**Sha'ar Hanegev
Regional Council**

May 2021

Dear Members of the American Zionist Movement,

I would like to thank you sincerely for your contribution to our regional council during the "Guardian of the Wall" operations.

Thanks to your generous support and other similar donations, we were able to send hundreds of families from the region to guest centers and *kibbutzim* outside of the danger area for the entirety of the 11-day conflict. The families found respite all over the country, in areas such as the Gonen Holiday Village at Kibbutz Gonen in the north, all the way to Eilat in the south.

In collaboration with the social, educational, and cultural offices of local municipalities and councils, we have created various "respite centers" for times like these. We also partner with local resilience centers (מרכזי חוסן) to provide a temporary framework so that the families have as much of a daily routine as possible, which in turn strengthens them and community resilience as a whole.

Sha'ar HaNegev does all it can, in addition to the amazing "respite project", to provide a wide range of solutions that cater to the different needs of families and individuals, such as: veterans, religious, families with many children, people with disabilities, and more.

Additionally, the Council sent the youth from the *kibbutzim* in the danger area to *kibbutzim* in northern Israel for cycles of 2-3 days. The youth were provided with an all-inclusive experience which included transportation, accommodation, food, and activities.

Utilizing the systems already in place, the Council also offered relief and assistance for soldiers and young people in the Sha'ar HaNegev area.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your support that made all of this possible.

.

 Sincerely,

Ofir Libstein
Mayor, Sha`ar Hanegev Regional Council