

Program Update



Good Morning Israel

The Challenge

Thousands of poor Israeli children go to school hungry virtually every morning. Thanks to federation funding, many educational programs that extend the school day provide a hot lunch. But that isn't enough. Hungry children cannot be expected to focus on schoolwork while they anxiously await lunchtime.

The Response

Good Morning Israel (GMI) provides a hot breakfast for at-risk children, beginning 30 minutes before school starts. The morning meal fuels the children for a long, full day of educational, recreational and social activity. At the same time, it lifts a financial burden from the parents, many of whom are coping with additional financial strains due to the war.

Children participating in GMI are identified by social services and/or professionals in the schools. GMI is implemented and managed by third-sector program partners (such as the Sacta-Rashi Foundation) already operating a variety of educational and social intervention programs in these communities and schools.

The Partner Organizations

Sacta-Rashi Foundation

Unmet Need

During the final seven weeks of school year 2005/6, the Sacta-Rashi Foundation operated a successful pilot breakfast program for 2,800 children in 10 schools in Netanya, Lod and Ashkelon.

But thousands more children could benefit from the breakfast program. We plan to take Good Morning Israel to 10,000 children nationwide, beginning with northern Israel.

Our pilot program has demonstrated the concrete benefits of a healthy breakfast. And in the aftermath of the recent war, the breakfast program plays an important role in restoring children to a calm, secure routine.

In Real Life

The results of a pilot breakfast program are impressive:

Over 80 percent of teachers reported that children's concentration improved, resulting in increased educational achievement.

Over 80 percent of teachers reported a positive influence on social relations in the classroom.

And 75 percent of teachers reported that the program reduced absenteeism.

Funding

The Number of People Helped: 10,000 children

Annual Budget: \$1,800,000; Matching funds available

Funding Period: one year

Compared to last year: new program

