



העמותה לקידום החינוך  
בתל-אביב יפו  
The Jaffa institute



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# The Jaffa Institute

# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

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# Welcome to our 2024 Impact Report!



I am truly honored to present you with our 2024 Impact Report. Its pages tell a story of determination, strength in the face of adversity and, above all, steadfast dedication and commitment to The Jaffa Institute's vision of creating a society where the vulnerable and disadvantaged are empowered to live in dignity, to fulfil their potential and to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. Whilst the war continued throughout 2024 and with it, the challenges it brought for all of Israeli society and particularly for its vulnerable communities, I am immensely proud of the many achievements reflected in this report, achievements that could never have been reached without your generous support. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all.

— ***Dr David Portowicz, Founder, The Jaffa Institute***

These are not easy times. While Israelis, still reeling from the horrific events of October 7th 2023, continue to face the terrors of war, Jews around the world are experiencing the worst wave of antisemitism since the Holocaust. In these dark times, I take comfort in knowing that together, we - The Jaffa Institute and its supporters - are not helpless, that we are making a significant difference to the lives of thousands of vulnerable Israelis. The achievements you'll read about in this report take on new meaning when you consider the circumstances surrounding them, and are all the more impressive given the obstacles that were overcome to reach them. We are so very grateful to you, our donors, for your faith in us, for your unwavering commitment and for partnering with us in our vitally important mission to create a better future for Israel's disadvantaged families, women and children.

***Mr Chaim Hurvitz, Chairman, Board of Directors*** —



13th century Italian poet Francis of Assisi said, "Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance". Right now, we are engulfed by both fear and ignorance, and so I am especially grateful for your charity and wisdom. Israel has always been a land of stark contrast, densely juxtaposed within a small space. The snowy Hermon Mountain and the arid Judean desert; Sabbath services at Shul and Saturday outings to Tel Aviv beach; the horrors of war and the unbreakable spirit of the people. Similarly, your commitment and generosity contrast with the darkness surrounding us, giving light and hope to so many who are struggling in Israel today by enabling us to provide them with vital services and opportunities they would otherwise never have had, though they are needed now more than ever. In the name of the families, women, teenagers and children you have helped this year, as well as in our own, we thank you.

— ***Mr Chezky Portowicz, CEO, The Jaffa Institute***







## Our Vision

We envision a future where every individual and family in our service areas has access to the resources they need to break the cycle of poverty. We believe that by providing educational, nutritional, therapeutic, and vocational tools to impoverished families and individuals of all ages, we can empower them to become self-sufficient and contributing members of society. Our goal is to create a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

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## Our Mission

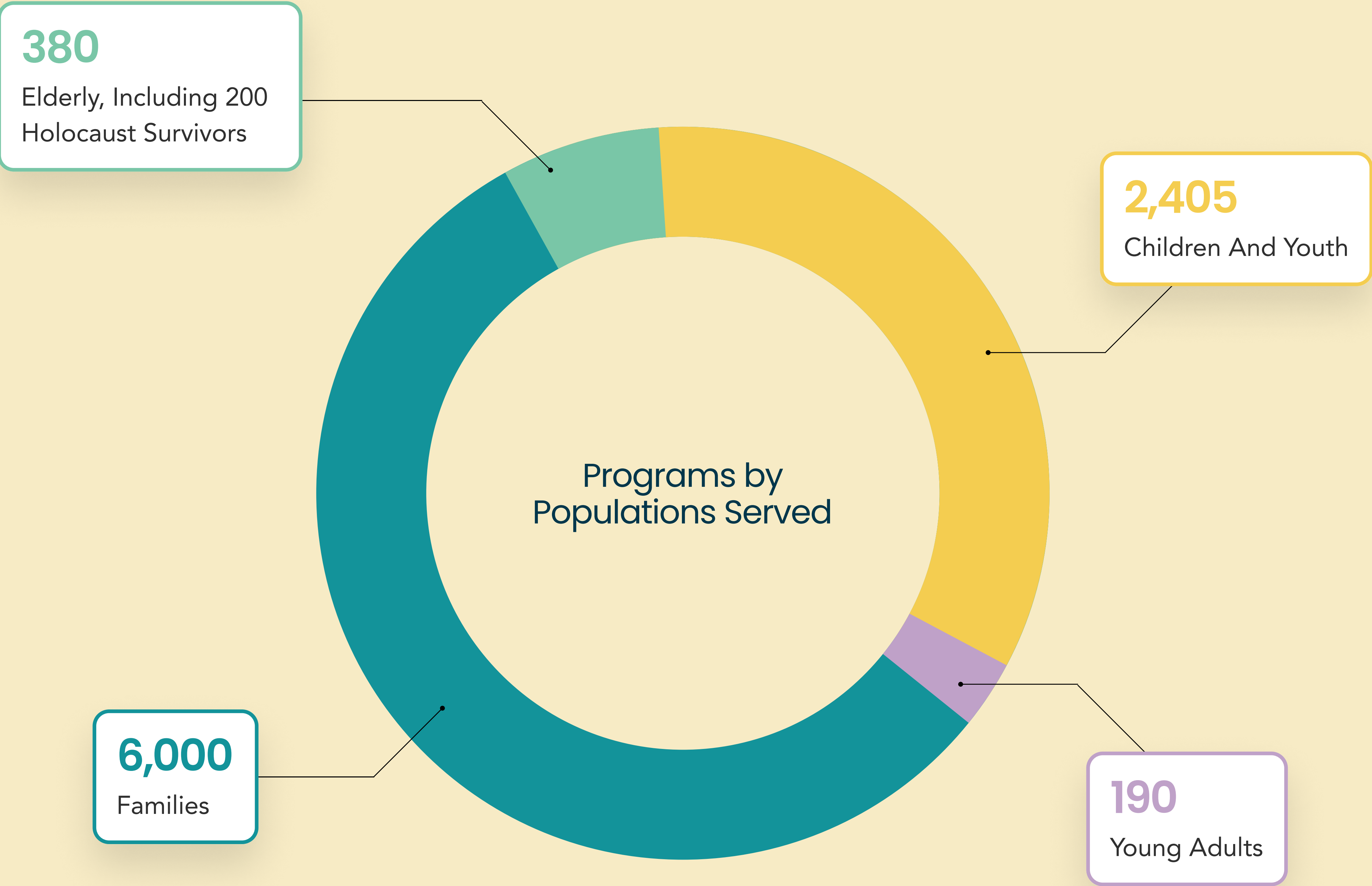
The Jaffa Institute assists severely impoverished residents of Greater Tel Aviv-Jaffa and Bet Shemesh in Israel. Our mission is to provide disadvantaged individuals with the educational, nutritional, therapeutic, and social support they need to escape the cycle of intergenerational poverty.



