

2024

IMPACT
REPORT



ISRAEL PARASPORT CENTER

Dear Friends,

As I look back on this past year, I'm struck by the resilience and strength of our community. In times of challenge, it's our collective spirit that holds us up and moves us forward. Together, we have faced adversity, celebrated achievements, and, most importantly, empowered each other to reach new heights.

At the Israel ParaSport Center, we've built a community where every individual plays a vital role in fostering an environment of growth and support. It's in this shared commitment that our athletes are able to push past limits and achieve the extraordinary. In the face of hardship, our athletes have broken records, surpassed expectations, and reminded us that it is through unity and determination that we overcome any obstacle.

We are the village, a supportive and caring home that lifts each of our athletes and each other up. Our achievements this year, from the bronze medal at the Paralympics to record-breaking fundraising, are a reflection of this strength and the sense of home we've built together. These milestones are possible because we are united by the same commitment to our athletes and to each other.

As I step down from my role as president, I leave with immense confidence in the future of the Israel ParaSport Center. Together, we've created a foundation where athletes with disabilities can thrive, and where the collective efforts of all of us—working together—will make an even greater impact in the years to come.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible community. Your support, belief, and shared commitment are what make all of this possible. I am proud to have served as part of this extraordinary village, and I am excited to see what we will accomplish together in the future.

With deepest gratitude,



National Board President
2012-2024
Lori Komisar





“Growing up with a disability isn’t easy. You feel like a normal child, but the world doesn’t treat you like a normal child. At The Center, I wasn’t the different one, everyone was different.”
- Caroline Tabib, Table Tennis Paralympian

BY THE NUM

3,400

Israelis with disabilities & their families participated in The Center's rehabilitative & competitive parasport programs—an impressive 17% increase in membership, achieved despite a year marked by war and challenges.



*"The Israel ParaSport Center is a place of inspiration, hope, and fulfillment of dreams."
-Ariel Veksler, Boccia Athlete*



MEMBERS

7,900+

therapeutic & adaptive sessions were provided, including hydrotherapy, physiotherapy, & one-on-one adaptive sports training.



1,300+

hours of social services were provided to our members, supporting them during these challenging times.

250

competitive athletes trained at The Center with

70 proudly representing Israel on the world stage.

35

medals were earned in International competitions, including Guy Sasson's bronze medal at the 2024 Paris Paralympics!

700

children trained & received services at The Center.

1,500+

visitors toured The Center this year, including leaders from the Israeli health system & members of the Knesset.

100

children & adults participated in 8 sports at our Be'er Sheva satellite.

Athlete Achie

Paris
2024



This past summer, the world witnessed the strength & determination of our five athletes as they competed on the global stage at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Representing Israel with pride, they showcased the talent and elite training that The Center is known for.

Guy Sasson made history, bringing home a bronze medal in quad wheelchair tennis for Israel! His hard-fought matches & unwavering determination inspired a nation, proving that with dedication & passion, anything is possible.



Guy Sasson – Wheelchair Tennis | Paralympic Bronze Medalist

After a ski accident left him paralyzed, Guy Sasson rediscovered his passion for tennis at The Center. Now ranked **#3 in the world for quad singles**, he secured a **bronze medal in Paris 2024**, and attended all four Grand Slams, winning medals at three of them.

vements



Our Paralympians: Guy Sasson (quad wheelchair tennis), Adam Berdichevsky (wheelchair tennis), Nadav Levi (boccia), Sergei Lysov (wheelchair tennis), & Maayan Zikri (wheelchair tennis)

On the Road to LA 2028

With **11 athletes** already training for the **Los Angeles 2028 Paralympics**, The Center continues to shape Israel's future champions. These rising stars are pushing their limits, driven by the same resilience & passion that define our Paralympic legacy. As they set their sights on the podium, we remain committed to providing the training, support, & community they need to achieve greatness.

We can't wait to cheer them on in LA!

