

## Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality & Shared Society

An Initiative of The Jewish  
Federations of North America to  
Build a Shared Future for Israel's  
Jewish and Arab Citizens

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### The Challenge

The Jewish Federations of North America is committed to a secure and just Israel. However, the inequalities between Arabs and Jews in Israel are staggering, with Arab Israelis experiencing significantly higher rates of poverty and unemployment than their Jewish neighbors. In the face of longstanding inequality, many Israeli Arabs have lost faith in the ability and willingness of the government to address their needs, and even in the possibility of coexistence.

Recent research has shown that there is great potential in the Arab sector that is waiting to be tapped and given the opportunity to thrive. The potential benefits of a more effective economic integration of the Arab community are immense and will one day ultimately lead to a secure and just society in Israel.

This is a time of great urgency and opportunity for the future of Jewish-Arab relations in Israel, and the North American Jewish community can play a critical role in addressing the challenges that lay ahead.

### The Response

The Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society seeks to strengthen and coordinate the Jewish community's efforts to address the unmet needs of Israel's Arab, Bedouin and Druze citizens.

The Fund brings together Jewish and independent private foundations, Federation supporting foundations and donor-advised funds, and individual philanthropists to make strategic financial investments in non-profit groups in Israel that focus on social change, and promote equality and coexistence.

JFNA launched the Fund in December 2007 by providing a grant from its own endowment fund. Twenty-one members joined the fund in its first year, 16 in its second, and 18 in its third, each contributing \$50,000. Over the past three years, the Fund has raised and distributed over \$2.6 million to select projects.

Capitalizing on its demonstrated track record as the convener of the North American Jewish community, JFNA has created this initiative as the first in a series of innovative Social Venture Funds. The purpose of these Funds is to strengthen relationships with foundations and philanthropists and to encourage supple-

mental giving to address critical issues of concern to the Jewish people. This Fund works to complement activities of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues, and addresses the June 2006 World Zionist Congress landmark resolution, obligating the Jewish Agency to include Israel's Arab communities in its development plans for the country.

**The Mission** of the Venture Fund is to leverage the collective resources of members and stakeholders by funding strategic initiatives in Israel that will:

- Build mutual respect and understanding between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel;
- Increase opportunities for Israel's Arab citizens to share equally in the social, educational, and economic life of the country; and
- Promote structural and institutional reforms that support the vision of Israel as a shared society that benefits all of its citizens.

**The Fund's Vision:** We are committed to a State of Israel which is based on the values of freedom, justice and peace, which guarantees social and political equality to all, and in which the benefits of economic development are shared by all inhabitants of the country – all as envisioned in the Declaration of Establishment of the State of Israel. We see an Israel which provides equal opportunities and fair access to public resources and in which every individual is part of an inclusive society with a positive shared future.

**Guiding Principles:** To realize its Vision and accomplish its Mission, the Fund will seek to benefit from collective action, seek strategic impact, be open to new ideas and taking risks, insist of accountability and measurement, and capitalize on JFNA's position as the major philanthropic arm of the American Jewish Community.

The Fund identified Education and Economic Development and Opportunity as its two primary areas of focus with an emphasis on women's empowerment. Since its inception in 2008, a total of 19 projects have received funding in the areas of education, economic development and capacity building totaling over \$2.6 million. The Fund also convenes its grantees to facilitate information sharing, capitalize on opportunities and address cross-cutting issues.

In addition to being a member of the Fund, JFNA serves as administrative partner, providing key staff to service Fund operations, convene Fund member meetings, facilitate the transfer of funding, and oversee implementation.

The Jewish Federations of North America looks forward to seeing this fund continue to grow and thrive in the coming years. The Fund exists based on the commitments of its current members and the interest of new members. Building on the success of its first three years, JFNA welcomes new members to join and support this groundbreaking initiative as it embarks on its fourth funding cycle.

Contributions in the amounts of \$50,000 and \$25,000 may be made to become a funder. \$25,000 donors are limited to voting on one area of activity. A contract is provided to each donor who would like to take part and can be reviewed by calling (206)760-0430 or writing to [gail.zucker@JewishFederations.org](mailto:gail.zucker@JewishFederations.org). Smaller donations are also wel-



come from persons who do not wish to participate in fund operations.

## 2010 Grantees

### Education

- Alnuhd: The Association for the Promotion of Bedouin Women's Education in the Negev - The Pre-Academic Project - \$50,000
- Merkaz Ma'ase (with the Rashi Foundation serving as fiscal agent) – Volunteer Year for Israeli Arab Youth aged 18-21 in the Israeli Arab Periphery - \$105,000
- Joint Distribution Committee – Israel and the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties – Promoting Professional Leadership Development in the Early Childhood Field - \$45,500
- MERCHAVIM: The Institute for the Advancement of Shared Citizenship in Israel – The Integration of Arab-Israeli Teachers in the Jewish-Israeli School System - \$31,000
- Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED) – The Arab-Jewish Community Volunteer Year Program - \$50,000
- Rashi Foundation – Tafnit for Matriculation in High School – “Last Hurdle” Project - \$50,000
- Sami Shamoon College of Engineering – Creation of a JFNA Scholarship Fund for its “100 Bedouin Engineers” Program \$30,000
- Step Forward for the Promotion of Education in Rahat - Community Creating Change for Youth in Rahat - \$30,000



### Economic Development & Opportunity

- The Abraham Fund Initiatives/Joint Distribution Committee – Women at Work “Sharikat Haya – Life Partners” - \$60,000
- The Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development (CJAED)/ The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) – Staffing and marketing support for the Jewish-Arab Employment Zones Loan Fund - \$40,000
- JDC-Tevet – One Stop Employment Centers for Arab Citizens of Israel - \$100,000 (allocated in 2009)
- Kav Mashve: Employers Coalition for Equality for Arab University Graduates – Career Training Center and Media Strategy Plan - \$100,000
- Koret Israel Economic Development Funds (KIEDF) – SAWA Microfinance Loan Fund for Bedouin Women - \$75,000
- Tsofen: High Technology Centers – Establish R&D Center in Nazareth and provide High Tech Training and Job Placement - \$70,000
- Wadi Attir (with NISPED serving as fiscal agent) – Sustainable Development of Bedouin Community - \$25,000

### Capacity Building & Planning

- InterAgency Task Force on Israeli-Arab Issues - \$10,000
- Shatil – Capacity Building support for select grantees - \$33,830 (allocated in 2009)