# Key Achievements

At a time when Israeli society is facing the most acute challenges it has experienced since the founding of the state, we take pride in having sustained all of our programs and in maintaining the highest standards of care by adapting to new restrictions and engaging in creative innovation to meet new needs.

In 2024, The Jaffa Institute provided vital services to:



The disadvantaged children and adults served by The Jaffa Institute’s programs received nutritional, emotional and educational support vital to their wellbeing and their ability to thrive and fulfill their potential of becoming productive, independent members of Israeli society, breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

Programs focusing on disadvantaged elderly individuals, including Holocaust Survivors, granted nutritional security, alleviated loneliness and isolation, provided emotional and social support through therapy and social events, and improved participants’ living conditions.



# Impact Highlights

89%	of Welfare to Wellbeing participants found stable employment
90%	of Accompanying the Elderly beneficiaries experienced a reduction in loneliness
90%	of Parent-Child Center beneficiaries feel their parenting skills have improved

## Output Highlights:

20,000+	2,900+	800+
Approximately 20,000 food packages delivered by our Food Distribution Center	2,900 participated in our Science Mobile programs	800 families with young children served by our Parent-Child Centers



# Geographic Territory





# Emergency Response Programs

In response to the many societal challenges generated by the war in the past year, The Jaffa Institute has capitalized on its unique position, skillset and longtime experience in serving disadvantaged communities in Israel to initiate new programs providing aid to those most affected by the conflict. These initiatives include:

## Science Mobile Mobilization

Deployment of our Science Mobiles to serve children and adults both in evacuee centers in central Israel and in the communities surrounding the Gaza Strip, delivering educational and therapeutic activities, workshops and activity days for children, youth and adults.



## Road to Resilience

The establishment of a mobile clinic to provide resilience-building tools to residents in Israel’s south, near the Gaza border, providing an immediate and accessible answer to the emotional and mental-health needs of evacuated communities.



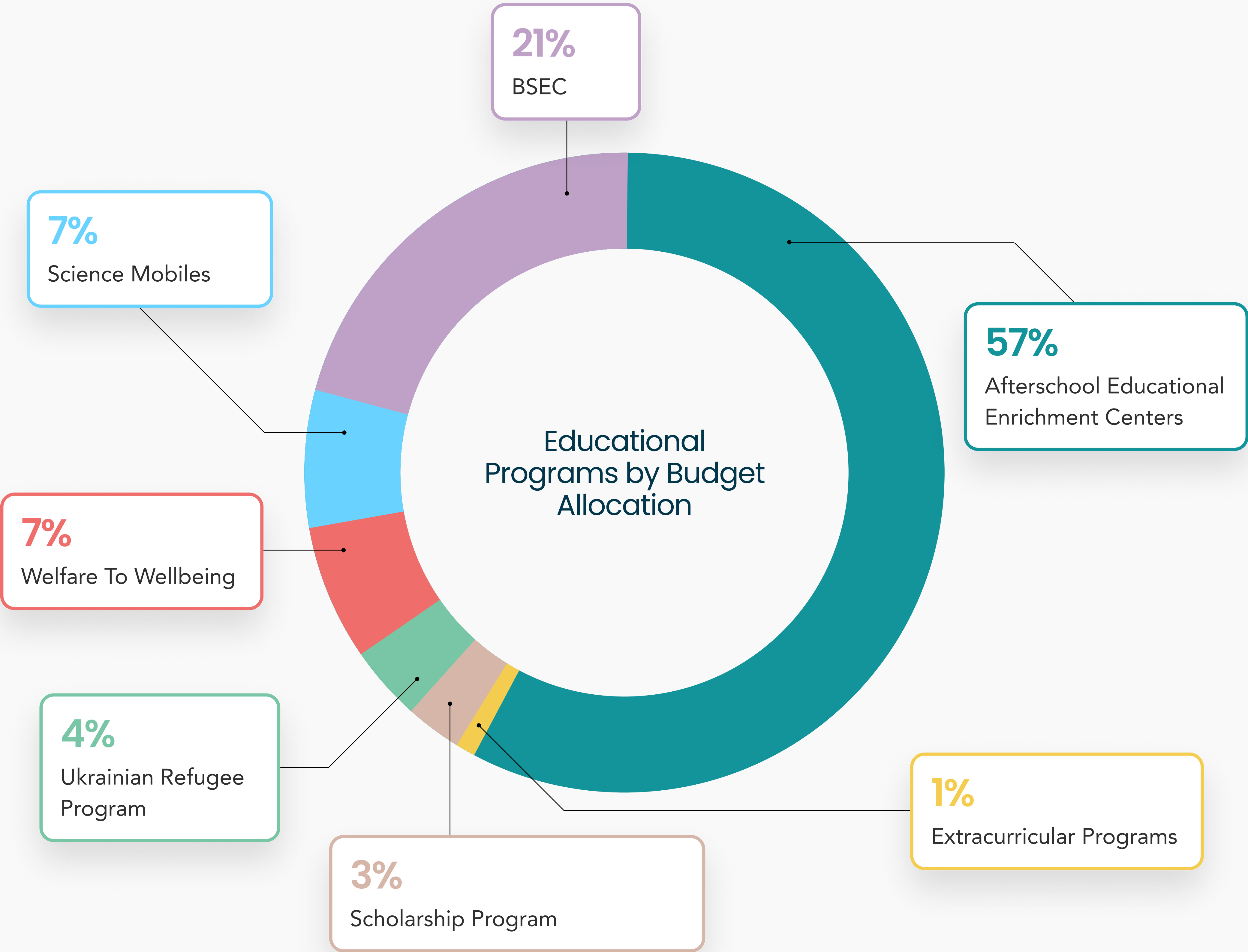
## Specialized Training for Jaffa Institute Staff

