



WELCOME TO BEIT RUTH FOR YOUNG WOMEN & GIRLS AT-RISK

**A Place of Hope, Possibility,
and Empowerment**



HER LIFE WAS SAVED,
NOW SHE SAVES LIVES

“

My entry into the world was to a drug addicted and abusive father and a young mother who divorced him. I felt like a leaf torn from a tree, disconnected from everything and without any roots. I left home and lived on the street. I abused drugs and was being abused. I was homeless with no family to care for me. After being placed in a homeless shelter and then an institution, my social worker brought me to Beit Ruth. I was 14 years old. The first thing I noticed was the smell. It was like what home should smell like. It looked and felt like Shabbat at my grandma's house.

I was cared for by women who wanted to see me succeed, heal, learn, and grow, and who saw my potential. And more importantly, they wanted me to see it too. For the first time, I felt empowered and saw a future for myself that I could be proud of.

Beit Ruth gave me the desire to give back to the world. Today, I am an Emergency Room Nurse at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, a wife, and the proud mother of three young girls.

My life completely changed because of Beit Ruth. What I am most thankful for is breaking the cycle of generational abuse so *my three daughters will never have to know a life of fear, a life of harm, a life on the streets, and a life that is not worth living.* Instead, **they will know love.**

RAZ, MOTHER, WIFE, NURSE,
AND BEIT RUTH ALUMNA

”



A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

When the Beit Ruth Educational & Therapeutic Village opened its doors in 2013, we couldn't have imagined how transformative our programs and care would be for Israel's most vulnerable girls, how far we would come, how much we would achieve, and how far our impact would reach.

Beit Ruth was founded as a response to the unmet needs of the

more than 30,000 girls in Israel who are at-risk, abused, and forgotten.

Based on the belief that every young girl should have the opportunity to reach her potential, we built a youth Village – from the ground up – that would provide the nurturing care, family-like support, and a quality education. Here, we provide innovative programs and put pioneering therapies into action. And today, *our holistic framework serves as a model program for professionals and policymakers* who seek to learn about effective strategies to heal girls and young women who have been abused.

Each and every day, Beit Ruth works toward our mission to break the cycle of generational violence against girls and young women. **Supported by our fiercely committed team of educators, social workers, counselors, and teachers**, we are inspired as we witness what happens when our girls are treated with dignity and given a chance – they move beyond fear, mistrust, and trauma, toward empowerment and hope. The story of Beit Ruth is one of community, resilience, healing, and possibilities. **Because of you, our supporters**, hundreds of Israel's most vulnerable girls come to Beit Ruth and are given the care, resources, and education needed to become part of the fabric and strength of the nation. **Thank you.**

Today, we are seeing the ripple effects. Girls who have been lucky enough to call Beit Ruth their home have become part of our ever-growing family, have gone on to become positive influences everywhere they go, and are breaking the cycle of violence for future generations.

Our milestones and accomplishments remind us of how far we have come, together – and it fuels our resolve to do even more. As part of our Beit Ruth family of donors and partners who make our work possible, your generous financial support, your visits to the Village, your engagement, and more, have allowed us to save and change lives.

Thank you for believing that love, education, and safety are every child's birthright, and for joining us on this life-changing journey.

Susan Ashner
Founder & Board Chair

Danielle Burenstein
Executive Director

Iris Twerski
Managing Director, Israel

FROM LOST TRUST TO HOPE FOUND — REBUILDING YOUNG GIRLS' FAITH IN THE WORLD

The Beit Ruth Educational & Therapeutic Village is a safe and nurturing haven for girls ages 13 to 18 who have been removed from their homes by court order by Israel's Ministry of Welfare due to severe neglect, or physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. **Here, they find a safe, structured, and loving home environment, and the academic and therapeutic resources they need to build a better future.** They emerge with the necessary life, educational, and social and emotional skills needed to live fulfilling lives and to become empowered, responsible, and engaged members of society.

Beit Ruth: Pioneers in Healing Girls At-Risk

The Beit Ruth model was specifically designed to address the needs of young women and girls who are vulnerable, abused, and neglected. **Our holistic framework of FOUR INTERCONNECTED PILLARS are a model for rehabilitative care** that is provided by our all-female staff of professionals who are specially trained in treating complex post-trauma. Because each girl has her own story, an individualized plan is created to meet every girl's therapeutic and academic needs, and social and emotional capabilities. It is this combination of innovative, unique, and nurturing programming that defines Beit Ruth.

