



בלב | belev
אחד | echad

THE FUTURE OF OUR WOUNDED IDF HEROES

A YEAR IN REVIEW 2019

HONORING THE WOUNDED
MEN AND WOMEN OF THE IDF





“ Thank you so much for your support of and commitment to Belev Echad this past decade. In 2010, we started Belev Echad by bringing a group of wounded IDF soldiers on a trip to New York City. Since then, we have grown exponentially, and today Belev Echad has become something greater than we could have ever imagined. This is thanks to each and every one of our supporters and donors. You have helped make Belev Echad what it is today. We look forward to the next decade and to being able to make a difference and better the lives of many more IDF soldiers. ”

**WITH GRATITUDE,
RABBI URIEL AND SHEVY VIGLER**



THOUSANDS OF HEARTS BEATING AS ONE. BELEV ECHAD.



BELEV ECHAD IS A GLOBAL MOVEMENT DEDICATED TO ENSURING THE WOUNDED MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES RECEIVE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO LIVE PRODUCTIVE AND WELL-ADJUSTED LIVES AFTER THEIR INJURIES. THROUGH PROGRAMS WHICH INCLUDE LEGAL AND MEDICAL ADVOCACY, EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS, SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS, MENTORS AND CAREER PLACEMENT, WE EMPOWER EACH SOLDIER TO THRIVE.

OUR GOAL is not only to reinvigorate and unite wounded warriors as a group, but to also provide for the unique needs of each individual soldier. The sacrifices these soldiers have made for us and our land is not something for which we can ever repay them, but by enriching their lives in every way we possibly can, we too can be a part of the selflessness they have so bravely displayed.

WE ENTERED 2019 with a mission to continue providing more soldiers with careers, sending more soldiers around the country on College Campus Tours, providing more therapeutic puppies, laptops for studies, and continued feelings of renewal and hope.



“ It (the recovery) was very tough. I would cry endlessly. I was so frustrated and I didn't want to see anyone. Belev Echad didn't give up on me. They came to visit me constantly and easily entered our hearts. ”

— EDEN MANTZUR, BELEV ECHAD ALUMNUS

RANK & UNIT: COMBAT SOLDIER, SERGEANT,
HOME FRONT COMMAND
DATE OF INJURY: JULY 6, 2019

BELEV ECHAD'S IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS



KEREN OR TEGAFAW

Sergeant in the Search & Rescue Unit,
Injured in June 2018

In February 2018, Keren was sent with her unit to protect the Beitar settlement. What was meant to be a routine mission, ended in a terrorist attack. Thankfully, Keren survived and was able to return to her job of protecting Israel. On June 23, 2018, Keren was on foot patrol when she stopped to rest on the side of the road. Suddenly, a vehicle appeared in front of her and Keren instinctively knew that there was nothing she could do to prevent it from hitting her. Keren sustained three fractures in her legs and underwent surgery at Tel Hashomer Hospital, followed by six weeks of rehab. Keren continues to undergo intensive physical therapy.



KEREN'S JOURNEY WITH BELEV ECHAD

FALL 2018 »

In November of 2018, Keren joined the Belev Echad Flagship Tour to New York City, and reignited her previous dreams of becoming an actress. At the Belev Echad 2018 Gala, Where Keren spoke in front of over 700 people, she also had the opportunity to meet actor Doron Ben David from Fauda, who is now mentoring and helping Keren with her acting career.

WINTER 2018 »

When Keren returned to Israel, she began attending Belev Echad's monthly Unity Gatherings for the camaraderie, love, support and understanding that these gatherings provide. Keren joined Belev Echad's "Waters of Healing" water therapy program in Herzliya as well as the Jiu Jitsu program, both of which provide more than just therapy, but also the tools to forge a new, positive path for her future.

TODAY »

Through Belev Echad's Career Training & Job Placement program, Keren was placed in a new role which will start in January 2020 at Bezeq, Israel's leading telecommunications service provider.



ERAN KLIER

Staff Sergeant in the Elite Israeli
Air Force Commando Unit,
injured in April 2018

Eran served as a combat soldier in the Air Force for four years, before continuing to serve in the reserves. In April of 2018, one week before his wedding, Eran fell from a helicopter while training, when the rope he was attached to snapped. Eran severely injured his hand, back, and neck and was hospitalized while he underwent surgery for his hand. He underwent an additional operation before beginning his rehabilitation process which he continues to this day.