To equip our staff with the tools needed to address both logistical and emotional challenges generated by the war, our educational staff are receiving specialized training in areas such as Effective Online Education, Initial Response Training and a “Theraplay” course providing a detailed curriculum for working with young children who have experienced trauma.



# Educational Programs

5,375 children, youth and adults are served by our educational programs



## Educational Programs – Key Achievements

**89%** of Welfare to Wellbeing program graduates have found stable employment

**95%** of mainstream BSEC technological studies students achieved qualification certificates

**60%** of students improved their school attendance levels



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

# Extra Curricular Enrichment Program

This program serves children attending our After-School Educational enrichment program, providing an array of extra-curricular activities designed to broaden participants’ horizons, develop their abilities in non-academic areas and provide them with the same opportunities for enrichment enjoyed by their more advantaged peers. Programs include Musical Minds, a music education program where children learn to sing and play instruments such as guitar, Darbukah and keyboard, while also developing aural skills; the Therapeutic Bicycle Riding program, helping children overcome obstacles and develop self-confidence; the Tennis Program, offering instructional tennis lessons and guidance on teamwork and self-discipline; and the Art Therapy Program, providing opportunities for healthy expression and emotional outlet through various art forms, such as photography.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

# After-School Educational Enrichment Centers

This program consists of 20 After-School Educational Enrichment Centers, serving approximately 300 disadvantaged children aged 3-17 in Jaffa, South Tel Aviv, Bat Yam, and Yehud. Five of these Centers are designed to serve children with special needs. Programming combines academic support with enrichment activities focusing on art, sport and more, and individual counseling for those in need. A daily hot meal is also provided for each child.







## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

# Science Mobiles

Our Science Mobile Program, consisting of five RV trailers outfitted with cutting-edge technologies, travels to the Jaffa Institute After-School Educational Enrichment Centers for at-risk youth as well as to underserved local public schools. Since the beginning of the war, the program has also been reaching children and adults in evacuee centers in central Israel, and this year it was expanded again to include communities surrounding the Gaza Strip and Ma'a lot. Altogether, the program reached approximately 2,900 participants this year. The program offers a curriculum focused on creative experimentation and hands-on learning in five scientific areas: Physics and Technology, Space, STEM Kitchen, Chemistry and Waves. The program is currently in the process of developing a sixth science mobile focusing on robotics.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

# Summer Camps

Our summer camps operate throughout July and August, serving 700 children and adolescents aged 3-17 attending our programs in Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Bat Yam, Yehud and BetShemesh, as well as children of Ukrainian refugees. The program ensures participants have a safe and enriching environment during their summer vacation while allowing staff to continue to provide them with emotional support. Activities include a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities, as well as exciting field trips to water parks, nature reserves, movie theaters, etc. For most participants, the program provides their only opportunities to take part in these types of activities and outings.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

# Bet Shemesh Educational Center (BSEC)

BSEC is a residential academic and therapeutic program serving approximately 300 teenage boys aged 13-18 from some of Israel’s most impoverished communities, with a specific focus on at-risk boys from Haredi families, who make up approximately half of the student body. Using cutting-edge innovative educational technology and Smart Classrooms, students prepare for matriculation (Bagrut) exams, and are also encouraged to explore non-academic interests and talents, as well as to participate in volunteering and social activities. Educational enrichment is supplemented by extra-curricular opportunities such as acting, carpentry, robotics and a new, state-of-the-art Automotive Technology program, ‘Autotech’, teaching the multidisciplinary skills required for auto maintenance and repair of the latest model vehicles.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

# Ukrainian Immigrant & Refugee Program in Bat Yam

This project was initiated to meet the immediate needs of the many Ukrainian immigrants and refugees living in Bat Yam. The Bat Yam program provides Ukrainian children and teens with sports and science activities, Hebrew lessons (also for adults), academic tutoring for teenagers, Israeli culture programming and a summer camp. Additionally, the program addresses other needs such as housing, nutritional security and psychological/emotional therapy.





ADULT EDUCATION

# Scholarship Program

## In Memory of Jaffa Institute Co-Founder Col. Ze'ev (Zonik) Shaham z"l

Each year, the Jaffa Institute's Scholarship Program supports hard-working young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds who attended our after-school programs and/or our residential high school to provide them with the same access to higher education as their more affluent peers. Scholarships vary from one to four years and range from \$600 to \$4,000, based on the scholarship recipient's tuition cost and ability to work throughout their studies. Recipients have studied a wide range of fields, such as computer science, education, business, engineering and medicine, at universities and colleges throughout Israel.