"You are the first family I have ever had. I'm so glad I'm no longer in the streets on holiday nights." LEA, 14 YEARS OLD

In 2020, Beit Ruth welcomed its 4th cohort of Shinshinyot (young Israelis who defer IDF service) who live in the Village for 1 year. They are Big Sisters to our girls and provide academic, program, and home-life support.

An independent study of Beit Ruth alumnae conducted in 2019 by Dr. Gila Amitai, Max Stern Yezreel Valley Academic College in Israel, found, "Beit Ruth prepares girls for the future, empowering them to be independent, excel academically, to be leaders, and to be part of the social change that contributes to ending the cycle of generational abuse."

HOME LIFE



With a foundation of family-like support and stability – often for the first time – girls experience a sense of safety and inclusion. Each house is a home to 15 girls and is staffed by a loving team of house managers, social workers, and counselors. Our experts ensure that our girls' physical and emotional needs are met and that they never feel abandoned again. They also shape their character by instilling important life values. Girls cook together, share meals, and spend time with each other, allowing them to forge strong bonds that can last a lifetime.

"A new chapter in my life begins. I'm ready for it, with thanks to Beit Ruth. You were a home for me. Thank you for what and who you are for me! I love and appreciate you endlessly"

ORA, BEIT RUTH ALUMNA



Educators, teachers, counselors, social workers, and house staff on call

24/7, 365 days a year

Length of stay:

a FEW MONTHS to 6 YEARS

180 medical/dental visits provided in 2020

68,640 nutritious meals/Shabbat dinners each year

Our girls represent Israel's rich cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity, and learn about and celebrate multicultural holidays together.

EDUCATION

2

Beit Ruth High School named **#1 OUTSTANDING SCHOOL** in 2020 by Israel's Ministry of Welfare

95% of girls who live at Beit Ruth until the age of 18 earn a high school diploma

8:1 student-to-teacher ratio
1:1 tutoring

Girls who endured neglect and abuse are unable to focus in school – 90% come to us with significant gaps in their education. Thanks to our team of educators, they achieve grade level within 6 months. Girls cultivate learning habits, as well as creative and critical thinking and problem-solving skills that influence their future. *At Beit Ruth, every girl benefits from individualized attention and a demanding curriculum.* This focused approach restores a love of learning, and the determination and confidence to succeed. Our girls score above the national average on Israel's matriculation exams!



“My greatest accomplishment at Beit Ruth is that I left here with 12 years of education.”

ADI, BEIT RUTH ALUMNA



Thank you, Tufts University!

We're proud to announce our International Fellowship Program with the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University. Thank you Fellows Elena Chavez and Aviva Michaeli!

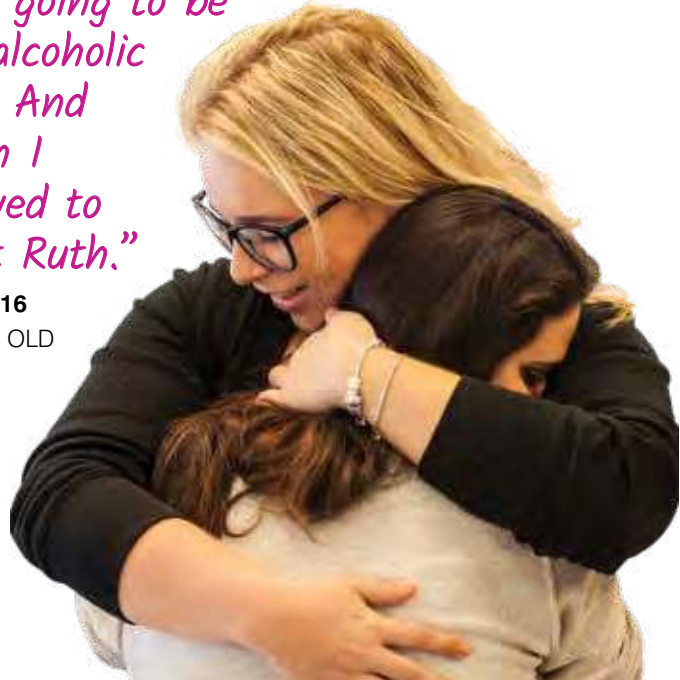
THERAPY

3

Girls arrive to Beit Ruth with traumas associated with severe abuse. Each girl receives an individualized therapy plan based on her emotional needs and works with an onsite clinical social worker specially trained in complex post-trauma. During therapy, our girls build psychological and emotional resilience to overcome trauma while restoring their strength, self-esteem, and confidence. This process empowers each girl with the emotional resources needed to work through the obstacles that once limited her potential.

