

SARAH MILGRIM'S INTERESTS AND PASSIONS – CAUSES SUPPORTED BY THE SARAH MILGRIM FUND

Sarah's life was centered around caring for **animals**. At an early age she rescued injured animals and buried dead birds found in our yard. In 2020 – 2021, Sarah volunteered at Operation Wild Life (OWL) in Linwood, KS, near Lawrence. This nonprofit organization rescues, rehabilitates and provided lifelong care for animals and birds that cannot be released back into the wild. Sarah was passionate about her volunteer work there because the animals' and birds' injuries were caused by human actions. She felt a responsibility to provide care to animals that could not fend for themselves.

Sarah was passionate about the **environment**. In elementary school, she learned about Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. She brought these principles home and encouraged family and friends to implement them into their daily lives. In college, Sarah developed a recycling program at her sorority house. This required significant time and energy because she had to educate her sorority sisters about recycling as well as take the recycling to the city recycling bins. She often sifted through the materials to ensure there was no trash mixed in which reflected her dedication.

Sarah was concerned about the degradation of the environment due to **pollution and climate change**. Her degree in Environmental Science at KU and her master's degree in Resource Development and Sustainability from the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica gave her a strong knowledge base for what has occurred in the past that led us to where we are today and what needs to be done to take care of the earth. Sarah worked for the City of Overland Park, Kansas, testing water for pollutants. In this role, she saw firsthand the negative effects of pollution and chemicals on the environment – water supply, plants and animals.

Sarah was very passionate about **peacebuilding in the Middle East**. Her love for Israel began at an early age, probably around the time she decided to have her Bat Mitzvah in Jerusalem. She participated in many trips to Israel while in college,

including Birthright, KU Hillel Leadership trip, and the Maccabee Task Force. Courses for her master's degree in International Affairs from American University included causes of war and conflict resolution. The most influential program was her participation in Onward and Masa during the summer of 2022. Sarah was an intern for Tech2Peace in Tel Aviv where she facilitated social immersion groups for Israelis, Jews, Arabs and Palestinians. She returned to Tel Aviv in the winter of 2023 to complete research for her master's thesis. Her focus was on relationship building between groups and its impact on lasting change to perception of the other.

Sarah's position as Coordinator of Civil Society Affairs with the Embassy of Israel in Washington DC allowed her to refine her skills in people-to-people **diplomacy and bridgebuilding**. She utilized her belief in dialogue, developed during her time with Tech2Peace, to connect with diverse community groups – LGBTQ+, African American, Asian, Indigenous, women's organizations, legal professionals, climate advocates and more. She developed partnerships to address sexual violence against women, gender equality and climate resilience. Through her many partnerships, Sarah transformed her deep concern about the rise of antisemitism and anti-Zionism into courageous action.