ADULT EDUCATION

# From Welfare to Wellbeing: Vocational Training for Unemployed Women

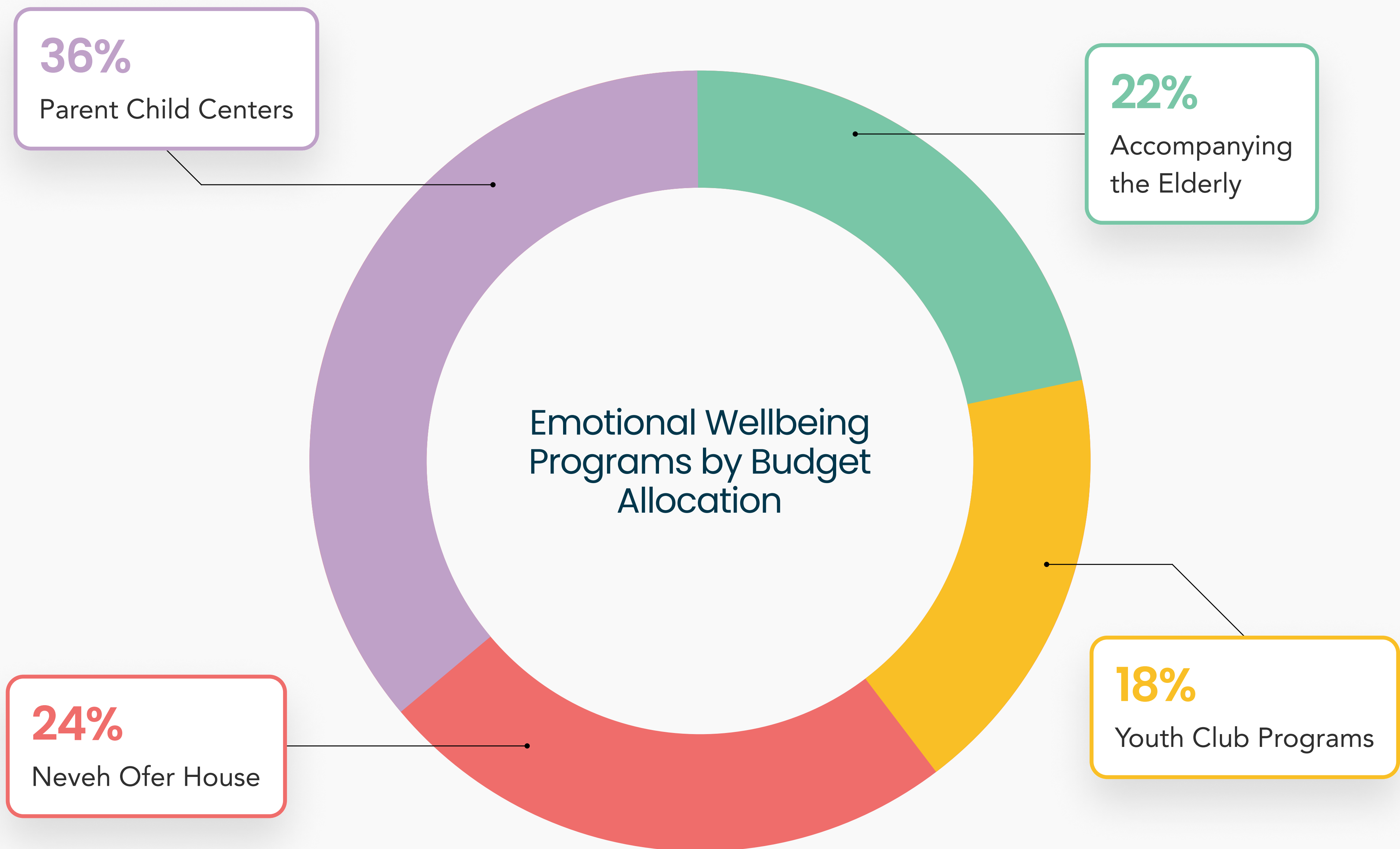
The Jaffa Institute's Welfare to Wellbeing program annually serves 75 single mothers and other disadvantaged women who struggle with long-term unemployment. The program provides participants with daily vocational training courses, empowerment workshops, interview simulations, and therapeutic, nutritional, and job placement support to achieve personal and financial independence.





# Emotional Wellbeing Programs

2,480 children, adults and elderly individuals are served by our emotional wellbeing programs.



## Emotional Wellbeing Programs – Key Achievements

90%

of Parent-Child Center participants in group activities reported an enhancement of their day-to-day parenting skills (Jaffa Daled)

90%

of Accompanying the Elderly beneficiaries reported that the program was 'helpful' or 'significantly helpful' in reducing feelings of loneliness

40%

of Youth Club participants are more aware of, and disturbed by, derogatory language used towards members of the opposite gender





## EMOTIONAL WELLBEING PROGRAM

### Neveh Ofer House

This emergency facility is located in South Tel Aviv and provides housing and support for 10 children aged 8-18 who were removed from their homes by the social welfare authorities due to neglect, abuse or other issues. The program is open to children from all backgrounds who live in the area; Arabs, Jews, Olim, foreign workers' children, etc. The house's proximity to the homes where the children were raised allows for continuity in their education and relationships with classmates and teachers who positively influence their lives. Residents benefit from a warm home environment and receive daily assistance with homework from the House staff. They are also visited 2-3 times a week by a social worker to assist with their emotional needs, and by an outside tutor to provide individualized academic assistance.

\* Since September 2024, Neveh Ofer House has been under the management of Or Shalom. The Jaffa Institute continues to support various enrichment activities at the house.



