

Ziv Tzedakah Fund, Inc.
A Non-Profit Tax-Exempt Corporation

Danny Siegel, Chairman
263 Congressional Lane, #708
Rockville, MD 20852
301-468-0060 (phone), 301-468-6923 (fax),
siegelz@aol.com (e-mail)

Dear Friends of Ziv Tzedakah Fund,

Commencement

As Founder and Chairman of Ziv, I wanted to write to you and inform you that Ziv is now in the process of closing its operation. While the actual process — elements of which are described below — will take several months, I wanted you to know that we continue our work providing support for our Mitzvah heroes and programs everywhere.

We end our formal efforts together with a sense of pride-of-accomplishment, and with an absolute feeling of confidence that many who have learned from us will not only continue the numerous and varied aspects of our work, but will most assuredly expand Ziv's vision-made-real. We have so many students! Among them are our summer interns of many years, our תורת-חברות-Chavayrot Ziv, Ziv Fellows, our educational advisors, rabbis, and educators. Mitzvah committee members everywhere carry out Ziv-type work — and, of course, the literally thousands of “fans” that have become a part of Ziv since the Tzedakah fund was founded in 1981.

In many ways, this moment is like college commencement. We have done our part to open worlds of Tikkun Olam. Now it is time for all those who have experienced our teaching to take the material, the ideas, the thoughts, the programs and images we have offered and to carry on the work using their own talents and insights. It is a Mazal-Tov moment, a time of שמחה-joy-and-celebration, of מצוה של מצוה-the unique joy that emanates from the זיו-Ziv, the radiance of doing the Mitzvah of Tzedakah.

The Process

From a practical standpoint, I would want you to note the following:

1. *During the process of closing Ziv, we will need your continued donations to complete the work, and we welcome, as always, your contributions. Until the official conclusion of Ziv's functioning as a legal entity, we must continue to have our money make miracles happen in the lives of so many people.*
2. In the final stage, you will be provided with various suggested venues to continue supporting the Mitzvah heroes and programs we have featured in our reports, updates, and educational materials. In addition, you will be informed about how to continue to obtain educational materials such as our DVD's of our Mitzvah heroes.
3. Our February HeroIsrael trip for educators has been cancelled, as is the summer internship program. It may be that at some future date, similar programs will re-emerge under the auspices of others.
4. At the time of closing, we will issue a report describing the final disposition of Tzedakah money.

(over)

Board of Directors: Danny Siegel, Dr. Gordon Gondos,
Darryl Rotman Kuperstock, Rabbi Neal Gold, Arleen Sternfeld, Rabbi Marc Sternfeld, Glenn Easton
Managing Director: Naomi Eisenberger
Website: www.ziv.org
Israel Representative: Arnold Draiman
Chevron St. 87/15, Jerusalem
011-972-2-673-6776 (phone), 011-972-50-515-6776 (cellphone)
soosim@netmedia.net.il (e-mail)
IRS 501(c)(3) #52-1219427

Looking Back

Our long history together has been incredibly wonderful, almost beyond words to describe.

Who can count the beneficiaries of your Tzedakah money? How many have been restored to a life of dignity and hope because of your exquisite response to the needs of others?

And how many personal moments of exhilaration and insight have I experienced over these years, due to your participation and encouragement?

All told, they may not be as numerous as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the seashore — as the Chumash would have it — but it would take extremely extensive stretches of time to begin to recount the stories.

We have been able to facilitate the work of Mitzvah heroes in Israel, the United States, the Former Soviet Union, and other countries around the world. As well, our network of front-line agents has enabled us to directly solve untold problems of individuals and families in every manner of distress imaginable.

Our donors, our teachers who educate their students about Ziv, and our friends have taught so many of every age about Tzedakah, Gemillut Chassadim, Mitzvahs, and Tikkun Olam. They have used Ziv materials and gone beyond our own resources, developing programs in their local communities that reflect our influence.

Feel proud — with yourselves and each other a **יָשָׁר כֹּחַ** -Yasher Koach – strength for what has been done and vigor to carry on the Mitzvah work long into the future.

My Future Work

I will continue to travel and lecture as I have done for many years past. Besides the other topics I speak about, clearly the depth and the breadth of what we have learned and experienced together through Ziv will be a most prominent subject.

Words of Gratitude

Many have served Ziv well, but most particularly I wish to thank

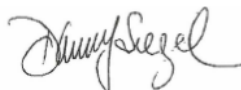
1. The members of the Ziv Board, who have guided me in this venture, and who will continue to lead us through these stages of completion with wisdom and an unmatched measure of care.

2. Naomi, for her many years of ultimate devotion to Ziv's work: So much pioneering work Ziv has undertaken is attributable to her initiative. The sheer number of hours she has given to Ziv is staggering; her influence on so many people will continue to be felt in the lives of beneficiaries everywhere.