ERAN'S JOURNEY WITH BELEV ECHAD

WINTER 2019 »

In March of 2019, Eran joined the Belev Echad Flagship Tour to New York City, an experience which transformed his recovery process. Eran's wife told Belev Echad how much the trip impacted him, opening his eyes to a new, and brighter future. Belev Echad has empowered Eran to finally speak about his injury and become open to accepting help.

FALL 2019 »

In November, after months of job interviews through Belev Echad's Career Training & Job Placement program, Eran began his new career at BLK & Co., a leading independent boutique advisory firm specializing in financial and strategic advisory services. In addition to his new job and while continuing his rehab, Eran also works for Belev Echad, spreading hope and helping other soldiers just like himself rebuild their lives.

SUMMER 2019 »

Shortly after he returned from NYC, in June of 2019, Eran joined Belev Echad's "Waters of Healing" water therapy program in Herzliya, and was soon working with a mentor that was assigned to him through Belev Echad. Eran also attended many Unity Gatherings that summer including a paint night with world renowned graffiti artist Solomon Souza, a private concert by Ishai Ribo, and the "Weekend of Love" retreat in the North of Israel. Each gathering provided the friendship, love, support and hope that Eran needed to face the challenges of his rehabilitation.

In August, Eran and his wife welcomed their first child! Belev Echad was there with a gift to help celebrate this special moment.

TODAY »

Eran is joining Program Directors Sharon & Miki Schtrachman and Raz Budani for hospital visitation of newly injured soldiers and is in charge of our special birthday project which involves calling to wish soldiers a happy birthday, sending gifts, and informing them about the upcoming Belev Echad programs that would be of special interest to them. Eran knows too well how an injury can shatter dreams for the future. He also knows how Belev Echad helps to recreate and strengthen those dreams, and provide the tools needed to make them a reality.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS NO ONE SET PATH TO RECOVERY, and so we pave a unique path for each of our wounded heroes. From the time a soldier enters the hospital, we are with them throughout their entire journey. It takes months of hard work and rehabilitation for an isolated and wounded soldier to regain the physical and mental strength to reenter society and begin to live a normal life. Here are some of the programs that Belev Echad offers to aid our soldiers in their recoveries:



PROGRAMS & SERVICES IN THE US

TOURS HAPPINESS

After the success of our NYC Flagship Tours, Belev Echad has expanded this program to include 10 day, 5 Star tours of other US cities and around the world. The trips provide recovering soldiers with the experience of a lifetime, motivating them through the toughest parts of their rehabilitation and creating a network of support for each soldier.

BAR & BAT MITZVAH PROJECTS

This program empowers children to make a difference in the lives of our wounded IDF soldiers. In partnership with the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child, Belev Echad will help create a unique project that will not only benefit the child but also our wounded IDF soldiers. Instead of receiving gifts, children give soldiers meaningful gifts.

EVENING OF UNITY GALA

Our annual gala celebrates the mission of Belev Echad and the critical work we do on behalf of our soldiers every day. This meaningful evening brings together supporters, celebrities, and staff to honor our wounded IDF heroes and those who enable us to continue this vital work. Each year, attendees leave feeling inspired and recommitted to the mission.

BIKE4BELEVECHAD

This epic cycling event, captained by 12 wounded IDF soldiers, creates awareness and raises critical funds for Belev Echad's life-changing services and programs. This ride creates a unique opportunity for our community to come together to show the soldiers our support financially, emotionally, and physically through teamwork and sportsmanship- and a lot of fun!

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Belev Echad's YJP host Friday night dinners as well as an annual Purim party, to provide a space for our young supporters to connect and grow as proud advocates for Israel.

COLLEGE CAMPUS SPEAKING TOURS

Our wounded soldiers represent the incredible courage and sacrifices of our people for our people. Belev Echad empowers wounded veterans to become ambassadors of Israel by addressing and engaging with college youth on campuses all over the United States.

ACCOMMODATIONS IN NYC

IDF veterans visiting New York City receive the full Belev Echad treatment. We provide them with the housing and accommodations they need to make their stay in the Big Apple a comfortable and memorable one.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES IN ISRAEL

VISITING THE WOUNDED

Our staff and volunteers bring much needed cheer and companionship to soldiers in hospitals and rehabilitation centers during this vulnerable, isolating and painful time.