## EMOTIONAL WELLBEING PROGRAM

### Parent-Child Centers (Jaffa Daled & Kfar Shalem)

Our **Parent-Child Centers** serve approximately 800 families with children aged 0-5, babies, toddlers and children in South Tel Aviv and Kfar Shalem through three main forms of intervention: therapeutic play, counseling, and communal support. Classes, counseling and support groups are held for parents, toddlers and infants, while bolstering critical community ties among program participants.



EMOTIONAL WELLBEING PROGRAM

# The Youth Club Program

The Jaffa Institute runs three clubs for disadvantaged youth; The Boys’ Youth Club, serving teenage boys in Jaffa Daled, The Come As You Are Girls’ Youth Club, serving teenage girls in Jaffa Daled and Stepping Stone, serving teenage girls in Yehud. Reflecting these areas’ diverse populations, many of the participants are of Ethiopian descent. The clubs provide at-risk teenagers from troubled backgrounds with nutritional, therapeutic and educational support. All club attendees are given the opportunity to participate in the Jump Start program, which provides one-on-one tutoring sessions and emotional support, addressing teenagers’ unique educational needs while boosting their self-confidence and motivation. The combined activities offered at the clubs provide a welcoming, safe environment and a structured, nurturing alternative to unsupervised time wandering the streets after school.



EMOTIONAL WELLBEING PROGRAM

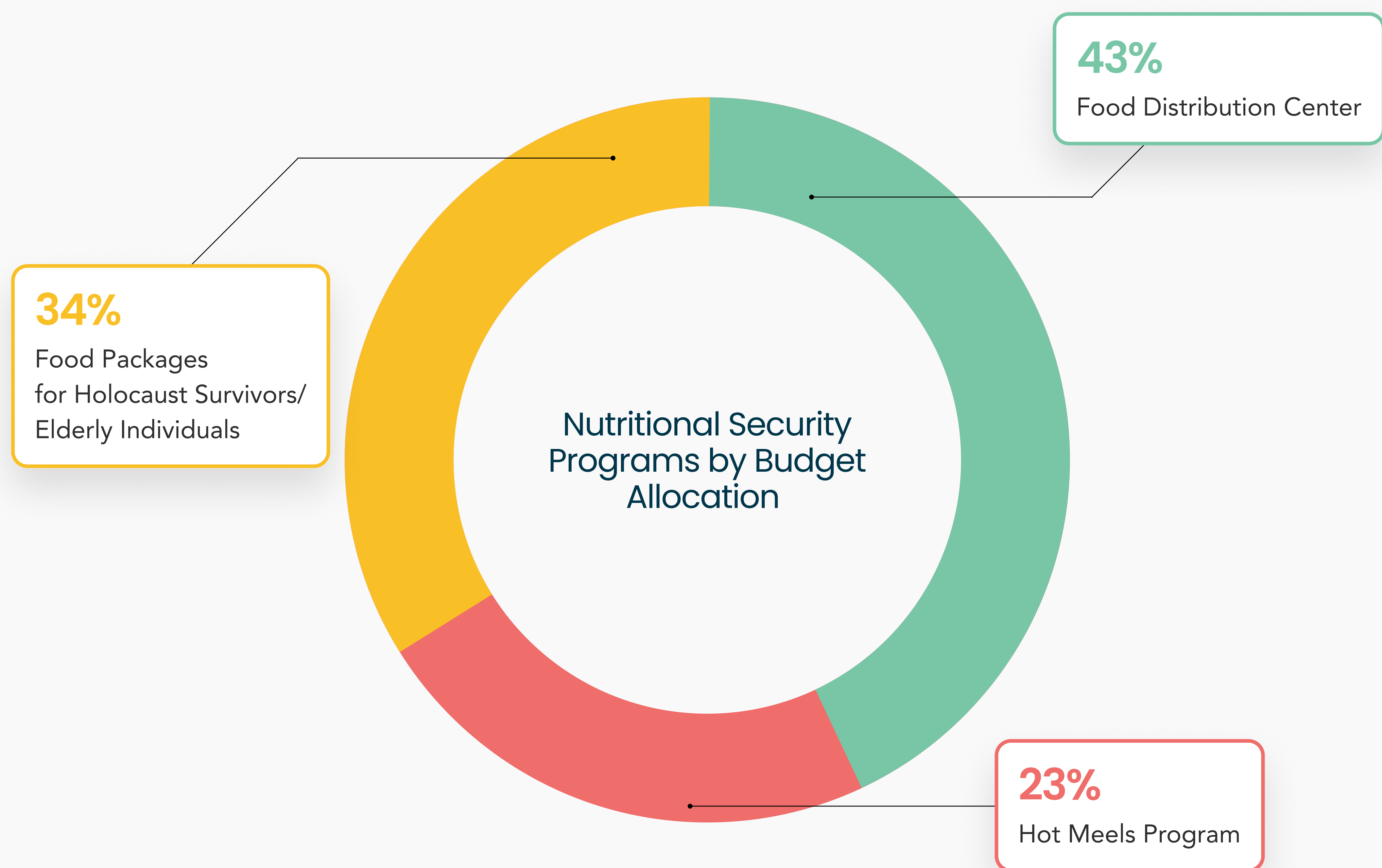
# Accompanying the Elderly

Our **Accompanying the Elderly** program aims to augment participants’ physical health, enhance their social connectedness and emotional wellbeing, develop their awareness of their rights and access to government social services and to improve their living conditions. The program serves 380 seniors in need within our service areas, including 200 Holocaust survivors, providing volunteer home visits, social events, group therapy and home improvement projects.