“I thought I deserved it. Maybe if I was good, my parents wouldn't have been alcoholics. I thought I was going to be an alcoholic too. And then I arrived to Beit Ruth.”

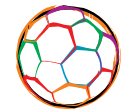
LEAH, 16 YEARS OLD



ENRICHMENT

4

Arriving at Beit Ruth with no trust or self-esteem, programs like Art Therapy, Music Therapy, Sports (i.e., dance, volleyball), Animal-Assisted Therapy, *Acharai* (an IDF preparatory course), and many more, equip girls with practical skills, including communications, leadership, and teamwork, as well as resources to become healthy, resilient, and confident. Educational Field Trips to Jerusalem, Masada, the Dead Sea, and elsewhere, teach our girls about Israel's history and allow them to feel a connection to their country. They begin to understand their place in the world.



“It takes a lot of patience to work with horses because they don't always do what I ask them to do. Before, I always gave up when the horse didn't listen, but my teacher encouraged me. Today, I never give up!”

BELLA, 17 YEARS OLD



A few days before Israel was ordered to shelter-in-place because of COVID-19, Beit Ruth staff took action to ensure that girls enjoyed a great day outdoors. With special permission from the police, they packed up and headed to Mount Hermon in Northern Israel. For many girls, it was their first time seeing snow and they loved building snowmen and creating snow angels. They also learned about the historical significance of the region.



Our girls are encouraged to develop a love of science by exploring Israel's National Museum of Science, Technology, and Space in Haifa.



SUCCESS STORIES — YOU HELP OUR GIRLS WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER



Sara: From a life on the streets to a loving caregiver

Sara came to Israel from Russia with her mother at the age of 9. Neglected and left virtually alone, Sara descended into a life in the streets. She was found in a police station after a violent assault by a criminal gang. When she arrived at Beit Ruth, Sara was suffering from deep trauma. She was completely withdrawn, distancing herself from the staff and the other girls. After two years at Beit Ruth, she began to excel at school, and exude positivity and confidence. Today, she is giving back by working as a caregiver for the elderly. She is also a loving mother to her young daughter.

Dina: From flashbacks of abuse to attending university

After five placements – the last one a lockdown facility – Dina was 15 when she arrived at Beit Ruth. With a history of running away, Beit Ruth staff made an agreement with Dina that, no matter what, she would not run away; instead, she would talk with her social worker. For the first time, Dina felt people were telling her the truth and she honored her agreement. A good student, Dina suffered from test anxiety.

When she revealed that during exams, she would experience flashbacks of physical abuse by her father when she did not meet his expectations, staff worked with her to ease her anxiety. Today, Dina manages a large clothing store in Tel Aviv and is studying toward her matriculation exams in order to attend university.



“
At Beit Ruth,
our mission is a
continuous journey
of what is possible
when a young girl is
just given a chance.
”

DANIELLE BURENSTEIN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

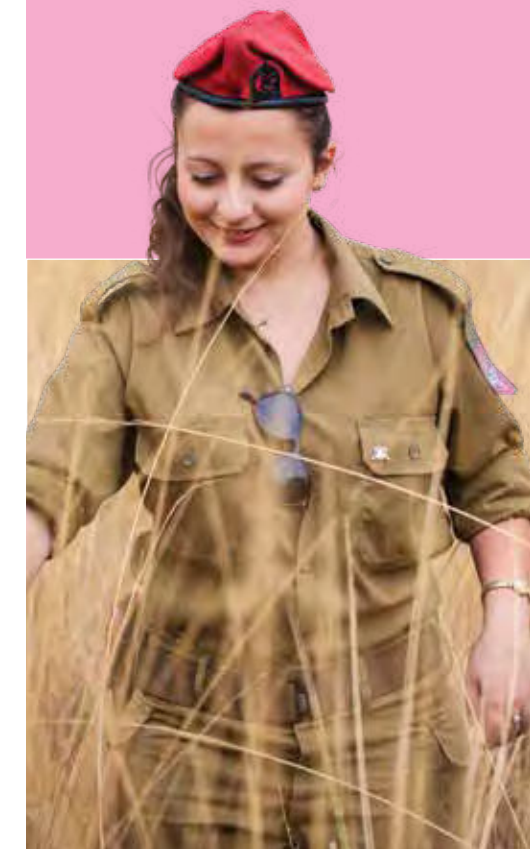
“Somehow you believed in me. You saw something no one else could see and gave me the chance to make something of myself.”

