



## ENDOWMENT FUND

### Connecting Jews in Greater MetroWest and Israel

Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ's Global Connections fosters meaningful, personal relationships between Jews in Greater MetroWest and Israelis, connecting our communities across the ocean.

These connections form Living Bridges, creating a foundation of friendship, solidarity, and mutual respect. Our Greater MetroWest families learn about Israelis, and they, in turn, teach Israelis about the Diaspora.

Amir Shacham, in photo above, bottom row, right.

### Honoring Amir's Service to Greater MetroWest and Israel

For the past 27 years, Amir has dedicated himself to fostering connections between Greater MetroWest and Israel, beginning his career at Federation as an executive shaliach (emissary) in 1995.

To honor Amir's decades of service and steadfast dedication to building lasting partnerships between our communities, Federation has established the Amir Shacham Living Bridge Endowment Fund, chaired by Paula Saginaw, to support Global Connections' Living Bridge programs.

By strengthening these Living Bridges, we aim to secure our commitment to the values of Jewish Peoplehood (כלל ישראל) and Mutual Responsibility (ערבות הדדית).



“With heart and *ruach* (spirit), we build enduring relationships with partner communities in Israel and around the world. We foster personal connections — Living Bridges — that support diverse Jewish expression and continuity for generations to come. Our commitment to Jewish Peoplehood is essential to our work. *Ahavat Yisrael* — Love for the Jewish People — is in our DNA.” — REBECCA A. GOLD, Chair, Global Connections





“

“All these years, I stand in the middle of this Living Bridge, making sure that both sides keep crossing it constantly. Our Living Bridge is a magical one. A regular bridge, the more you use it, the weaker it becomes. Our Living Bridge, the more you cross it, the stronger and more powerful it becomes.” — AMIR SHACHAM

”

## Some Highlights of Federation’s Living Bridge Initiatives

**OUR PARTNERSHIPS** include five communities in Israel and one in Cherkassy, Ukraine. As a nationally renowned leader in this field, we are proud of our 25 years of partnership with Ofakim/Merchavim; our 20-year partnership with Kibbutz Erez; and decades of partnership with Arad. Our partnership with the Ethiopian Israeli community in Rishon LeZion dates back to 1977, prior to the Ethiopian Aliyah. In addition, we are the only Federation in the nation with a partner relationship that connects a Diaspora Jewish community to a non-Jewish community, the Druze village of Hurfeish in the upper Galilee. Our Federation supports programs in these partner communities and also works to determine which projects are most critical to community development.

**MISHLACHAT** (Israel emissaries) bring Israel to life in Greater MetroWest through an authentic Israel presence and connections. In partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), our Federation maintains one of the largest delegations of emissaries in North America. It includes *rishonim* (high school graduates who defer their army service for a year to spend a “year of service” in our community) and *shlichim* (Israeli professionals who spend several years as emissaries in our Federation). Together,

the *mischlachat* work in more than 40 synagogues, schools, and agencies throughout our community and engage with more than 9,000 people annually.

**PEOPLEHOOD PROJECT** is a fulfilling two-year leadership training program and encounter for Greater MetroWest community members with members of our Negev partnerships. Together they build long-lasting bonds with one another and with the larger Jewish world. Participants travel to Israel, host their peers in NJ, and together visit a third Diaspora Jewish community.

**DILLER TEEN FELLOWS** is a premier leadership development program for teens in Greater MetroWest and our partner community of Rishon LeZion. The program empowers its fellows to be active leaders with a commitment to making the world a better place (*tikkun olam*) and developing a strong Jewish identity and sense of belonging to their community, the larger Jewish world, and Israel.

Our Federation, together with generous donors, has supported these Living Bridge initiatives. The Amir Shacham Living Bridge Endowment Fund will provide funding for the future development of these magical Living Bridges. Visit [jfedgmw.org/amir-shacham](http://jfedgmw.org/amir-shacham) to contribute today.



**Headquarters:**  
901 Route 10  
Whippany, NJ 07981

**Regional Office:**  
1391 Martine Avenue  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

[jfedgmw.org](http://jfedgmw.org)

**For giving opportunities,  
please contact:**

**Sara Chambers**  
Director,  
Stewardship and Targeted Giving,  
Jewish Community Foundation  
[schambers@jfedgmw.org](mailto:schambers@jfedgmw.org)  
(973) 929-3049

**For more information about Global Connections’  
Living Bridge programs, please contact:**

**Benjamin Mann**  
Chief Planning Officer,  
Jewish Federation of  
Greater MetroWest NJ  
[bmann@jfedgmw.org](mailto:bmann@jfedgmw.org)  
(973) 929-2929