

Hello Hekdesh,

As we kickoff our 2012 grantmaking season, and before nominations kickoff on February 19th, we want to take a few moments to recap the work and achievements of our 2011 grantees.

In 2010, HEKDESH raised and allocated a total of \$14,500. The attached report includes:

- A summary of the mission and key activities for each of our 2011 grantees
- Key activities and accomplishments in 2011
- How our grants were used (*when applicable, as our grants provide unrestricted operating support*)
- Links to articles, videos and other materials where you can engage with and learn more about our grantees.

In addition to providing much-needed services, we are proud to see that our grantees continue to embody many of our collective and individual values. For them, 2011 was a year of increased collaboration, new ventures and calculated risk-taking, and organizational learning.

Enjoy – and, as always, help us improve, and share your thoughts. We're excited to hear from you – please email Naomi Orensten at Orensten@gmail.com.

Kol tov,

The HEKDESH Grantmaking Committee
Rebecca Blouwolff, 2000-01
Maital Friedman, 2009-2010
Sara Hahn, 2009-10
Naomi Orensten, 2005-06, chair
Emily Satterthwaite, 2003-04
Max Socol, spouse of Allison Rose, 2008-2009

AFRICAN REFUGEE DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Total Grant: \$5,510

Percentage of Votes: 38%

About: ARDC assists and empowers refugees and asylum seekers in Israel, working to promote access to basic social services, and to facilitate refugee and asylum seeker integration and self-sufficiency. ARDC advocates for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and for a humane and fair Israeli asylum policy. Programs include individual counseling, humanitarian aid, education, community development, awareness raising and policy initiatives.

How our grant was used: As an unrestricted grant, ARDC writes to us that, “[The Hekdesh grant was] much more valuable than its precise monetary amount. This was simply because it was unearmarked. As you can appreciate, we work in a very unstable environment and the benefit of the flexibility and security that your grant gave us was truly immeasurable. We knew that we could plug "gaps" as they cropped up. As it turned out, our [Asylum Application Assistance Project](#) was the activity most in need of additional financial support.”

Key Activities & Achievements in 2011: In their own words:

- The women's shelter underwent a major renovation to dramatically improve conditions
- We registered over 500 asylum seekers for the Green Card Lottery in the States (and hope that at least a small handful will be lucky)
- We facilitated vocational training courses throughout the year for the first time. Approx 20 graduated from car mechanics, 60 from basic computers and 16 from computer technicians.
- An Eritrean family of four living in our shelter for an extended period of time was resettled to Norway
- Increasingly we are trying to combine direct service with advocacy/legal work to influence state policy with our humanitarian aid work. On November 14, the Committee on Internal Affairs within the Knesset decided to abandon the Prevention of Infiltration Bill. As a result, the bill will not proceed to the second and third reading in the plenum. A similar proposal was [dropped in July 2010](#) as a result of a strong public backlash. However, as feared by refugee human rights organizations, it was quickly replaced by this revised bill. Among other things, it provided for the detention of asylum seekers for up to three years and the prosecution of those in Israel who assist them. It passed its [first reading](#) in March 2011 without debate.

Media:

- <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Op-EdContributors/Article.aspx?id=231110>
- [World Refugee Day Report 2011](#)
- [Report to the UN Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights](#)
- [CNN filmed in our shelter](#) (ARDC not identified as the shelter for security reasons)

Read More at: [Monthly newsletter](#) - recommend [March](#), [July](#) and [September](#)

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN

Total Grant: \$5,365

Percentage of Votes: 37%

העמותה להעצמה כלכלית לנשים
جمعية التمكين الاقتصادي للنساء
Economic Empowerment for Women



About: EEW, a feminist organization committed to assisting all Israeli women from all disadvantaged sectors of society, supplies low income women in Israel with the knowledge and tools to create their own small businesses as a means for gaining self-sufficiency and alleviating the cycle of poverty in which they live. Over the last decade, EEW has served over 3,000 women through business training courses, small business loans and advanced business development services.