SARA, BEIT RUTH ALUMNA



Rachel: From hopelessness to IDF combat soldier

The child of alcoholic parents, Rachel was raised by her grandmother, who locked her in the house in an attempt to protect her. Rachel and her sister ran away from home and after attempting to commit suicide, Rachel was hospitalized. The doctors said that she reacted normally to an abnormal situation. When Rachel first arrived at Beit Ruth, we understood why she was suspicious and untrusting of everyone. After a few months, and for the first time, we began to see Rachel smile, engage, and go on to become an excellent student and a leader. We celebrated when she successfully completed her high school matriculation exams and joined the IDF. She is now serving in a highly responsible position in a combat unit in the Israeli army, where her commanders give her high praise.



The past
doesn't determine
my future.

CRITICAL CARE DURING COVID-19

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There is a strong and trusting working relationship between us. The Ministry is impressed by Beit Ruth's professionalism and expertise. Staff are representative of the work and care done in the Village. This is unique and is appreciated by the girls.

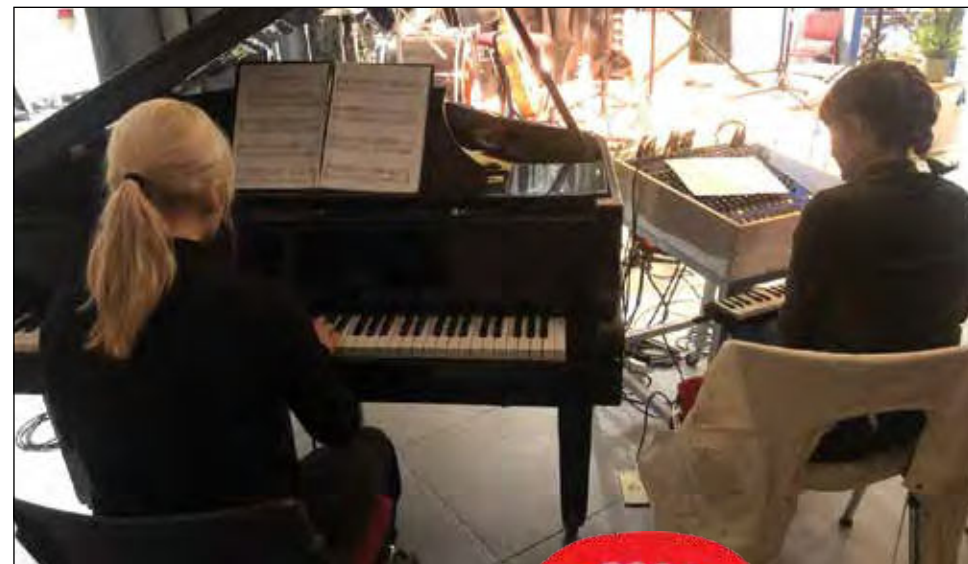
LEAH COHEN, DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS, ISRAEL'S MINISTRY OF WELFARE

”

The global pandemic could have had greater debilitating effects on our girls who already suffer from trauma and heightened anxiety; however, the stabilizing programs Beit Ruth provides every day went into overdrive, helping them to feel safe and calm. **In fact, the Israeli government recognized Beit Ruth's expertise, designating us as an "essential" organization that allowed us to stay fully open and operational!** Beit Ruth's academic programming operated in learning "pods" while most schools in Israel were forced to close.

