

# ONGOING UPDATES from the Rimon Farms, Therapy-Centers in the Desert

(sorted chronologically - newest at the top)

#### Dear friends of Israel,

we are happy to update you on the projects we are supporting <u>as ARC to Israel</u>. In April we visited the Rimon farms and were deeply impressed by their valuable work – please <u>read about experience here</u>. Now we want to give you an insight into what your donations make possible. And share some news from Nir, the CEO.



## **AUGUST 2025**

This time, it is about a very personal and moving story. Let me introduce you to S. (the man I already wrote in the article: "Oasis of Life"). On October 7<sup>th</sup>, he fought in Nir Oz to keep the door of the shelter closed to protect his wife and children. S. lost so many friends and loved ones - it's truly unimaginable.



**BUT NOW** he completed a powerful six-month rehabilitation journey at Lahav farm, where he came three times a week and joined a group through the Ministry of Defense Rehabilitation Department. Today, S. works at the bakery at Rimon farm, volunteers with the cattle herd in Or HaNer, and is soon to help establish a new farm in Re'im.

S. is a role model - someone who refuses to give up. He's choosing to smile again, to laugh, and to hold on to hope. This week, he received a certificate of appreciation for everything he's accomplished and for

helping us build these farms.

S. will be joining the upcoming visit to the U.S. and Canada this October - to meet partners, say thank you, and give a big hug.

### **JULY 2025**

Two weeks after the end of Operation "Am KeLavi" (the 12 day war with Iran), we are striving to return to routine.

The daily loss of our sons in Gaza breaks our hearts and deeply affects the healing process of our participants. Each fallen soldier is a painful reminder of how meaningful and critical our mission is during this time.

We are making great efforts to provide appropriate responses to everyone, and to return to routine during this complex time. Thousands of people are in need of support, and we are here for them and only for them. We will continue to develop unique solutions to support everyone in need.

We continue to work with the processing groups, and we maintained continuous contact with people throughout the fighting period.

# **Lahav Farm (1st Post Trauma Therapy Center in the Negev)**

- ❖ We will host one of the IDF's elite and largest units for processing groups.
- A new cycle of the "Shavim" program has begun. A group of reservists returning from service, engaging in group dialogue, agricultural work, yoga, and ice baths.
- A new Mothers and Daughters group from the Gaza Envelope and families of longterm reservists, processing the war period together.
- Yahalom unit teams have started arriving for a combat trauma processing program.

  A unique process that will accompany the entire unit in the coming months.
- A new Women's Thursday Space was launched. An open group for partners of reservists and career soldiers, with body-mind work and healing agriculture.
- ❖ In collaboration with "Ima Leviah", we launched a two-day pilot for mothers whose sons were injured in the war. Deeply meaningful days of conversation, creativity, and mutual support.



# **Shekef Farm (2<sup>nd</sup> Post Trauma Therapy Center in the Negev)**

- We will start a program for secondary trauma treatment, in collaboration with the National Insurance funds.
- We hosted volunteer groups and youth, accompanied a Yahalom team through a processing journey
- ❖ We launched the "Roots of Growth" youth program.
- ❖ In the fields: corn, melons, and eggplants are ripening beautifully and almost ready for harvest.



# Or HaNer and Tel Gama Farms (Re'im) – Rebuilding the destroyed communities in the Western Negev

- Our herd continues to grow, and the connection with the surrounding community is growing stronger.
- \* We completed fencing the pasturelands, fully vaccinated the herd, and continue steady and dedicated work on infrastructure development.
- ❖ We have completed the team recruitment, and soon a talented and experienced manager named Galit will join us to establish the two farms in the Western Negev, together with a skilled and experienced team.



#### **JUNE 2025**

## **Lahav Farm (1st Post Trauma Therapy Center in the Negev)**

- Recently, we hosted a group of reservist women for an overnight stay, and for the first time, we opened a trauma processing group for individual reservists not as a team.
- ❖ We also welcomed a group of commanders from the Marom Brigade for a three-day processing retreat.
- ★ With growing demand, we've expanded: a new therapy zone, a shaded welcome area, a new dining hall, and soon a woodworking shop for furniture making.
- ▼ Today, Lahav Farm runs over 10 programs from trauma prevention workshops to support those dealing with severe post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).



# Or HaNer and Tel Gama Farms (Re'im) – Rebuilding the destroyed communities in the Western Negev

- At Tel Gama, we ran a bonding day for pre-army youth and planted trees with the local community.
- At Or HaNer, we're pushing forward with farm development: fencing the grazing areas for the cattle herd, infrastructure work, renovations and new calves being born!
- The community is beginning to take part, and individuals coping with PTSD are joining the herd work as part of their recovery.



We're not letting go. We're not giving up on anyone. And to you, our dear partners and supporters - we want to say a heartfelt thank you. From us, from Nir, from S. and from the entire team and community. Because of you, we're able to help those who need it most.

With love and deep appreciation, Brigitte Chaya & Harald