

JNF 2021 Case for Israel – Case for Giving

JNF Campaign Summit August 19, 2020

Ronald E. Wener

(VP National Board, President AMHSI, CO Chair – Nefesh B' Nefesh Task Force, Chairman Emeritus Mountain States Region)

Shalom Chavarim – Welcome Friends

Thank you for joining Jewish National Fund today, albeit via Zoom, and thank G-d that we are blessed with such technology allowing us to come together during this extraordinary altered state known as 2020. We all wish were physically together, but what's important is that we are together.

L'shana Haba'a B'Yerushaliam, If I forget thy O'Jerusalem, and By the waters of Babylon we wept. These words have built the collective DNA of the Jewish people for over two thousand years as we yearned for our Homeland – for Eretz Yisroel – the Land of Israel. Today, we are living with Modern Miracle of Israel during a time when Jews are moving to Israel by choice, listen to me, Jews are moving to Israel by choice for the first time in nearly 2000 years. Last week Sari with the help of Nefesh B' Nefesh arrived in Israel with over 200 new Olim. They came home, they came home to Israel – quarantine and all, they came home.... L'shana Haba'a B'Yerushaliam

Jewish National Fund is solely focused on the Land and People of Israel.

We are entrepreneurial. We set and achieve lofty goals. We are driven by ideals and strategic vision – we make the desert bloom.

We are bold, we are proud and We (my friends) are DOERS.

Someone recently asked me – You're with Jewish National Fund?

Amazing, you guys DO what everyone else talks about it.

And let me tell you, that made my week.

I can share with you the multitude of our work, from forestry and planting a quarter billion trees, creating innovative water solutions that saved Israel's agricultural economy, caring for the disabled, transforming and building communities in the north and south of Israel, developing Zionist connections both in Israel and the United States. But, to make it simple, let me just say this, take a look at a map of Israel where you'll find your fingerprints through Jewish National Fund are all over the land.

Covid has been brutal to each and every one of us from quarantine to loss. Economically, physically, emotionally. But the Jewish people do not get a time out. While others have paused, Jewish National Fund is always in the game. We could pivot because we are bold, entrepreneurial, and strategic.

We have worked feverously during covid. from creating virtual missions that have allowed 3800 people to experience Israel, to generating a plethora of online learning alternatives with our Muss Magic educators and launching Frontier Israel – our new GAP semester in Israel program. brought to you by JNF's Muss High School in Israel

Who does That? I'll tell who does this, Jewish National Fund does!
We are Jewish National Fund and WE are open for business!
L'shana Haba'a B'Yerushaliam

It is my opinion that we are renters on this planet, not owners. We are given such a short time here; in truth we are simply passing through. It's our obligation to leave the world better than we found her.

I want to be more, and I know you want to be more, part of something bigger, something greater, something that lasts. I see your names and our logos all throughout Israel. so, I know that our Jewish National Fund investments stand the test of time. Like you, I am driven to be part of the future that is so much bigger than me....

These months have been difficult on all of us. We cannot allow it to be solely about the disruption we faced. We must make it about what we learned; WE must be better. The same goes for Jewish National Fund. We took adversity as a challenge. We were able to pivot because we are entrepreneurial, we are bold, we're strategic and we are visionary.

At Jewish National Fund we are making a difference, we are making a big difference that will last long after we leave this world. Together You and I can step up with the people of Israel to develop the land of Israel.

My friends, I know you will join me to accomplish more. something that only happens when we come together as a strong team. Right now, I am going to ask you to do three things, to take action.

1. Join me in making your 2021 commitment to Jewish National Fund ensuring our continued success.
2. Commit to learning something new about JNF and Israel and share it with someone else
3. Commit to coming to Israel. I know it will tough, so until then you can join one of our virtual missions, but there's no time out.

Do I wish we were physically together, of course? But the important point it's that we are together

L'shana Haba'a B'Yerushaliam

L'shana Haba'a B'Yerushaliam

I will never forget you O' Jerusalem