During unprecedented times, with help from partners and friends, Beit Ruth was able to:

-  Provide food and resources to Alumnae who suddenly found themselves unemployed
-  Send care packages to relatives of our girls who were experiencing food insecurity
-  Celebrate Passover with the largest (we think!) seder in Israel
-  Keep our community connected through virtual programming



Our girls created and performed in a moving music video of "You Will Be Found" from the Broadway hit, "Dear Evan Hansen." With the help of Beit Ruth's Music Teacher, they were so excited to share this uplifting message of thanks with you – our donors, partners and friends from around the world. Watch it at

<https://vimeo.com/412859210>



Silly fun during lockdown!



"Three Butterflies," one of the many compelling projects created and produced by our girls, was a dynamic short film based on an Israeli poem that tells the story of friendship among three butterflies who refuse to abandon each other during a rainstorm. Thank you to our incredible Beit Ruth community for making sure our girls know they will never be abandoned again!



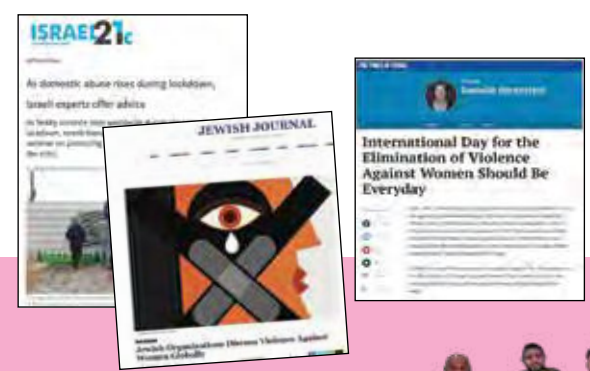
BEYOND DIRECT INTERVENTION: LOCAL AND GLOBAL CHANGE

Beit Ruth understands that real social and policy reform happens when we work with and through other organizations and change-makers to create more impact than we could ever achieve alone. Working with many different partner organizations, government bodies, and key influencers, we can affect greater systemic change – beyond the Village – at the community, state, and international level.

The United Nations reports that worldwide, **1 IN 4 GIRLS AGED 15–19** have experienced physical and/or sexual violence.

“Because of Beit Ruth, a first-of-its-kind Knesset subcommittee has been created so we can understand what needs to be changed to prevent more suffering for young girls.”

KETI SHITRIT, KNESSET MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN AT-RISK



In 2020 alone, Beit Ruth was featured in Israel21C, Times of Israel, and the Los Angeles Jewish Journal.



Through our **Advocacy & Outreach Initiative**, Beit Ruth leverages our hands-on expertise to educate multiple stakeholders. At our **Center of Knowledge**, housed within our onsite High School, we host dozens of seminars and workshops each year, and share our best practices.

Nearly **10,000** law enforcement officers, judges, lawyers, mediators, mental health professionals, and social workers can now intervene earlier and more effectively because Beit Ruth taught them how to **recognize signs of abuse in young girls**

Educated **450** women leaders from all over the world – Ethiopia to Rwanda, Kenya to Russia, India to Myanmar, Honduras to Haiti – at “**Girls & Women At Risk of Violence: The Global Challenge and Israel’s Experience**,” a virtual conference led by Beit Ruth in partnership with Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MASHAV Carmel Training Center

Keynoted the **1ST** global “**Violence Prevention Education Conference**” in Jerusalem

HUNDREDS of policymakers, educators, and IDF leaders have learned from Beit Ruth how to **address violence against women and girls**

BEIT RUTH ALUMNAE PROGRAM: A FOREVER FAMILY

We are proud to see 265+ alumnae transition to young adulthood, completing *National Service*, working, going on to *higher education*, serving in the *IDF*, and becoming part of the *strength and fabric of their communities and country*. Although they leave the Village to begin the next chapter in their lives, **we are part of them and they are part of us**. Through our Alumnae Program, we stay connected, providing mentoring, financial assistance, employment resources, help to navigate government systems, and other critical support. Our alumnae also stay connected to one another.

“Our work is dedicated to helping each young girl reach her full potential – through healing, care, education – and in so doing, empowering them to build fulfilling and purposeful lives.”