MEDICAL AID & LEGAL ADVOCACY

We provide financial support that covers what insurance does not, including world-class prosthetics, experimental treatments and innovative therapies. We also provide advocates to assure that IDF veterans receive the government benefits and compensation to which they are entitled.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

We provide laptops and offer grants for college and university programs to ensure that wounded soldiers are able to build the foundation necessary to achieve their career and life's goals. A college education which leads to a career of their choice, gives the soldiers a sense of purpose and a way to provide for themselves and their families.

CAREER TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT

For many, it is difficult to transition back into everyday life after injury- especially for those with permanent scars and disabilities. We empower these soldiers

2,500 hrs.
of one-on-one
mentorship
↑ 25%
increase
since 2018

\$75,000
in scholarships
funded
↑ 28%
increase
since 2018

\$150,000
on Alumni networking
opportunities
↑ 15%
increase
since 2018

550 hrs.
of art therapy
↑ 5%
increase
since 2018

through career counseling and guide them through the job hunting process to provide them with all the tools necessary to succeed. Through our partnerships with experts in various fields, we offer mentors to our wounded soldiers in the job force.

UNITY GATHERINGS & REUNIONS

The bonds formed with those who have gone through similar experiences help propel each soldier forward. We help foster and maintain these vital connections by creating an opportunity for wounded soldiers to gather regularly as a way for them to motivate, encourage and support each other through their recoveries and beyond.

IDF TOUR GUIDES

Our alumni serve as tour guides of their own home state, showing American tourists the perspective of people who have bled for the Jewish Homeland. This is a deeply rewarding and fascinating experience for all.

ART OF HEALING

Long after physical recovery is complete, the wounds to a person's spirit are still raw and aching. Since it is equally important to heal both the body and psyche, we've created an opportunity for our soldiers to express themselves and heal through art.

450 hrs.
of legal aid
↑ 29%
increase
since 2018

25
job placements

BELEV ECHAD DINNERS



2019 *over 1,000 Guests* *43% Increase from 2018 &* *400% Increase from 2014!*

In 2019 we celebrated our life-saving work and the recipients of our community's generosity, with our biggest gala to date. In 2014, 200 supporters attended our first Belev Echad gala dinner and on November 25, 2019, 1,000 supporters gathered in NYC to honor our soldiers and ensure the continued success of Belev Echad. Over the past 5 years, we have seen tremendous growth. Our dream is to be able to support every single one of the 57,277 wounded IDF veterans that need our help.



COMPLETING THE CIRCLE

2019 was a groundbreaking year for Belev Echad in many ways. As we grew, we needed to expand our offices both in Israel and NYC. For some alumni in particular, 2019 was the year where Belev Echad became not only the place that helped them through their recovery, but a place of employment which now allows them to help others in their recoveries as well. We are excited to report that we hired 5 of our alumni to work at our headquarters in Israel. Each new team member is responsible for a unique part of the mission.



GIL BENEDEK

First Lieutenant in the Golani Brigade, Injured in Operation Protective Edge in 2014

COLLEGE CAMPUS TRIP COORDINATOR, ISRAEL

--Belev Echad Alumnus
Hired in 2019



RAZ BUDANI

Major in the Golani Brigade, Injured in Operation Cast Lead in 2009

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING, ISRAEL

--Belev Echad Alumnus

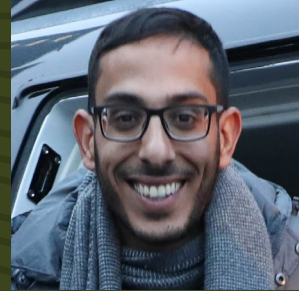


ERAN KLIER

Chief Sergeant in the Airforce, Injured in training in 2018

HEALING COORDINATOR, ISRAEL

-- Belev Echad Alumnus
Hired in 2019



IDO OZERI

Corporal in the Armored Corps, Injured in Operation Protective Edge in 2014

HOSPITAL VISITATION AND MENTOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR, ISRAEL

-- Belev Echad Alumnus
Hired in 2019



NOAM SAADI

Staff Sergeant in the Paratroopers Unit - Injured in Operation Protective Edge in 2014