# Nutritional Security Programs



## Nutritional Security Programs – Key Achievements

- ✓ High satisfaction levels among food package recipients
- ✓ Reduced hunger and anxiety surrounding nutritional insecurity among meal recipients
- ✓ Reduced negative behaviors associated with hunger and facilitated the ability to focus on emotional and educational development among meal recipients



# Nutritional Security Programs

Our Nutritional Security program is a multi-pronged initiative encompassing impoverished children, families and elderly, including Holocaust survivors, through three projects:

The **Food Packages for Holocaust Survivors and other Elderly individuals** provides all 380 Accompanying the Elderly participants, including 200 Holocaust survivors, with twice-monthly food packages, alternating between non-perishable and fresh food packages. Each parcel contains the staple goods required for a balanced diet, and is tailored to special requirements where necessary. Special holiday food packages are delivered on Passover and Rosh Hashanah.

Our **Food Distribution Center** delivers around 20,000 food packages annually to thousands of households on our year-round distribution list. During Passover and Rosh Hashanah, staff and small groups of volunteers assembled and delivered approximately 4,000 special holiday food packages to **impoverished families**.

Our **Hot Meals Program** annually provides over 80,000 meals to feed some 600 **children and teenagers** who attend the Jaffa Institute’s educational programs in the impoverished Israeli neighborhoods of South Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Bat Yam, Yehud, and Bet Shemesh, on a daily basis.





# Personal Stories

\* For privacy reasons, all names in the 'Personal Stories' section are pseudonyms.

## Parent Child Center (PCC)

 Noga's Story

Noga\* lost her parents at a young age and only has elderly uncles in Jerusalem. She decided to have a child through sperm donation. After giving birth, she struggled greatly with motherhood and applied for our "Mother to Mother" program. We assigned Noga a volunteer, who has now been with her for about a year, and with whom she has developed a very significant relationship. The volunteer assisted Noga in many ways, such as minding her baby when she needed to go out, helping her find a suitable apartment for her new needs, supporting her through the move and helping with her daughter's health issues. She visited Noga every week to talk, to offer support and practical assistance and to connect on a personal level. Noga also received significant support from additional PCC programs, through which she enrolled her daughter in a nursery, enabling her to seek employment; she also joined a weekly Single Mothers' Group and enjoys the Therapeutic Playroom, where she comes weekly to receive help from the therapeutic team to process her experiences and challenges as a new mother. Additionally, we connected Noga with The Jaffa Institute's Welfare to Wellbeing project to help her find a job that will allow her to properly support herself and her daughter, and ensured she received food baskets and donations of toys and clothes for her daughter and herself during difficult times. "I'm so lucky I found PCC" Noga said. "Before, I felt completely overwhelmed and alone. Having that support and somewhere to go for help has made all the difference!"

## After-School Educational Enrichment Center

 Aaron's Story

Aaron\*, a second-grade student, joined our Jaffa Daled Afterschool Center in February of last year. He faced many cognitive and behavioral challenges, frequently wandering off into the yard during activities and engaging in violence and/or vandalism. Last year, Aaron was hospitalized multiple times following severe violent incidents. His mother, who suffers from anger issues, was initially resistant to the program, but agreed to give it a try after a chance meeting with the program coordinator provided an opportunity to learn about the importance of the program and how it could help Aaron. Since then, program staff have been working intensively with Aaron to nurture and empower him by encouraging his good qualities and steering him away from negative thoughts and actions, through tailored activities such as daily "Lightbeam Sessions" where he shares positive experiences with friends and program staff, neutralizing negative feelings and urges. Aaron's mother was also brought into the process, so as to enable her to reinforce positive messages at home. A few months into the program, Aaron's outbursts have lessened significantly, and he is now an integral part of our daily routine. He smiles, avoids negativity, and aims for success, handling setbacks well. Even during challenging moments, he remains responsive and cooperative.



# Personal Stories

## Bet Shemesh Educational Center (BSEC)

 Eldad\*’s Story

Eldad\* comes from a divorced family and lives with his father and five siblings. When he first came to BSEC, in ninth grade, he was despondent and unmotivated. Unable to focus on his studies, he was academically weak and socially reclusive. He also suffered neglect at home; despite frequent and unexplained school absences, his father did nothing to ensure he attended school. When Eldad did show up, his appearance was often neglected and unkempt. With much nurturing and encouragement from BSEC staff, at the end of tenth grade, Eldad began to overcome his many challenges. He started taking an interest and applying himself to his schoolwork, became more socially active and paid more attention to his personal hygiene and appearance. This year, Eldad graduated from high school with full matriculation and even received a score of 95% in Hebrew, which is considered to be one of the most difficult subjects. His teacher said of him: “Eldad is like the reed, which gets so much water for so long without flowering until, one day, it suddenly does.”

## Welfare to Wellbeing

 Esther’s Story

Esther\* came to the program with a 12-year education, no high-school diploma and no computer literacy. She was working long hours as a kindergarten teacher’s aide and supermarket stock organizer and was struggling to make ends meet. At the program, Esther gained computer skills, as well as job-seeking techniques, such as writing an effective resume and presenting well at a job interview. Upon completing the course, Esther found work in a technological company as an electricity technician. She said: “Before coming to the program, I was in a state of anxiety when dealing with my employers, my financial situation and my emotions. I’ve always had aspirations but never had the confidence to pursue them. The program improved my sense of self-assurance and now I feel able to handle my finances as I am much more organized. The biggest lesson I learned in the program is not to give up on my dreams. It’s never too late! I also learned that standing up in front of a group of people isn’t scary. The program gave me the tools to realize my potential and move forward.”