MOR BEN SIMCHON LIPIN, BEIT RUTH VILLAGE MANAGER

“I came to Beit Ruth full of fears and I left so empowered. I have the support of more than 40 staff and all it takes is one phone call, no matter where they are. It’s like, Did something happen? We’re here... no matter how many years go by.” ESTHER, BEIT RUTH ALUMNA

“When I finished high school, I joined the army, and now I want to be a lawyer. I couldn’t have dreamt about it without the people of Beit Ruth...” RACHEL, BEIT RUTH ALUMNA



GROWING OUR IMPACT, WITH YOUR HELP

These past years have been extraordinary. It is nothing short of inspiring to see what we, and our girls, have accomplished thanks to the generosity of our donors and partners, but our work is not done. From 2019 to 2020, Israel saw a 24 percent increase in children and teenagers treated by authorities after being sexually abused, according to Welfare Ministry figures. This is why we *must continue to strengthen and expand our programs and services while growing our impact and our reach in Israel and around the world.* All of this is guided by our commitment to fulfill our mission to end generational violence.

With your help, the Village will expand, along with our capacity to provide compassionate care to even

more girls who need us. We will grow our impact within and outside of Israel; provide our girls with even more skill-building opportunities to help them prepare for a healthy and productive future; and maintain our academic standards that have led to achievements and a sense of accomplishment our girls never imagined.

And that's who this is all for – the many girls who call Beit Ruth home and the many more who will. We are so grateful to our staff, and so proud of our girls for their tenacity, their courage, and their strength to overcome childhood trauma and to persevere each and every day. **Together with you, they inspire us.**

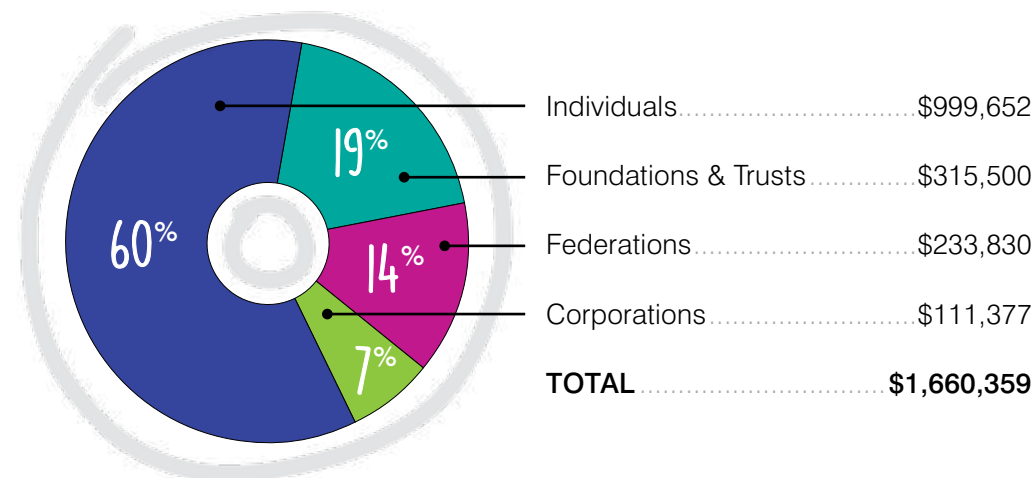
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For more information about Beit Ruth, email us at info@beitruth.com



FINANCIALS 2020

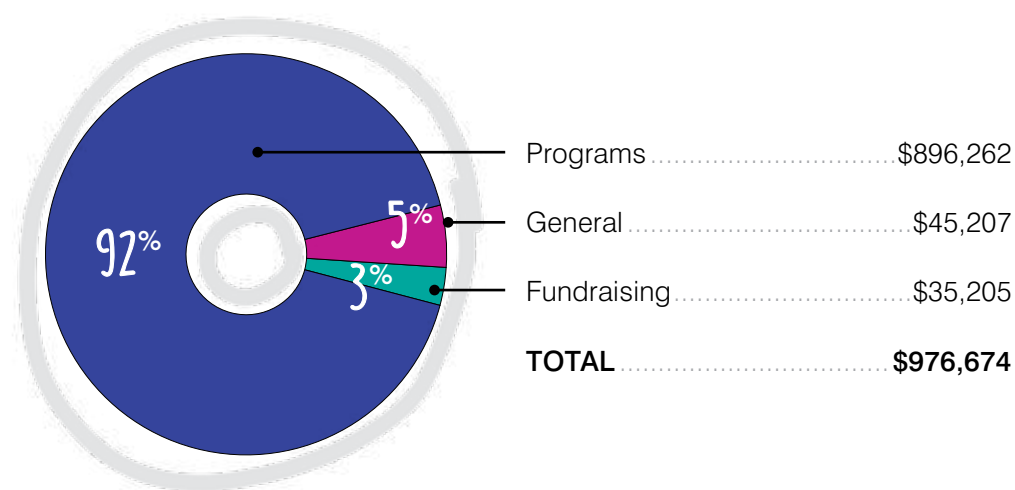
Your contributions go far in making our current and future programming possible. Thank you for your invaluable support and for joining us in making a difference for the young women and girls who need us most.

