



## 2009 Annual Report

### The Gvanim Association, Israel



Photograph from 2009 SderotYouth.com exhibit

#### ***A personal message from our Executive Director, Nitai Shreiber***

2009 was a year of instability; the world was in the grip of a global economic crisis, Israel launched "Operation Cast Lead," a military campaign aimed at halting massive missile attacks from the Gaza Strip on southern Israel, and municipal elections in Sderot brought new political focus and priorities in our city.

At the Gvanim Association, in spite of the environment of unpredictability, we continued our focus on sustaining our programs and developing new methods for effective change: we developed advanced professional models for action that have been recognized nationwide for their innovation and effectiveness; we provided opportunities and resources for program and project staff development and resilience, the keys for sustaining them professionally and personally when faced with new challenges; we led construction and renovation of infrastructure to serve our communities, including protection from missile fire and housing for mentally retarded adults; we forged new partnerships with additional service providers who will join our "coalition" this year, one of the innovative ways that Gvanim ensures cooperation and coordination between various service providers, limiting duplication and maximizing resources.

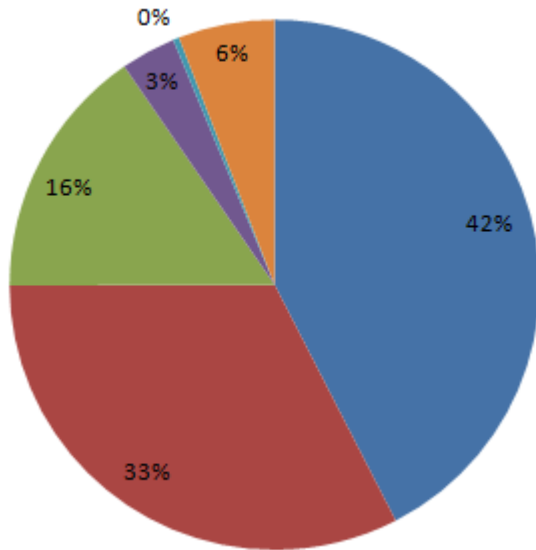
I believe that in 2010 we will see continued success, even as we strive to expand Gvanim's local, regional and national influence. To meet this goal, we must continue our commitment to action according to the values and principles that have guided us in our work every day and that have led the Gvanim Association to become the successful, unique and significant organization that it is today, serving Israeli society.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank, with all my heart, the Association's employees and volunteers who give so much more than we ask for and more than could be expected. I would also like to offer my gratitude and appreciation to our many partners; thanks to you, we are able to successfully operate our programs, improve our services and develop our organization.

On behalf of the Gvanim Association, I wish you, your families and your colleagues a year of success, satisfaction and growth.

Sincerely yours,

## 2009 Summary – Annual Report



### Spotlight on Finances

In 2009 we significantly cut our expenses, across the board, while sustaining Gvanim's services. All projects and programs redoubled their efforts to stay within limited budgets.

### 2009 Expenses

- Program Salaries - 42%
- Activity-Related Expenses - 33%
- Construction & Renovations - 16%
- Maintenance - 3%
- Office Expenses - less than .5 %
- Overhead/Administration - 5.90%

### Spotlight on Infrastructure Development

In spite of financial strain, with the help of our partners we were able to meet our commitments to develop much-needed infrastructure related to services for disadvantaged populations. Projects completed in 2009 included:

- Supported housing with protection from rocket fire, for mentally retarded adults in Sderot, located in Sderot's urban Kibbutz Migvan.
- Renovation of Ashkelon's Café Galleria, an occupational training and community integration project for mentally ill adults.
- Protection from rocket fire for Sderot's Netivim Center and Sderot's Volunteer House.
- Dormitories for college students with physical disabilities.

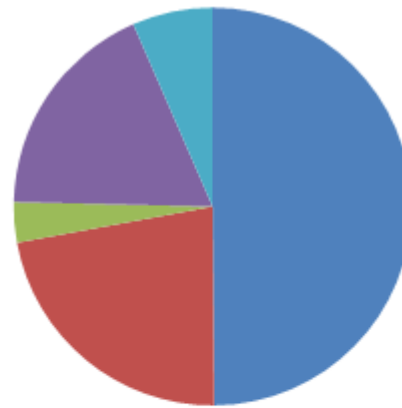


Residents outside the new Supported Housing Complex in Kibbutz Migvan



### Spotlight on Partnerships

- In 2009 we fine-tuned a model for building significant and effective partnerships between organizations and sectors, focusing on various service fields such as early childhood, children and youth at risk and young adults with disabilities. The model has been recognized nationally as “**The Sderot Model**” and is being proliferated in other cities.
- The Tachlit-Meir Center for youth at high risk has created a partnership with **Sderot’s Social Welfare Services Department** and is now part of the array of services offered by the municipality for youth at high risk.
- Gvanim has partnered with Sderot’s **Division of Education** to create a work model for early childhood.



