

The Hope - התקווה

#4 - Families in Poverty



Paamonim - Making a Difference

FAMILIES IN DISTRESS

A GROWING PROBLEM

Recent economic success in many sectors of Israeli society hides the fact that poverty still haunts much of the nation. Studies have shown that 420,000 impoverished families reside in Israel, (1.5 million people out of a total population of 7 million), including some 805,000 children. Perhaps even more alarming, 1 million Israelis go hungry on a regular basis.

A JEWISH ISSUE

Concern for the poor is a central value of the Jewish people. In the Torah (Deuteronomy 15:7-8) it says "if one of your brothers becomes poor... do not harden your heart or close your hand... Rather, open your hand and give him according to what he lacks."

Maimonides wrote that the highest form of *tzedaka* (just giving) is not the giving alms but helping people lift themselves out of poverty. Jews have responded to poverty throughout the generations with many creative solutions. Take a look at what Paamonim, inspired by Maimonides, is doing to address this critical issue.

PAAMONIM'S APPROACH

Paamonim is a volunteer organization whose objective is to help families in economic crisis take responsibility for their economic lives. Its goal is to provide solutions to families in economic distress, getting them off the lists of charity recipients by empowering them with the tools to conduct their economic lives with responsibility, independence and dignity. Families are set on a firm economic footing and shown how to balance their budgets and correctly manage their economic affairs so that they will no longer need help.

Paamonim offers free assistance to anyone across the country who requests help. A Paamonim-trained volunteer financial guide is assigned to a family to develop and help implement an economic recovery plan. Together they assess the family's financial situation and work to balance expenses and income, finding ways to increase income where possible. Upon maintaining this balance for a number of months, the family may move on to resolve past debts with the volunteer financial guide's help.

Thousands of families in distress across Israel have reached out and joined the Paamonim program. There are currently 55 Paamonim branches open across the country with 2,100 trained, volunteer financial guides available to support families in need.

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH PAAMONIM? HERE'S HOW

If this work speaks to you, get involved! If you're in Israel, you can join Paamonim as a trained financial guide, working 1-1 to help families create a plan towards financial stability. In addition, supporters from within Israel and from abroad can get involved by contributing to Paamonim financially. For more information, visit their website: www.paamonim.org

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