Where the money comes from



Where the money goes to

92% of monies raised go towards Beit Ruth programs!



Beit Ruth is a not-for-profit tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Beit Ruth is privileged to have a staff of 46 in Israel, all of whom contribute meaningfully to the success of our girls.

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Village Manager

TODAH RABAH – THANK YOU!

We are so grateful for the generous support of our community and for your unwavering commitment to Israel's vulnerable and at-risk girls.

\$1,000,000+

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Various Israeli Municipalities, and School, Business, and Community Leaders
WIZO

B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM

We partner with UJA, synagogues, families, and others on meaningful experiences that connect youth's interests to our mission and that help to build a culture of philanthropy.

Our gratitude also extends to the more than **2,000 VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS** – groups, mission trips, schools and universities, and individuals – from around the globe who have spent meaningful time in the Village. From **English tutoring and reading**, to **planting flowers and creating art**, to **cooking** together and joining our girls on **field trips**, thank you for bringing your skills, heart, and passions to our girls and staff, and for serving as ambassadors for Beit Ruth.

BEIT RUTH TIMELINE

2003



Susan & Michael Ashner attend ceremony at boys' youth village in Israel. Realizing lack of services for girls at-risk, an idea is born and a commitment cemented

2003-2005

Susan meets with Knesset members, non-profit leaders, women's shelters – even Prime Minister Ariel Sharon – to learn landscape for girls at-risk

2006

Iris Twerski and Ronit Lev-Ari join Beit Ruth; begin recruiting expert staff

RONIT: Pioneer, expert in the field of domestic violence, worked under 2 Prime Ministers
IRIS: Beit Ruth Israel, Managing Director

Pilot Program begins in cooperation with Jaffa Institute; safe house opens for girls at-risk to live and receive full-time care

2007-2009

With a growing waiting list, Susan & Michael move forward on their commitment to build a youth village for at-risk girls

2009

WIZO dedicates 4 acres of land to Beit Ruth. **Thank you!!**

2010

Israeli government becomes funder of Beit Ruth



2011

Groundbreaking/construction of Village begins

2013

"Beit Ruth for Young Women and Girls At-Risk" officially launches
Village opens with 2 Residential Houses and a makeshift school

Naming ceremony for "Harry and Carolyn Black/Isabelle and Ivor Seddon House"

2015

3rd House opens; 45 girls call Beit Ruth home



2016

Executive Director hired: **Welcome Danielle Burenstein to Beit Ruth's NY office**

Beit Ruth invited to meet First Lady Nechama Rivlin (z"l) at President of Israel's official residence



2017

Advocacy & Outreach Initiative launched

Visitor & Volunteer House opens

Welcomed 1st Cohort of *Shinshinyot* (live-in volunteers)
Dedication for "The Phyllis and William Mack House"



2018

Onsite High School built and opened! **Houses the "Center of Knowledge"**

2019

Our Bat Mitzvah year!

Alumnae Program launches

Special Passover celebration!
Thank you Khalily and Damaghi families, and the Iranian American Jewish Federation and friends



Naming ceremony for "The Tiffany Khalily House"

Tufts University Fellowship Program created



"The Gladys and Irving Coopersmith Atrium" dedication

2020

ESSENTIAL

COVID-19; Israeli government designates Beit Ruth as "essential" organization; Village remains opened

Preparations begin for the design/construction of 4th and 5th Houses which will provide full-time care, support, and education to nearly 90 girls a year!

"Michael A. Nachman School Wing" dedication

Together, we will continue to build; strengthen and grow our programs; and expand our reach and impact





Come visit or volunteer and see the work you help to make happen!

Visit WWW.BEITRUTH.COM/VOLUNTEER

or contact info@beitruth.com



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“Somehow you believed in me. You saw something no one else could see and gave me the chance to make something of myself.”

SARA, 17 YEARS OLD

TheBeitRuthVillage

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