More 2024 Athlete Achievements

-  **Caroline Tabib** had an amazing year, winning gold at the Italian Open & Poland, silver in the US, Spain, & Slovenia, & bronze in Brazil.
-  **Omer Gadot** won a gold medal in a competition in Petah Tikvah & ranked among the **top 10 table tennis players in Israel**, including able-bodied competitors.
-  Our wheelchair basketball team **won the Israel National Championship**, defeating the Hadera Sharks in the last play of the game.
-  **10 of 12 players on Israel's wheelchair basketball U23 European Championship team** are from The Center.
-  **Ziv Ben Yishay** was named **MVP of the Wheelchair Rugby European Championships**.

Shesek: Putting HOPE IN MOTION

A Lifeline for Displaced Israelis with Disabilities

The October 7th attacks and the ongoing war have displaced over 130,000 Israelis, including thousands with disabilities who suddenly lost access to essential rehabilitation services. In response, the Israel ParaSport Center, in partnership with Bituach Leumi (Israel's National Insurance Institute), launched Shesek—an initiative providing rehabilitation, sports, and community support to individuals directly impacted by the war.

Since January 2024, Shesek has been a lifeline for hundreds of displaced individuals, offering adaptive sports, hydrotherapy, & trauma-informed rehabilitation free of charge. From refugees in hotels to Nova Festival survivors & families of hostages, Shesek helps rebuild strength, resilience, & hope in the most challenging of times. Shesek is more than a program. It's a movement, ensuring no Israeli with a disability is left behind.

Shesek's Achievements in 2024

- Up to 40 active locations nationwide providing rehabilitation & adaptive sports services
- 250 displaced individuals with disabilities receiving direct support
- 38 families impacted by October 7th, including wounded soldiers & hostage families, receiving care
- 28 Nova Festival survivors participating in sports therapy, including 20 in the Nova basketball team
- Collaboration with leading rehabilitation hospitals (Sheba, Loewenstein, Shamir, Ichilov) to reduce patient overload
- Two new bomb shelters installed on campus, ensuring programs continue despite security threats



Tal Kupershtein (left), who receives services through Shesek, visits the Nova Festival site where his son Bar was taken hostage. Bar is still being held in captivity.

Our team travels across Israel to support those in need! Dekkel Bachar (right), Director of Shesek, returned to Israel after October 7 to deliver rehabilitative services & build partnerships nationwide. Pictured with Sarah Meisenberg, Director of International Relations (left).



*"We are proud to do our part at the Israel ParaSport Center and are committed to going anywhere & doing whatever it takes to rehabilitate our people & our nation."
-Boaz Kramer, Israel Executive Director*

In the U.S.

The steadfast support and generous contributions of individuals, partners, and foundations who share our passion and purpose drive the work we do. All donations to The Center, big or small, made a difference in 2024.

Thanks to our generous supporters,

\$5 million

was raised for the Israel ParaSport Center in 2024.

1,963 gifts from **1,596** donors made the work we do at The Center possible.



NextGen Gets Moving!

Our NextGen Leadership team served up another win with their pickleball tournament! Hosted at the Atlanta Marcus JCC, the event was a great success, introducing The Center to future philanthropists. We can't wait to see what they put together next summer!



Swinging for a Cause!

Our annual golf tournaments in Chicago and New York brought players together for a day of competition and camaraderie. A driving force in our fundraising success, these events raised more than **\$428K** combined to support our mission.

LA Teaming with Laughter

Our annual Teaming with Laughter event in Los Angeles brought the community together for a night of comedy and connection. Held at the Stephen Wise Temple, the event combined humor with purpose, raising **\$180K** in support of The Center & war-affected Israelis.



TEAMING WITH ISRAEL

A CONVERSATION *with* NOA TISHBY



With the incredible support of our Atlanta Committee, 1,300 participants came together at the Marcus JCC, raising an astounding **\$876K** in support of The Center.

The evening's most powerful moment came when Livnat Elgazi, a Nova Festival survivor (pictured below), shared her harrowing story of survival and ongoing recovery — a moving testament to The Center's vital role in helping Israelis rebuild their lives. Noa Tishby followed with an inspiring conversation with Mike Leven about advocacy, unity, and standing with Israel in its time of need.