## Accompanying the Elderly (ATE)

 Sophie’s Story

Sophie\* has been with Accompanying the Elderly for some time. Recently, with the help of volunteers, she moved into a Welfare Department assisted living facility. During an ATE group meeting, Sophie offered other women advice on how to be approved for the facility. “You have to get the social worker to fill out the report,” she says knowingly. “Otherwise you’ll never get approval.” Sophie also spoke about how receiving Accompanying the Elderly’s food packages makes her feel: “I’m so grateful for these packages and to those who donate them,” she said. “You have no idea how happy and relieved I am whenever I get one. It’s not just the food; it really makes me feel like someone cares.”



# Financial Summary

## Israeli Sources

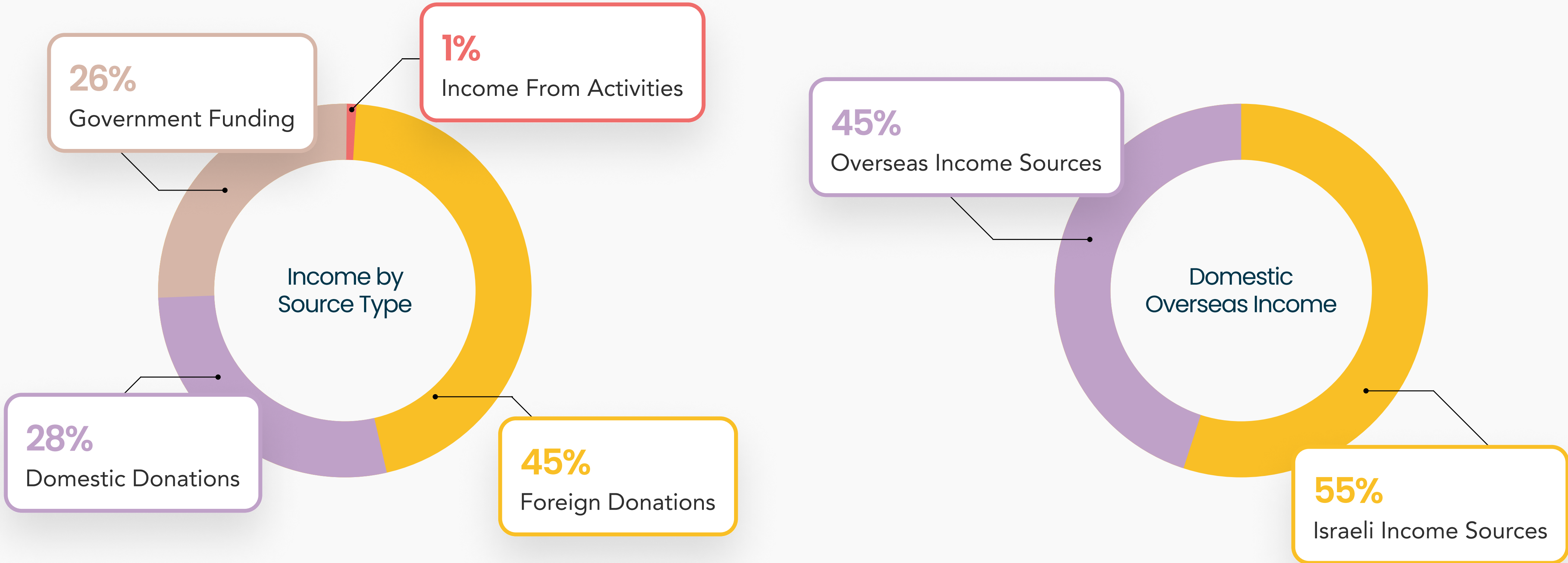
Government/Municipal funding	9,389,000 NIS
Foundations/Individual Donors	10,141,700 NIS
Income from activities	248,000 NIS
<b>Total income from Israeli sources:</b>	<b>19,778,700 NIS</b>

## Overseas Sources

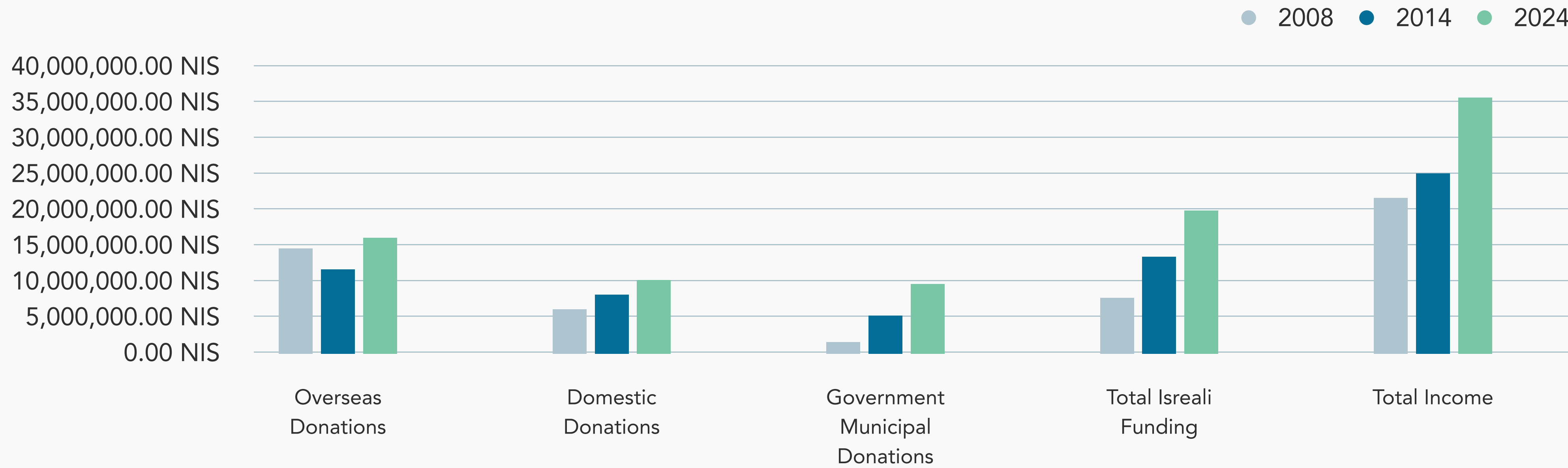
Foundations/Individual Donors	16,010,300 NIS
<b>Total income from overseas sources</b>	<b>16,010,300 NIS</b>

