

Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign Raises Over \$460,000

The missiles are quiet and we pray the cease-fire will translate into real security for Israel. To date, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Israel Emergency Campaign has raised more than \$460,000 to help rebuild and restore all that has been destroyed in northern Israel. Your continued support ensures that the Jewish Federation's on-the-ground partners – the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and American Jewish Joint Distribution (JDC) Committee remain on the scene, ready to help. On Wednesday, September 6, our community was briefed by JDC Representative, Kobi Tav. Following Mr. Tav's stories regarding how Israeli families are coping with the crisis, our Israel Emergency Campaign chair, David Epstein, responded with his personal story.

Below is an excerpt from David Epstein's speech:

"Every gift to this emergency campaign is important. However, I would be remiss if I did not publicly acknowledge the extreme generosity of Leon and Sandra Levine, who have made a gift of \$100,000. In addition to this wonderful gift, so far in our campaign we have received three extraordinary gifts of \$25,000 from Howard Levine, Eric and Lori Sklut and Bill and Patty Gorelick.

"As you know, I am very passionate about this campaign and about Israel. I believe that just as



Florence Jaffa, Ann and Bob Abel.

the State of Israel has risen from the ashes of the Holocaust, so, too, has the Jewish community risen since the dark days of WW II. I believe that the State of Israel has given the Jews of the Diaspora a status that we would not have achieved on our own. Here in the United States, as well as in the rest of the Western world, Jews have reached unprecedented heights. I would suggest to you that some of us may even take our status for granted. And yes, it is true that the Jewish peoples' contributions to the world, to its culture, to its medicine, to its science — I could go on and on — have certainly been a significant factor in achieving our current status. But that was also true in Spain in the 15th Century and in other European countries and yet, in

each instance, the Jews were eventually expelled or otherwise reduced to second class citizens (to put it mildly). I believe that it is the State of Israel that has significantly contributed to the place we now hold in our society. The State of Israel is respected throughout the western world, it is the Jewish state, and the IDF's fighting ability has not hurt either. Now, whether you agree with me, in whole or in part or not at all, is for you to decide.

"What you must agree with me about, however, is that if, and may God forbid this, something happens to the State of Israel, overnight the Jews would again be



Alene and David Epstein with Kobi Tav.

a stateless people, guests in every part of the world in which we live, and subject to the political and religious vagaries of the times.

"From its founding, the State of Israel has served as a home, as a haven, and as a refuge, first for the displaced persons of remnants of the Jews of Europe, then for the Yemenites and for Jews of other countries in the Arab world, then for the Jews of the FSU, and more



Barbara Levin, Rose Luski, and Donna Levin.

recently, from Ethiopia and from Argentina.

"And now, with the worst anti-Semitism raging in France, England, and other European countries, Israel is again a home, a haven, and a refuge for those that need it. And if anyone doubts this, just look at the increase in Aliyah from the countries I have mentioned.

"So, in my mind and in my heart, this campaign is about the current needs of the people of Israel and the State of Israel. But, this campaign is also about our children and our grandchildren and what their lives will be like in the future. And I submit, and I believe this with every fiber in my body, that without the State of Israel, the lives and status we now enjoy will no longer be there.

"I believe that the State of Israel is more threatened now than at any time in its history. There are no second chances for Israel and it is us, and our fellow Jews through out the Diaspora, who are entrusted with Israel's well-being and yes, its very existence.

"Since, I would not ask any of you to do what Alene and I would not do on our own, Alene and I are doubling our gift, representing

more than 60% of our gift to the 2006 Annual Campaign. Israel needs our help now and this is what Alene and I, in good conscience want to do, and this is what Alene and I will do. Please join Alene and me in this extremely important effort.

"On behalf of the Jewish Federation of Charlotte and the people of Israel, I thank you for your continued generosity and support."



United Jewish Communities
ISRAEL
Emergency Campaign
HELP. GIVE. HOPE.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is committed to making sure the citizens of Israel's North can go home again. 100% of your donation to our Israel Emergency Campaign will be sent directly to Israel to help rebuild lives and lift spirits. **We appreciate all of our donors who have generously contributed to the Israel Emergency Campaign.** There is still time to Help. Give. Hope. ☆

JEWISH FEDERATION
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE
Local, Global, Eternal

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING FOR OCTOBER 2006

Sunday (Yom Kippur Eve),
October 1, 6:50 PM
Friday, October 6, 6:43 PM
Friday, October 13, 6:34 PM
Friday, October 20, 6:25 PM
Friday, October 27, 6:17 PM



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