

What we are witnessing in Israel is unlike anything previously seen. The Baltimore community has swiftly responded with generous support for the Associated's Israel at War fund to address current emergency needs in Israel.

And the Associated's decades-long support and partnership with Ashkelon, with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and other important non-profits have facilitated a rapid response to the escalating needs in Israel. Your gift enables us to support immediate and long-term recovery efforts.

We have made a first round of emergency grants of almost \$1.5M to address the following core areas of need.

SAFETY FOR ASHKELON

First and foremost, we are concerned with our beloved partner city of Ashkelon which has been under attack since October 7. Initial funding has provided electric generators to bring much-needed electricity to areas that have lost power. We have provided 2,000 mattresses for bomb shelters, vests and helmets for emergency personnel, portable bomb shelters that can be moved to areas of the city where there are no shelters, cell phone chargers, handheld lights and expenses for more than 100 people who need to leave Ashkelon for temporary relocation. Plus, we are supporting Holocaust survivors through the Foundation for the Welfare of Holocaust Victims and a grant from the Associated to provide food and essential supplies. We are evaluating the situation in Ashkelon daily so we can continue to support what is most needed.

SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES

We are providing life-saving support to Magen David Adom and Barzilai Hospital to treat the thousands of people who have been wounded. A longstanding partner, the Israel Trauma Coalition is another recipient of our funding as they work to provide immediate trauma response through its resilience centers across Israel, including one in Ashkelon. ZAKA, an important search and rescue organization, received funding for shrapnel-proof helmets and vests, equipment to replenish medical supplies and special equipment for identifying and collecting the remains of deceased victims.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The Associated has forwarded immediate support for the urgent work of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI.) JAFI's Fund for Victims of Terror provides immediate emergency aid for families who have lost life and property. JAFI has also spearheaded an evacuation effort of both absorption centers in Ashkelon and some of the older adult housing units as well. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is another recipient of Associated emergency funding to assist them in their critical work of providing aid to people with disabilities. Through its relationship with the Emergency Volunteers Project (EVP), The Associated has helped to underwrite two groups of dedicated individuals to go to Israel to partner with Israel's emergency responders. There are 23 firefighters in Israel now and 13 doctors heading for Barzilai Hospital, four of them from Baltimore.

