



Resilience Centre Sderot

Background

Home to 28,000 residents, the city of Sderot has been a recent site of demographic growth, despite being at the forefront of the Gaza vicinity conflict. Residents of Sderot are in the first circle of injuries resulting from the conflict, and the ongoing emergency situation has impacted children, adolescents and adults who now suffer from symptoms of emotionally detrimental trauma, impairing their ability to function.

70% of the children in Sderot suffer from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Unfortunately, there are many cases of complex, ongoing symptoms such as: anxiety and depression, fear of noises, fear of being alone, clinging to parents, bedwetting at an advanced age, night terrors and more.

The Resilience Center in Sderot was established by the local government in 2008, as a vessel for strengthening the resilience of its residents. The Center has created an environment that promotes resilience, strengthens individuals and the community, and fosters the development of partnerships.

In emergency situations The Resilience Center serves as a “preliminary emergency room” and is responsible for handling treatment for all victims of anxiety and treating them onsite. Staff also act as a proactive team, arriving at the site where the rocket has fallen, making home visits, operating a 24/7 hotline, providing emotional support to position holders, teaching parents how to deal with child anxiety and more.

Project Need

After Operation Protective Edge, the State Comptroller’s report that examined the care provided for children and adolescents during the warfare praised the Resilience Center in Sderot for being a solid anchor for residents, however a large problem identified was the treating of residents in a non-protected building. The building has no bomb shelter thus it cannot provide the most basic element of a “safe space” for residents.

The Resilience Center routinely treats ~ 1,000 children, adolescents, and adults every year with private therapy, in addition to their programs to strengthen community resilience. They supply 40,000 hours of therapy to residents from over 25 professionals including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and emotional therapists. With 6 treatment rooms fully booked from 8AM-9PM daily, the number of applicants requesting treatment surpasses the amount of treatment space and healthcare professionals that the Center can accommodate.

The municipality has decided to construct a new Resilience Center suited to the needs of the growing population and with the necessary protective shelter. The New Center will include 8 therapeutic rooms, meaning the new Resilience Center will be able to provide 50,000 hours of treatments per year.

The Centre is currently under construction despite not all the required funds being raised. Several dedication opportunities are still available.

The current Resilience Center is managed and funded by the Israeli Trauma Coalition, with maintenance provided by the Sderot municipality. This arrangement will continue at the newly constructed Center as well.

Dedication Opportunity	Donation Amount CAD\$
Small Therapy Room	44,000
Medium Therapy Room	55,000
Large Therapy Room	82,500
Entrance Lobby	110,000
1st or 2nd Floor	250,000