DOG TRAINING PROGRAM COORDINATOR, ISRAEL

--Belev Echad Alumnus
Hired in 2019

MEET THE REST OF OUR STAFF



RONIT KLAINMAN

PROGRAM MANAGER, NYC

--Hired in 2019



BENTZI SASSON

DIRECTOR OF DELEGATION OPERATIONS



MIKI & SHARON SHTRACHMAN

DIRECTORS OF PROGRAMMING, ISRAEL



ANNA STEIN

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, NYC

--Hired in 2019

For those soldiers who suffer from physical wounds, it is especially difficult to begin their new lives and enter the job force. The highest form of charity is to give someone the opportunity to earn a living and be able to provide for themselves and their family and contribute to society. For many soldiers, career counseling and job training are critical steps in order to begin working. This year, we continued to form strong relationships with leading companies in Israel across varied industries and have successfully placed many soldiers into exciting and fulfilling new careers.



COLLEGE CAMPUS SPEAKING TOUR

Over the course of 2019 our soldiers impacted the lives of over 1,000 students at 22 college campuses across the country. The students left each talk feeling inspired by and grateful for our wounded warriors. The purpose of our College Campus Speaking Tours is to give our wounded soldiers the opportunity to showcase the incredible courage and sacrifices made for our people and our land by engaging and addressing students who may not otherwise have an opportunity to meet those responsible for fighting for our safety. Belev Echad empowers wounded veterans to become ambassadors of Israel and to help spread the truth. The students have the opportunity to hear about what life in Israel is really like, and our soldiers and Belev Echad have the opportunity to fight BDS in our small, yet mighty way.

CAMPUSES VISITED IN 2019:

- ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
- BLUE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
- CHABAD OF CONTRA COSTA
- CHABAD OF THE EAST BAY
- CHABAD OF WEST HEMPSTEAD
- COLGATE UNIVERSITY
- COMMUNITY OF CHAPEL HILL, NC
- DUKE UNIVERSITY
- ELON UNIVERSITY
- KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
- MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
- PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
- QUEENS COLLEGE
- SUNY OSWEGO
- SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
- UNION COLLEGE
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE
- UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
- UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
- UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
- UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI



BIKE4BELEVECHAD

In May of 2019 our soldiers captained our 2nd Annual Bike4BelevEchad ride. Though some rode 50 miles, some 25, and others rode 10, all who joined were left inspired and in awe of the strength and dedication of the wounded soldiers. Thank you to all who sponsored our riders!

2019 #BIKE4BELEVECHAD
RAISED
\$150,000!



BAR & BAT MITZVAH PROJECTS GIFT OF GIVING

In April 2019, the Chalme family traveled to Israel to celebrate Nicky's Bat Mitzvah together with our Belev Echad family. Nicky used her bat mitzvah as an opportunity to give, rather than receive gifts. In lieu of gifts, Nicky was able to raise enough money to provide 9 support dogs and 35 laptop computers for 44 of our wounded IDF soldiers. It has been proven that dogs have a way of helping veterans because they are vigilant, respond well to authoritative relationships, love unconditionally, help relearn trust, and remember feelings of love. Our dog training program not only provides a puppy to a wounded soldier, but also teaches them how to care for and train the dog. This program also offers a certification track so that the soldiers not only benefit from the healing properties of this therapy but are then able to take what they learn and teach others.

The laptops which Nikki distributed are essential to soldiers who are starting college studies or are training for new careers. Thank you for helping Nicky reach her goal of bettering the lives of our wounded soldiers.



SAVE THE DATE

3rd Annual Bike Ride & Run
Sunday, May 17, 2020
www.bike.belevechad.nyc



“ Dear Belev Echad,
 Hats off to you for your tremendous work on behalf of all of the wounded IDF soldiers. Thank you for your mission of helping us return to a new and better life with a strength we did not even know existed within us since our injuries occurred. I do not even have the words to describe my great appreciation for this much needed **“WEEKEND OF LOVE”** retreat and for this organization and all of the people behind it. You do everything from your heart and soul. Thank you for everything.

—OFEK



WEEKEND OF LOVE

In August, nearly 100 of our wounded IDF soldiers from all over Israel, gathered for the annual “Weekend of Love” retreat. This 3-day, 5-star program allowed the soldiers to reunite with old friends, make new friends, and bond in a serene setting overlooking the Kinneret, at the Ramot Hotel. Every detail of this retreat was carefully considered and curated. From swimming, BBQs and beers, kayaking in the Jordan River, a DJ’ed party on the beach, driving antique and luxury cars, and incredible prizes such as an all expense paid round trip for two to Europe, this retreat was another meaningful, therapeutic, and most of all, fun experience for all of our wounded warriors.

