, our award-winning BSEC program provides over 200 disadvantaged boys, ages 12-19, with nutritional, therapeutic, and educational support within a state-of-the-art residential campus. With the goal of preparing the boys for adulthood, the curriculum includes both Jewish studies and academic subjects complemented by elective courses and extracurricular activities.

2018 - 2019
- The cinema class's film won first place in a national competition (see next page).
- 70% of students participated in the BSEC's specialized integration programs.
- The majority of students passed their matriculation (bagrut) exams.
- The BSEC offered additional carpentry classes with new equipment.
- 30 Bar Mitzvah boys celebrated with a traditional ceremony and festive meal.

2019 - 2020
- For the second year in a row, the cinema class won a national film award.
- For the first time, select BSEC students will participate in the "March of the Living," an educational trip to Poland to study the Holocaust and honor its victims.
- Twice a month, an IDF soldier visits our seniors to discuss their service options. This program will conclude with a special group enlistment ceremony.
- New Jewish Studies courses use Hebrew texts, rather than Aramaic, ensuring that Judaic learning is accessible to all.

"I love this school because they build a future for everyone."

- Dr. Aliza Bloch, Mayor of Bet Shemesh
Meet Itai

Itai is a 14-year-old student at the Bet Shemesh Educational Center (BSEC). Itai’s family is currently suffering through major financial crises. Both of his parents work a full day, leaving Itai and his siblings to come home to an empty apartment every day after school. When his parents do come home, they’re too tired from their demanding jobs to spend quality time with their children. In addition to these issues, the parents’ apartment is too small to accommodate the entire family. At various points, this stress led Itai to get into intense fights with his mother, so she sent him to live with his grandmother for extended periods of time.

Itai arrived at the BSEC just five months ago with serious emotional problems. He was completely unprepared for getting along with peers or authority figures and suffered from serious addictions to alcohol and caffeine. Perhaps most daunting, Itai had almost no ability to express his feelings verbally, instead resorting to physical violence to release his frustrations and anxieties. To address Itai’s various needs, the BSEC’s dedicated staff began providing him with therapeutic support to help him break his addictions, daily one-on-one tutoring to close the educational gaps that have developed over the years, and ample attention during the evening from the dormitory counselors to build his sense of security and belonging. Thus far, the staff is thrilled by Itai’s great progress. In a relatively short period of time, he is already expressing himself verbally in ways that we could not have imagined when he first arrived in September.

The above picture is from the Class of 2019’s award-winning film. A semi-autobiographical story, the movie is a raw portrayal of a young boy growing up in a home filled with emotional turbulence and economic instability. Through inner perseverance, external assistance, and lots of love, the boy is able to write his story and share the wisdom he gained from it all to audiences around the world.

To view the film (in Hebrew with English subtitles), please visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5cQTXX0ud4.
Nutrition
Fighting Hunger

Parents living in poverty cannot afford to purchase nutritious food for themselves or their children.

Their children suffer from cognitive delays and frequent illnesses.

Without an education or skills, these young adults have limited job opportunities.

Malnourished children often struggle with learning and attention issues as well as anxiety about food, increasing their risk of dropping out.

### Hot Meals
Removing hunger as an impediment to escaping the cycle of intergenerational poverty, the Jaffa Institute provides hot meals to all children in our programs.

- 530 children
- 19 program sites
- Five cities

### Food Distribution Center
Tackling hunger directly in the home, our Food Distribution Center provides non-perishable (dry) food packages to hungry families and elderly individuals.

- 500 households
- 8,400 dry food packages annually
- 5,000+ holiday food packages

### Accompanying the Elderly
Launched in 2014, Accompanying the Elderly holistically addresses the complex needs of Holocaust survivors and other vulnerable elderly individuals.

- 300 elderly individuals and survivors
- Two professional social workers
- 7,200 food packages annually
Accompanying the Elderly

By the Numbers

- 60% of participants are Holocaust survivors
- 7,200 food packages (3,600 fresh + 3,600 non-perishable)
- 85% satisfaction rate amongst food package recipients
- 100 long-term volunteers conducted bimonthly home visits
- 50 home renovation projects improved participants’ safety
- Two social events brought joy and music to our participants
- Two social workers offered their professional expertise
- 60 lonely participants received extra support from our staff
- One homebound woman obtained in-home doctors’ visits

Meet Mali

A Holocaust survivor from Romania, Mali lives in a fixed-rent apartment on the fourth floor of a dilapidated building in South Tel Aviv. Without an elevator, and confined to a wheelchair, Mali has not been outside in five years. She is one of thousands of survivors who live in poverty and chronic isolation in Israel, with limited access to, and knowledge of, welfare services that could improve her wellbeing.