**Total income from all sources: 35,789,000 NIS**

## 2024 Income



## Income Overview: 2008–2024





# Plans for 2025

Here are some of our exciting plans for 2025:

Expansion of the Road to Resilience program to additional border communities in the south and the north	✓
Expansion of the Accompanying the Elderly Program to serve more elderly individuals in need	✓
Expansion of our Food Package distributions to greater numbers of families suffering from nutritional insecurity	✓
Incorporation of our new Robotics Lab as part of our Science Mobile program	✓
Creation of a new Alumni Program for graduates of Jaffa Institute educational programs	✓

Plans



# How can you help?



Volunteer at one of our programs  
**Contact Yoel Provisor, Director of  
Volunteer Services at [yoel@jaffainst.co.il](mailto:yoel@jaffainst.co.il)**



Donate through our website:  
**[www.jaffainstitute.org/donate](http://www.jaffainstitute.org/donate)**



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**TheJaffaInstitute**

**Plan a company event at our Food Distribution Center to help pack food boxes  
... and so many more ways to get involved!**

## General Enquiries:









Email: [info@jaffainst.co.il](mailto:info@jaffainst.co.il)  
Phone: **+972-3-683-2626**  
Registered Charity Number: **58-003-8115**

Address:  
**The Jaffa Institute**  
**Tel Giborim St. 5**  
**Tel Aviv, Israel 6810519**





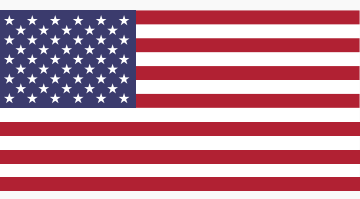

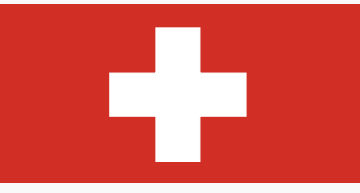

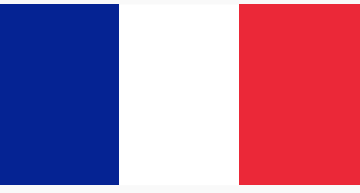

# Board of Directors

<div></div> <div><div><b>Chaim Hurvitz</b></div><div>Chairperson</div></div> <div>CEO, CHealth Venture Capital</div> <div><div>Member since</div><div>2012</div></div>	<div></div> <div><div><b>Orit Benbenishti</b></div><div>Member</div></div> <div>CEO and Director, Tigbur Ltd.</div> <div><div>Member since</div><div>2012</div></div>	<div></div> <div><div><b>Jonathan Zaltzman</b></div><div>Member</div></div> <div>Investor</div> <div><div>Member since</div><div>2016</div></div>
<div></div> <div><div><b>Yoel Yogev</b></div><div>Member</div></div> <div>CEO and Chairman, El-Gev Electronics Ltd.</div> <div><div>Member since</div><div>2012</div></div>	<div></div> <div><div><b>Asher Grinbaum</b></div><div>Member</div></div> <div>Acting CEO, Israel Chemicals Ltd.</div> <div><div>Member since</div><div>2016</div></div>	<div></div> <div><div><b>Danny Margalit, CPA</b></div><div>Member</div></div> <div>Chairman, BDO Ziv Haft Accounting and Consulting Firm</div> <div><div>Member since</div><div>2012</div></div>
<div></div> <div><div><b>Vered Zarfati-Zvulun, Esq.</b></div><div>Member</div></div> <div>CEO, Sarfati Shimon Ltd. Residential Development and Construction</div> <div><div>Member since</div><div>2019</div></div>	<div></div> <div><div><b>Sarit Golenser, MSW</b></div><div>Member</div></div> <div>Director, Domestic Violence Shelter; former faculty member, Tel Aviv University</div> <div><div>Member since</div><div>2022</div></div>	



# Friends of the Jaffa Institute Organizations

Contact Information

Location		Contact
	<b>American Friends</b> 297 South Washington Ave 2nd Floor Bergenfield, NJ, 07621, United States	C/O Mr. Mitch Chupak <b>1-866-471-1923</b>
	<b>Canadian Friends</b> 3080 Yonge Street, Suite 6060 Toronto Ontario M4N 3N1, Canada	C/O Ms. Pam Albert <b>1-866-892-1915</b>
	<b>Swiss Friends</b> Kilchbergstrasse 138 8038 Zurich, Switzerland	C/O Mr. Roger Bollag <b>+41-79-382-4750</b>
	<b>British Friends</b> Hillsdown House, 32 Hampstead High St. London NW3 1QD, United Kingdom	C/O Mr. Geoffrey Jayson <b>44(0)7317-8980</b>
	<b>French Friends</b> 56, Rue du Rocher, 75008 Paris, France	C/O Ms. Sandra Benisty <b>33-0-6-22-84-85-13</b>
	<b>Dutch Friends</b> Waleweg 1, 3291 AX Strijen, The Netherlands	C/O Mr. W. van der Hoek <b>+31-78-674-5014</b>





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