VISION 2020

We enter this new decade filled with gratitude and excitement. Gratitude for the growth we have achieved over the years and excitement as we look toward the future. Our vision for 2020 is to continue and build upon the success and growth of our programming in Israel, including our job placement services. We aim to increase our network to enable us to help a greater number of soldiers, increase programs that help soldiers through their trauma, and to provide more mental health support. Additionally, we would like to create more vocational training programs.

In the United States, our focus for 2020 will be on increasing opportunities to share the reality of what is happening in Israel. We aim to expand our College Campus Speaking Tours, provide education and facts on the ground, and increase our Flagship Tours to New York City, which foster unity between American Jewish communities and our brothers and sisters in Israel. Through connecting with youth, young Jewish professionals, and the rest of the Jewish community in New York City, we will continue to create and grow awareness and a sense of unity with wounded IDF soldiers.



COMING IN 2020 - BELEV ECHAD GOES EAST

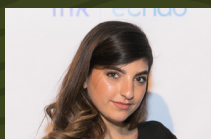
After the success of our flagship tours across the US, Belev Echad is heading to the Philippines in January 2020 for an exciting tour of healing, hope and adventure.

COLLEGE CAMPUS SPEAKING TOURS SECURED CAMPUSES FOR 2020 TO DATE:

Case Western Reserve University
 Chapman University
 California State University, Northridge
 San Jose State University
 Santa Monica College
 University of Kentucky
 Stockton University

University of Oregon
 Village Chabad at Stony Brook
 Chabad of San Francisco
 University of Washington
 Vanderbilt University
 ... List in formation

“ Three months before completing my army service I was injured in a stabbing attack in Tel Aviv. I was home for two years, cooped up and scared. Belev Echad didn't abandon me for a second. From the very beginning of my recovery they were there. Thanks to Belev Echad I underwent a rehabilitative process which actually improved my quality of life. The trip to New York changed my reality. I knew that I had a future to work towards. They set me up to work for a construction company where I am in charge of their safety app. I'm thankful for every moment that I'm a part of this organization- Belev Echad. I am now in a good place, thank G-d, working and studying. Belev Echad has given me the tools and the courage to believe that the sky's the limit. ”



– SAHAR DAHAN (wounded soldier)
Employed by Ashtrom Group-
one of Israel's leading construction and property companies



(2010-2014)



(2014-2019)