- Government - 50%
- Foundations - 22%
- Private Donors & Businesses - 3%
- Federations & Agencies - 18%
- Income from Activities - 7%

### Income - 2009

### Spotlight on Community Services

#### Early Childhood

In 2009, Gvanim founded a regional project for developing early childhood services. The project was established with the financial support of The Schusterman Family Foundation-Israel, and is a national model for regional cooperation. Gvanim was also a partner in creating the national forum for Early Childhood Centers; the forum provides opportunities for shared learning and cooperation with government ministries. Another highlight of 2009 was the establishment of Sderot’s “Open House;” the Open House is located in a WIZO pre-school center and is run in partnership with WIZO; it provides a variety of services for early childhood professionals, parents and children.



*Safe Passage – preparing for first grade*



*Enrichment Playroom – linguistic enrichment*



### **Young Adults with Disabilities**

In 2009, Gvanim completed construction of student dormitories for young adults with disabilities. The dorms are located in the Ayalim Student Village of Yachini, an agricultural village next to Sapir College, near Sderot. The dorms accept participants of Gvanim's WINGS program in their second year of studies.

An additional highlight is the establishment of a new HED project, in the urban kibbutz, Tamuz. Kibbutz Tamuz is part of the city of Beit Shemesh; the project serves young adults who were displaced from mainstream society by mental health issues in their teen years, helping them reintegrate into society and supporting their personal development.

### **Rehabilitation in Sderot – People with Disabilities**

With the help of I.D.B., Gvanim renovated the catering kitchen in Sderot's Protected Factory for adults with disabilities.



### **Gvanim Ashkelon**

Among the services that Gvanim offers mentally ill adults, the Gvanim Ashkelon program provides opportunities for integrating into society. This year we renovated the Café Galleria, where mentally ill adults can work, learn new skills and interact with local residents who come to the coffee shop for light meals and other activities.

After renovations, the café now has a proper kitchen, a dining room for formal events and a well-equipped public room where Ashkelon residents can attend workshops or hold business meetings.

### **Sderot's Rainbow Center**

The Rainbow Center evolved in 2009 into a key player in developing projects and providing services for people with disabilities.

The Center is run *by* people with disabilities *for* people with disabilities, and already had four active interest groups including "Free to Feel," a group of people with disabilities who create interactive dialog with the public as a method of outreach to the normative community, helping non-disabled children and adults understand what it means, really, to live with a disability in our society.

### The Tachlit-Meir Center for Youth at Risk

After moving to a new and larger building at the end of 2008, in 2009 the Tachlit-Meir Center was able to increase enrollment by 50% to meet increased need following Operation Cast Lead. (There is still a waiting list for placement.) The Center is now officially partnering with Sderot's municipal Social Welfare Services to improve resources and response for teens at high risk.



*(photo at right – the climbing wall at Sderot's Extreme Sports Center)*



*NOVA participants during workshop*

### Immigrants in Crisis

Mitzad, Gvanim's Young Leadership program for the Kavkazi community, continues its good work in the city with public events for teens and adults, mentoring of a teen leadership group called NOVA, development of enrichment programs for children and establishment and operation of the Dorot Center, a community center that supports more than 7,000 Kavkazi residents in the city of Sderot. In 2010, Mitzad members will help Kavkazi adults in other cities establish similar young leadership groups, paving the way for greater social change in Israel.

### Shahaf – establishing new inner-city communities

As an organization that was established by urban Kibbutz Migvan in 1994 to promote social change in Israel's periphery, Gvanim has taken upon itself to help create a network of young communities throughout the country's social and economic periphery. Each community will settle in a disadvantaged neighborhood of an existing city, where they will create social programs and integrate into the local society. Nitai Shreiber, the Executive Director of the Gvanim Association, was chosen as Executive Director of the Shahaf network in January 2010.



### Spotlight on Organizational Changes

The Gvanim Organization will be undergoing organizational changes in 2010, following Nitai Shreiber's decision to accept the position of Executive Director of Shahaf. Gvanim's Board of Directors voted to retain Nitai Shreiber as a Director in a 25% position; his responsibilities will now focus on Gvanim's national programs. Barak Bitnun has accepted the position of Executive Director of Gvanim's local and regional programs. Please welcome him, as we do, to Gvanim's family of dedicated employees!



## 2010 – Our goals & focus for the coming year

Gvanim's goals for 2010 are to sustain and increase the quality and quantity of the services we provide, to better serve the disadvantaged populations in Israel. Some areas of focus will be

- **The Gvanim Ashkelon Center:** to complete fundraising for construction of a Rehabilitation Art Center that will serve mentally ill adults in Ashkelon and the surrounding area. The new building will be located in the center of the city of Ashkelon, encouraging interaction between the normative community and the program's participants, following Gvanim's principles of rehabilitation within the community.
- **The Tachlit-Meir Center:** increasing resources to provide services and day-shelter for more youth at high risk. There are no alternative services for this group offered by other organizations, so teens at high risk who cannot attend the Tachlit-Meir Center are left without support.
- **Mitzad:** developing additional young leadership groups in other cities.
- **The Early Childhood Center:** using the new forum to lobby for change in the government's early childhood policies.
- **Long-term support for young adults with disabilities:** forging a partnership with the Ministry of Defense to provide financial support for programs supporting young adults with disabilities who have completed National Service.

Thank you for your friendship and concern for the people of Israel, and your faith in the Gvanim Association. If you have any questions about any of our programs, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[www.gvanim.org.il/eng](http://www.gvanim.org.il/eng)

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