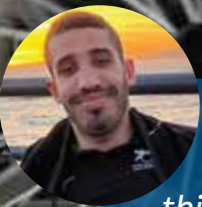


Dekkel Bachar, Livnat Elgazi, & Boaz Kramer



*Co-chairs: Amy & Phil Rubin
Brooke & Brad Rosen*

HOPE IN MOTION



*"The Center taught me to be independent & self-confident. It taught me there are other things in life that I can achieve. I've traveled the world! I didn't think that in my life I was going to be in the U.S. - it's one of my dreams to be here."
- Hakim Kashua, Wheelchair Basketball Player*



2024 BASKETBALL TOUR



When our wheelchair basketball team was forced to cancel their tournament hosted in Turkey due to safety concerns, The Center pivoted—flying them to the U.S. for exhibition games against several college teams.

During their visit, the team played five matches against schools ranging from Division III to Division I, winning four out of five games. Spectators cheered not only for the thrilling plays on the court but for the inspiring stories behind each athlete. On their tour, the team visited local communities at schools & synagogues, sharing their personal journeys & the transformative impact adaptive sports have had on their lives. At every stop, they built meaningful connections, showcasing the strength & talent that comes from training at The Center.

As a multicultural team of Jewish & Arab Israelis, they demonstrated how friendship, teamwork, & a shared dream can transcend barriers—creating moments of unity both on & off the court. More than just games, the tour became a powerful symbol of hope during a time when it's needed most.



Meet the players!

TUCSON, AZ
PHOENIX, AZ
LOS ANGELES, CA
IRVINE, CA
WEST HILLS, CA

The Road Ahead

As we look ahead to our 65th year, we are filled with both pride and gratitude. In this past year, marked by the challenges of war, we are also reminded of the strength and courage that define The Center. We didn't just survive in a difficult year, we thrived.

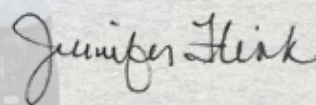
But it has made one thing clear: there is still so much more we can—and must—do. The success of the Shesek program, the growth of our community, and the inspiring achievements of our athletes have reinforced the urgency and importance of our mission. In 2025, we're stepping forward with renewed purpose. We're expanding our programs to reach more people, investing in our athletes' dreams of competing in the Paralympics, and upgrading our facilities to ensure The Center remains a world-class home for rehabilitation and adaptive sports.

The work ahead is immense, but with your continued support, we know it's possible. Together, we can meet this moment and continue transforming lives through the power of adaptive sports.

Thank you for being part of this journey.



National Board
President
Jon Michelon



National Executive
Director
Jennifer Flink





Key Priorities for 2025 & Beyond

Continuing Our Mission

In 2025, we remain dedicated to our core programming, providing rehabilitative and recreational sport services to Israeli adults and children with disabilities, while training elite competitive athletes. These programs are central to our mission of empowering individuals and ensuring everyone has the tools to thrive and succeed.

Investing in Our Elite Athletes

After sending five athletes to Paris 2024, we are now focusing on preparing 11 competitive athletes for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympics. This includes developing new programs in archery, badminton, and athletics, upgrading our training facilities, and enhancing our sports science support for elite athletes.

Renovating Our Pools

Renovating The Center's two swimming pools remains our top infrastructure priority. With over 900 swimmers each week, these pools serve as a first stop for many joining The Center, playing a vital role in both rehabilitative services and athletic training. The war's impact and rising costs have delayed the project, and additional funding is needed to complete the renovations by 2026.

Building on Shesek's Success

We continue to provide free rehabilitative services to Nova survivors and displaced individuals still unable to return home. In 2025, we will strengthen key partnerships and further establish The Center as a leading destination for post-rehabilitation services. Building on Shesek's success, we plan to expand with a new satellite program in northern Israel, extending our reach to those in need. Together with our partners, we are also advancing groundbreaking research in sport rehabilitation & its impact on healing.



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"From the very first time I sat in a sport wheelchair, I felt fast, I felt strong. Finally I excelled at something in my life. It gave me the confidence to try to succeed in other realms."

*- Amit Vigoda,
Wheelchair Basketball Athlete*

Our Mission

The Israel ParaSport Center, US is committed to providing ongoing financial support to The Center in Israel, empowering children & youth with physical disabilities from all backgrounds to participate in physical & psychological rehabilitation through sports in order to attain the goal of leading productive & successful lives in Israeli society.