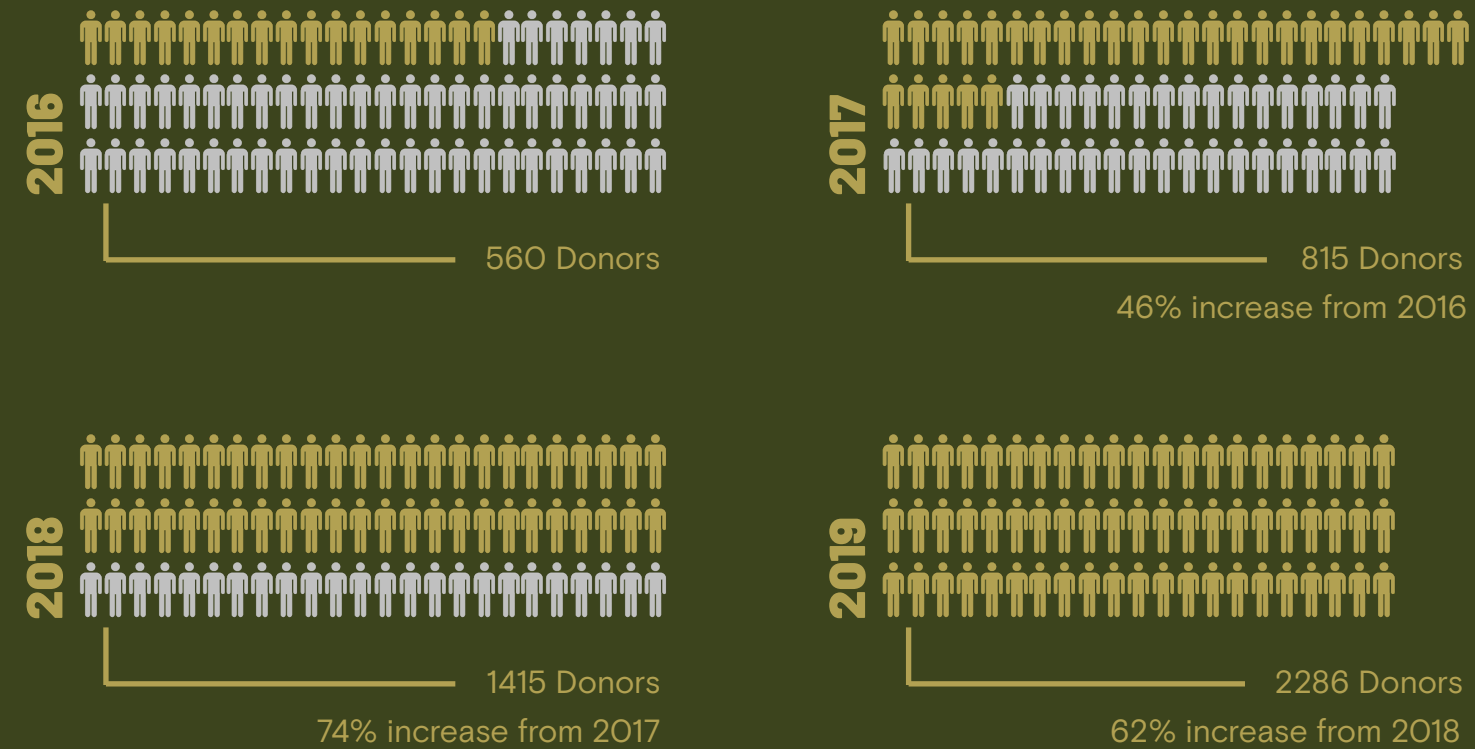
“ I enlisted as a battalion communications officer and during an operation I broke my spine. The recovery was the most horrible thing I've ever gone through in my entire life. I don't know if I could have done it without Belev Echad. From visiting me in the hospital, to helping me through my rehabilitation, they were there for me every step of the way. The trip to New York was a tipping point for me. It helped me see myself not as a victim but rather as a warrior, someone who can help inspire others. One of the organization's programs is to find jobs for wounded soldiers. I studied building engineering and Sharon at Belev Echad turned to the CEO and founder of Shatit LTD., a construction company, to see if there was a job for me. The morning after my interview I already started working. Belev Echad hasn't just helped me but has also positively affected my family and my surroundings. ”



– MATAN JANAH (wounded soldier)
Employed by Shatit LTD.-
construction and residential contractor

WE ARE OVERWHELMED BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ARE THRILLED TO REPORT TREMENDOUS GROWTH FROM YEAR TO YEAR, INCLUDING:

AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OUR SUPPORTERS



AN INCREASE IN OUR OVERALL DONATIONS



9 BELEV ECHAD TOURS OF HAPPINESS IN 2019 COMPRISED OF:

- 4 NYC FLAGSHIP TOURS
- 3 COLLEGE CAMPUS SPEAKING TOURS CONSISTING OF 22 CAMPUSES
- 1 SKI TRIP TO ASPEN, CO
- 1 FUN IN THE SUN TRIP TO MIAMI, FL



WHO WE ARE

FOUNDERS & DIRECTORS

RABBI URIEL & SHEVY VIGLER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DANIEL S. BERNSTEIN

YOSSI NASSER

MARTIN NUSSBAUM

YAARA BANK-PLOTKIN

PHILIP SILVERMAN

ELIANA TISCH

SHAY ZACH

OUR STAFF

RAZ BUDANI, IL

GIL BENEDEK, IL

RONIT KLAINMAN, USA

ERAN KLIER, IL

IDO OZERI, IL

NOAM SAADI, IL

BENTZI SASSON, USA

SHARON & MIKI SHTRACHMAN, IL

ANNA STEIN, USA

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HONORING THE WOUNDED MEN AND WOMEN OF THE IDF

Belev Echad is a global movement dedicated to ensuring the wounded men and women of the Israeli Defense Forces receive the support they need to live productive and well-adjusted lives. Our programs include legal and medical advocacy, educational scholarships, social and recreational events, mentorships and career placement, empowering each soldier to thrive.