3. Arnie Draiman, Ziv's Representative in Israel: Ziv began with Tzedakah money for Israel, and even with my poet's imagination, I could not have imagined how we would come to play such a significant role in the life of **יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל**-Eretz Yisrael as we have managed to do. Arnie's incomparable dedication to Ziv's vision of Tikkun Olam, combined with his exceptional ability to translate "how things work in Israel" to us living so far away from day-to-day life as it is experienced by Israelis — these elements have brought us to such great Tikkun Olam-success in bringing hope and Life to so many people. In "The Early Days", David Morris served in this capacity, and, more than a decade ago, Arnie took up the task and, building on David's work, extended our Mitzvah-reach tremendously.

I would paraphrase a verse from the Tanach, "Though your beginnings be small, but the conclusion of the work will be very great (Job 8:7).

לְחַיִּים-Lechaim – To Life and **לְמִצְוֹת נִזְכָּה**-Nizkeh Lemitzvot, may we all continue to enjoy a long life of Mitzvah-work for the benefit of others.



Danny Siegel,

יַעֲקֹב יִהְיוּדָה בֶּן יִצְחָק זַעֲלִיג הַלּוֹי ז"ל וִיהוּדִית ז"ל

Founder and Chairperson

תָּם וְנִשְׁלָם שֶׁבַח לְאֵל בּוֹרֵא עוֹלָם

Naomi K. Eisenberger, *Managing Director*
384 Wyoming Avenue
Milburn, New Jersey 07041
(973)9396 Phone
(973)275-0346 Fax
www.ziv.org
naomike@aol.com

November 20, 2007

Dear Friend of the Ziv Tzedakah Fund,

On behalf of the Ziv Board of Directors, our many generous contributors, our inspiring mitzvah heroes, and all those who have benefited from the work of Ziv Tzedakah Fund, we add our *yasher koach* to Danny Siegel as he retires as chairman of Ziv. A simple "congratulations on a job well done" seems inadequate to express our feelings of love, respect, awe, and appreciation to Danny and his work over the last 26 years.

The words *tzedakah*, *mitzvahs*, and Danny Siegel are synonymous throughout the Jewish world and are words now recognized throughout the non-Jewish world thanks to the work of Danny, our Managing Director, Naomi Eisenberger, and our representative in Israel, Arnie Draiman. Danny invented the term "mitzvah heroes" to describe others, but the term aptly applies to Danny, himself, in the truest sense of the words.

As board members privileged to work with Danny and be inspired by him, we also feel that the words Ziv and Danny Siegel are so synonymous that we cannot envision one without the other. So as we celebrate and appreciate his remarkable work, it is with a heavy heart that we accept the fact that Ziv will formally close down.

Informally, Ziv and its mission will remain in all of us through our mitzvah heroes, our interns, our students, our rabbis, and our generous donors. If Danny and Ziv were indeed successful, there will be others who will continue the vision since *tzedakot* and heroes will continue to need your support. If Ziv and Danny were effective, then new mitzvah heroes will continue to be discovered and supported.

Learning of Danny's well deserved retirement as Chairman of Ziv was difficult news for all of us but we are heartened that his boundless energy and enthusiasm will continue through his lectures, books, writings, and teaching. We pray that we will continue to learn from our teacher and friend until he is 120!

As for Ziv Tzedakah Fund, Inc. as a corporate structure, the Board will spend the next twelve months working with our mitzvah heroes and Tzedakah recipients to ease any transitional effects on them and their organizations. The enclosed November Update gives you information about programs scheduled for the coming year.

THIS IS OUR FINAL REQUEST FOR SUPPORT. PLEASE BE GENEROUS. We make this appeal to ensure that we will have the maximum amount of funds available to assist our tzedakah beneficiaries while they explore alternative sources of support.

In the 20th Anniversary year issue of the Ziv Tzedakah Fund Report, Danny quoted his friend and teacher, Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson who stated, "Tzedakah is not about giving; Tzedakah is about being."

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Danny then reflected that “Judaism encourages fine thinking, deep insight, wisdom, but ultimately, we as human beings are defined by *what we do*, how we live our lives and act for the benefit of others.” No one embodies this more than our friend, our teacher, our *chaver* - Danny Siegel.

So whether Ziv's meaning and message spawns new organizations or groups to continue its teachings and work, or inspires individuals and foundations to give tzedakah more meaningfully and in larger amounts, we paraphrase Pirke Avot, ***the time is short and the task is important***. We know that generations of people, including rabbis, educators, USY'ers, students, friends and others, all of whom Danny has taught and trained will provide him the greatest tribute by continuing his work in their own way.

b'Shalom.

*Board of Directors
Ziv Tzedakah Fund, Inc.*