Raffi, a volunteer with the Jaffa Institute’s Accompanying the Elderly program, knocks on Mali’s door. He is greeted by a warm smile and the comforting aroma of a fresh pot of coffee. On the table, two cookies are placed on a glass plate. Raffi recognizes the cookies - he delivered them with the food package he brought to Mali two weeks earlier, in his previous visit. Today, Mali is proud to share these treats with her guest.

Aside from the nutritional support and practical assistance that Raffi offers Mali, they both provide one another with enriching stories, thoughts, and advice. To him, she is not a Holocaust survivor; she is, uniquely, Mali.
Volunteers

As a proud past recipient of the President of Israel’s Prize for Most Outstanding Voluntary Organization, the Jaffa Institute is honored and humbled to have hosted over 6,000 volunteers from around the world throughout 2019.

Throughout the year, our remarkable volunteers generously donated their time and energy to help the Jaffa Institute serve our community. Volunteers included students, campers, soldiers, families, professionals, and other visitors from every habitable continent in the world. From packing boxes in our Food Distribution Center to bringing flowers to a hospitalized Holocaust survivor, your actions positively changed the life of a severely disadvantaged individual in Israel. Thank you for your kindness and compassion!
Hope and Healing

Therapeutic Techniques
Growing up in severe poverty is a traumatic experience. Many of the children and parents in our community suffer from anxiety, feelings of worthlessness, and other emotional issues as a result of their unstable lives. Some have even been victims of abuse or neglect.

To address participants’ emotional needs, the Jaffa Institute incorporates a range of therapeutic techniques into our programs for youth and families, such as those outlined below.

- **Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT)**: participants learn to replace negative thoughts with positive ones, with the goal of improving their ability to make healthy decisions.
- **Mindfulness**: participants practice meditation exercises to reduce their stress, build positive body image, and learn practical tools to regulate impulsivity.
- **Art therapy**: participants, particularly younger children, cope with their trauma by visually expressing difficult emotions that they are struggling to verbalize.

Stepping Stone
Located in Yehud, the Stepping Stone Program provides 15 at-risk teenage girls with nutritional, academic, and therapeutic support in a warm home-like environment after school.

At the end of the 2018-2019 school year, five girls successfully graduated from high-school and from the program. Impressively, three of these graduates were accepted to participate in “LEAD,” a prestigious leadership delegation for Israeli youth to the United States.

During the 2019-2020 school year, 90% of last year’s participants opted to remain in Stepping Stone due to their high satisfaction with the therapeutic support and enrichment activities.

Bat Yam
In close partnership with the Bat Yam Municipality, the Jaffa Institute implements several therapeutic programs, including:

- **Hadas House** – after-school empowerment for teenage girls
- **Alma Day Center** – a full-day program for teenage girls who are not in school
- **Beyond Housing** – a residential program for young women, ages 18-24
- **Me’ahtephet Network** – social workers provide teen girls with in-home support
- **Afikim** – employment training and job placement assistance for young adults
- **From Street to Safety** – a full-service rehabilitation center for homeless adults
- **Therapeutic Center** – private counseling for individuals and couples
- **Coffee Clubs** – regular social enrichment for Holocaust survivors
- **Protecting the Elderly** – preventing and eliminating abuse of the elderly
Meet Ivanna

Before arriving at the Jaffa Institute, 33-year-old Ivanna spent most of her adult life in rehabilitation and her only previous work experience was as an occasional low-wage cashier. As a result, she suffered from low self-esteem exacerbated by the cynicism of her parents, with whom she resides. Becoming a mother motivated Ivanna to finally turn her life around. Through Welfare to Wellbeing, Ivanna, who immigrated to Israel with her family as a teenager, significantly improved her professional Hebrew abilities and confidence. Although she received a job offer upon graduation, Ivanna turned it down to care for her sick father. However, through ongoing support from the program staff, Ivanna eventually began working at an accountant’s office, allowing her to serve as role model and financial provider to her daughter.
Rooted in the notion that early childhood experiences are formative, our Parent-Child Center program provides holistic therapeutic activities, counseling, and community outreach initiatives to disadvantaged families with children under the age of six.

New Workshop
This year, the Parent-Child Center in Jaffa launched the “Adjustment to Fatherhood” workshop led by our newest social worker who is, himself, a new dad. Operating on a weekly basis, this vital program provides participants with parenting skills and therapeutic support to engage in healthy dialogues with their partner. Transcending poverty, trauma, and stigma, the workshop allows fathers to become the parent they want to be.