Key Activities & Achievements in 2011: In their own words:

- EEW was awarded a public tender by the Prime Minister's Office to provide 29 courses on economic empowerment to women throughout the country. This program began in November and 6 courses are operating across the country. The course is based on EEW's financial literacy curriculum and will contribute to the increased awareness of EEW leading to new regional partnerships for EEW programs and increased pool of potential volunteers and donors to EEW. EEW is excited about the opportunity to share its unique financial literacy program with more women throughout the country.
- EEW ran (is running) 6 year-long Business of One's Own training programs (3 Jewish and 3 Arab) for 118 women. As of yet, 4 groups ended with an 84% graduation rate (69 women).
- EEW provided bi-weekly technical assistance and mentoring 107 women from 6 groups that began in 2010. Of the 107 women, 76 report business activity (71%) among whom 46 (61%) are already registered.
- EEW ran 3 regional business incubators in Acco, Rishon Le'zion and Petach Tikva/Rosh Ha'ayin. There are a total of 112 active businesses in the three business incubators. 98 (88%) of these businesses are already formally registered. Moreover, the monthly income-expense reports of the Business Incubators demonstrate great success in this program with 70% of the women reporting a growth in business profits.
- EEW provided 4 Savings for the Future programs for 40 Jewish and Arab women among whom 25 are saving for business development and will be eligible for a matched savings grant from EEW after proof of one year of savings.
- In cooperation with a sister organization, Supportive Community, EEW offered a program designed to offer consultation regarding retirement planning for women.
- EEW provided business development services to over 350 women including: lectures and seminars on business and financial management and social networking; two Marathon Business and Empowerment Weekends; regional business forums and small group business coaching; one-on-one business coaching.

Media & Additional Information

- EEW's [2010 Evaluation Report](#): (PPT in English; full report available in Hebrew)
- Video about their work (Hebrew): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aR6DsxF5piA>

BEMA'AGLEI TZEDEK



Total Grant: \$3,625

Percentage of Votes: 25%

About: Bema'aglei Tzedek (“Circles of Justice,” or BMT) works to empower the next generation of young Israelis to become powerful agents of social change and a more just Israeli society that is informed and inspired by Jewish values. Activities include: ongoing educational programs integrating Jewish text study, social activism, and current Israeli socioeconomic issues; The Tav Chevra, a certificate granted to restaurants that treat their workers ethically; and a project empowering high school students to advocate on behalf of non-union custodial workers working in their schools. (25% of the votes)

How our grant was used:

BMT reported that the beyond the dollar value of the HEKDESH grant, it was important for them as funders increasingly inquire about new and diverse sources of support. BMT reports that this was a strong leveraging tool for them

Key Activities & Achievements in 2011: In their own words:

- **Key Accomplishments**
 - We've found that even as we reach out to create more organizational and international partnerships, it has been practical for us in the past year to reexamine our scope, and concentrate on focusing our activities to one city. To that end, we have begun a campaign focused on cultivating Jerusalem as an "Ir Tzedek" a Just City that can be a model for the region.
 - Approximately 200 contract workers, mostly Ethiopians and Palestinians, participated in “My Rights” lectures informing them of their rights.
- **Activities:**
 - Implemented 80+ tours and lectures during the year reaching 40,000+
 - 3 affiliated youth groups planned and executed 5 social justice projects.
 - Over 2000 contract workers received our pocket cards specifying their rights in Hebrew, Russian, Amharic and Arabic.
 - BMT held five demonstrations against various institutions to improve employment conditions, and helped to organize general demonstrations during the summer's social protest movement.
 - BMT held tens of meetings with governmental and municipal representatives on improving employment conditions.
- **Operations: (Staffing, volunteers, partnerships)**
 - The Tav Chevra has launched as a social franchise in Haifa, in cooperation with the National Student Union.
 - Became a founding partner in SIACH: An Environmental and Social Justice Conversation, a worldwide network of Jewish activism.
 - New other organizational partnerships have included: Teva Ivri (Hebrew Nature) and Kulanana (the co-producers of the video below).
 - Approximately 40 active members volunteered for BMT throughout the year.
 - Two contract workers joined Bema'aglei Tzedek's team of volunteers.
- **Media: 5 feature stories ran in Israel media on BMT's activities.**

- **BMT is most proud to report that** *over 4 million NIS were retroactively returned to contract workers employed by the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv municipalities.*

Media: While most materials are available in Hebrew only, this video - [A Walk in Jerusalem: Social Borders in the Holy City](#) - features a tour led by *Bema'aglei Tzedek* seeking to find a genuine common ground in Jerusalem that can provide a more objective society, founded on diversity, egalitarianism, and civic partnership. Again, much more available in Hebrew.