

With God's Help
Sunday, 8th of Nisan, 5785
(Corresponding to April 6, 2025)

To Whom It May Concern,

Urgent Call for Support for the “Tzedakah & Chesed – Safed” Association

Protecting a Lifesaving Educational Framework for At-Risk Children

Dear Sir/Madam,

The *Tzedakah & Chesed* Association has been operating for many years in the city of Safed and serves as a **vital anchor** for children and youth from extremely difficult socio-economic backgrounds who face ongoing risk.

Its dedicated and comprehensive work offers a **rare and irreplaceable response** — one that is unavailable in any other local or regional framework.

These are children who come from backgrounds of neglect, extreme poverty, family instability, and in some cases, abuse.

Many of them have experienced trauma with deep emotional impact and **adaptation challenges** that prevent them from integrating into standard educational settings.

Tzedakah & Chesed is **the only institution** that offers them a true home — in every sense of the word.

It is a place where they receive warmth, love, hot meals, professional support, academic assistance, and therapeutic guidance.

For these children, the association is an emotional, educational, and social anchor that often **saves lives in the most literal sense**.

Unfortunately, due to a **severe financial crisis**, the association's operations have been critically impacted.

As a result, **many children have been left without any framework**:

- Some remain at home for days at a time, often without adult supervision, stimulation, emotional support, or proper nutrition.
- Others have been forced into substitute institutions that do not meet their complex needs — sometimes even worsening their emotional and educational gaps.
- A significant number have **fallen through the cracks entirely**, leading to rapid deterioration: full dropout from education, street wandering, addiction, and high-risk behaviors.

The consequences of this crisis are not limited to individual lives — they affect **the entire social fabric** of Safed.

This is a **public emergency**, demanding an immediate response from all public, institutional, and private entities capable of providing assistance.

We therefore turn to you with an **urgent plea**:

Please join this effort to protect these children, support this unique institution, and help ensure a better future — not only for the children themselves, but for the entire city.

Every contribution, every form of support, will allow the continuation of this sacred mission and bring these children back to a **safe, supportive, and transformative framework**.

With blessings and appreciation,

Nachman Gelbach

Deputy Mayor of Safed

Head of Ultra-Orthodox Education, Projects & Community Centers