Program Expansion
On June 1st, the Jaffa Institute expanded our Parent-Child Center in Jaffa to include an additional program site in the impoverished South Tel Aviv neighborhood of Kfar Shalem. Congruent with the program’s holistic service model, we plan to provide participants with therapeutic support, including art, speech, and occupational therapy, as well as women’s empowerment workshops and social activities.

“The first time I felt like a real father was last week when I was washing the dishes. While the water was running and I was putting away the plates, my son crawled over and tugged on my pant leg. I looked down and my son was looking directly in my eyes with his arms raised up high, asking me to pick him up. He wasn’t asking for food or toys, but for affection, from me. In that moment, I was the proudest father in the world.”

- Adjustment to Fatherhood Workshop Participant
Highlights

Education
- Jump Start program participants’ grades improved by 14% on average in English, Hebrew, and mathematics.

Enrichment
- The new Science Mobile began providing hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning.

Housing
- The majority of Bet Shemesh Educational Center graduates passed their matriculation (bagrut) exams.

Food
- 85% of Accompanying the Elderly program participants expressed satisfaction with their food packages.

Therapy
- 86% of Welfare to Wellbeing program graduates found gainful employment, many for the first time in their life.

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2019 Financials

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*Exchange rate calculated at 1 USD ($) equals 3.5 NIS (₪).

For our most recent audited financial statement, please visit www.jaffainstitute.org.
Thank You

The accomplishments that the Jaffa Institute’s program participants achieved in 2019 were only possible thanks to our hardworking staff, caring volunteers, and generous donors. We are indebted to you for your support — Todah rabah, thank you very much!

Birthday Bash
For several years, Wix.com, an international technology company, has thrown birthday parties for the children who attend our four After-School Educational Enrichment Centers for Children of Foreign Workers and Asylum Seekers in South Tel Aviv. Having come to Israel fleeing violence in Africa, most of the children’s parents can barely afford to make end’s meet, let alone buy their children presents.

Ensuring the kids can still celebrate their birthdays with their friends, Wix employees visit the Centers every month, bringing with them cake, balloons, and presents. These kind-hearted volunteers lead fun games and arts-and-crafts projects for all of the children.

Thank you, Wix, for making our children’s birthdays something truly special. After all, you only turn six years old once!!
2020 Vision

Throughout the last 38 years, your generosity has enabled the Jaffa Institute to expand its reach. Though our programs have evolved, our shared mission remains the same: to help Israel’s severely disadvantaged children and their families to escape poverty.

In working toward this goal, we will continue to further develop our programs in the coming year.

In particular, based on the Jump Start program’s success, we are increasing the number of participants this year.

We are also expanding our new Science Mobile program by building two additional vehicles — a “Space Mobile” and a “STEM Kitchen,” which will teach students about science through cooking. This expansion will enable us to reach more at-risk youth, including students at underserved public schools in our community.

In 2020, for the first time in the Bet Shemesh Educational Center (BSEC)’s history, we will send a delegation of students to participate in the “March of the Living.” Attending this educational trip to Poland requires significant maturity and reflects the students’ emotional and behavioral growth. For students who are struggling, the BSEC will also offer new Jewish Studies courses focusing on Hebrew texts and practical Judaic law.

To maximize our impact in the community, we will operate a Welfare toWellbeing program cycle in Yehud in 2020. Additionally, our newest Parent-Child Center program site plans to expand its services, offering a wide range of holistic workshops to support young families.

With your help, the Jaffa Institute will provide our growing number of program participants with the comprehensive and quality services they deserve.

We look forward to working with you in 2020 to help make the Jaffa Institute’s vision a reality!
International Friends of the Jaffa Institute

The Jaffa Institute is registered as a private nonprofit organization in the following countries. To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit www.jaffainstitute.org or contact the “Friends of the Jaffa Institute” in your home country.

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Tel: 020-3286-4224
Charity Number: 282049

United States
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Flushing, NY 11366
Tel: 1-866-471-1923
Charity Number: 11-2697261
Follow Us

In 2020, we invite you to visit the Jaffa Institute, and stay in touch throughout the year!

www.jaffainstitute.org

info@jaffainst.co.il

Facebook.com/TheJaffaInstitute

Instagram.com/jaffainstitute

Note: The Jaffa Institute’s priority is the safety of our program participants. We therefore use pseudonyms to protect the at-risk children in our care.