This resource guide is a tool for you to use while planning your next trip to the Western Galilee. This guide will assist you in making the most of your visit by introducing you to current PARTNERSHIP2GETHER programs.

**HOW THIS GUIDE WORKS**
The following pages give you information on programs and places to visit in the Western Galilee.

You will find:
- a brief description
- its connection to PARTNERSHIP2GETHER
- options for your visit
- best times to schedule a visit/average length of a visit
- and in some cases, options for donations

CONNECT & MAKE A DIFFERENCE
www.westerngalilee.org.il
PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:
Visiting the Western Galilee
Making the Most of Your Next Visit: Recommendations for your communities

www.westerngalilee.org.il

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT TO THE WESTERN GALILEE

The PARTNERSHIP2GETHER staff has experience hosting delegations. Please consider the following recommendations when planning your next trip:

SETTING UP THE VISIT/PREPARATIONS

Brief the delegation members about PARTNERSHIP2GETHER before traveling. Emphasize the uniqueness of:

1. Being exposed to PARTNERSHIP2GETHER programs that we support
2. Enjoying the beauty of the Western Galilee
3. Having people-to-people connections with residents of the Western Galilee

Preparations:

• Provide information to the PARTNERSHIP2GETHER staff about your delegation; dates of visit, number of participants, agenda for the visit, special requests for itinerary, and any special needs to consider [allergies, wheelchairs etc].

• A brief description of each participant is requested by the staff to assist them in matching up home hospitality and special visits based on the participant’s background & interests.

• Home hospitality has become a highlight of visiting the region. The visitors will experience a real Israeli home — nothing can compare in gaining long-lasting connections.

• Consider setting aside additional budget for inviting Israelis to join you for meals during your visit. Having local Israelis join your group creates the opportunity for informal discussions, a deeper understanding of PARTNERSHIP2GETHER, and grows friendships.

• Don’t overload the day with too many programs — let the participants have at least an hour break before the evening program.
PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:  
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www.westerngalilee.org.il

WHILE VISITING THE REGION:
Your participants will get a briefing about PARTNERSHIP2GETHER and about each program you will be visiting. It is important for the leaders of the group to remain involved through the visit and contribute their personal experiences and stories (especially if they have visited the region before and participated in PARTNERSHIP2GETHER programs). Include an evaluation and closing meeting at the end of each visit to share experiences and thoughts about the trip.

BACK HOME:
Follow-up is important! Encourage your participants to stay in touch with the Israelis they meet — sending a thank you letter, greeting cards for holidays, etc. If they are into greater connections, the PARTNERSHIP2GETHER staff will be thrilled to connect them to ongoing and new programs. Give the staff feedback. Let us know the successes of your trip and the areas that call for improvement. Please send ideas and comments for upgrading the missions.

Thank you, and we hope this guide is helpful to you.

Questions? Please contact:

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WHAT IS YOUTH FUTURES?

The Jewish Agency developed the Youth Futures program to give 350,000 at-risk children in Israel a better chance in life. Youth Futures is an early intervention program beginning with elementary age children. Trustees (mentors/big brothers) work as the personal advocates for the child in the school, home and after school settings. Trustees help build the children’s self-esteem and belief in their future. 242 children in Akko and Matte Asher participate in the Youth Futures program.

CONNECTION TO PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:

One third of the project is funded by the Jewish Agency, one third by an Israeli philanthropist and one third by the Central Area Consortium.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT:

You will have a briefing by the director and smaller group sessions with the trustees (mentors) to hear and discuss personal stories. There are opportunities to see the children during activities. The visit will take place in the Youth Futures center or in one of the schools.

HOURS & LENGTH OF VISIT:

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM / A one hour visit

OPTIONS FOR DONATIONS:

$1500  Supports one child for a year in the program
$1000  Special one day activity for all the children in the program
$350   Extra curricular activity budget per child
$50    Group activity budget per child
WHAT IS THE HAFUCH AL HAFUCH CENTER?

The Hafuch al Hafuch center offers a meeting place that enables a dialogue between teenagers, professionals and volunteers. Hafuch al Hafuch in Akko was founded in 2000 as part of a mission to expand the city’s youth services and to address local teenagers’ needs. The center’s professional and volunteer staff is accessible to teens and can be approached regarding any issue that arises. The center offers its services to all the teenagers in Akko, both the Arab and Jewish populations.

CONNECTION TO PARTNERSHIP 2GETHER:

Hafuch al Hafuch was established by a group of Shazar activists who obtained support for the initiative from PARTNERSHIP 2GETHER, the Akko Municipality and the Elem organization for youth in distress. The permanent home for Hafuch al Hafuch was funded primarily by the communities of the Central Area Consortium together with the municipality.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT:

A briefing and informal talk with staff and teens about the center. Hands on opportunities with the teens; a soccer game, gardening, interviewing each other, a community activity in Akko (like visiting a center for elderly), an environmental activity like cleaning up the beach, cooking a light meal together and teaching each other Hebrew/Arabic/English.

HOURS & LENGTH OF VISIT:

5:00 PM - 8:45 PM / Regular visit - one hour

OPTIONS FOR DONATIONS:

Outdoor benches, toiletry kits for soldiers, digital camera, scanner, photocopier, Wii, art supplies and small gifts for teens.

CONNECT & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

www.westerngalilee.org.il
Kivunim: A Charitable Organization To Further Youngsters With Special Needs in Israel was founded in 2003 for young people with sensory and physical disabilities. Kivunim means “directions” — giving direction and meaning, therefore enabling young people with disabilities to become independent. They achieve this through comprehensive service, study, life-skills training and community building programs. Kivunim is rooted in the idea that young people who are trained to see themselves as agents of social change, irrespective of their physical challenges, will grow up to be adults who are capable of taking responsibility for their lives.

Kivunim runs several projects, including Wings; teaching young people aged 18-21 with physical and sensory handicaps how to live independently. The participants go through a two-year comprehensive program which combines national service, group living, life-skills training and academic study. This unique program is open for young people from the United States with sensory or physical disabilities who are interested in experiencing Israel. The program includes an ulpan to learn Hebrew.

PARTNERSHIP2GETHER: PARTNERSHIP2GETHER works in cooperation with Kivunim and encourages designated donations to the organization.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT:

• Informal talks with the students about their lives and the program
• A home cooked meal with the students
• Visit students in their national service placements
• Take part in workshops
• Clean-up, fix-up, gardening

OPTIONS FOR DONATIONS:

Support for the overall budget, midweek workshops like horseback riding, cooking lessons, swimming lessons, outdoor training, kitchen equipment, and entrepreneurship. You can also sponsor one of the following: a week of giving, highlight the second year of Wings, and/or a week of volunteer projects and touring.
PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:

Shop for Meaning

A Shop to Support & Develop People with Disabilities

A center for professional apprenticeship and vocational training for young people with disabilities to become independent

WHAT IS SHOP FOR MEANING?

Kivunim and the Institute for National Insurance of Israel were inspired to create a unique vocational training center for young people with disabilities in the fields of sales and tourism. The main goal of the shop is to equip and empower young adults with disabilities with the tools for successful employment. Shop for Meaning sells environmentally friendly products including clothes, souvenirs, gifts, second-hand items. The shop is also a meeting place for lectures and workshops. Shop for Meaning is a true business enterprise following the highest business standards. Their brochure says, “It is a special atmosphere where you can contribute to the environment and society while buying exclusive and distinctive products that are environmentally friendly, products for a more humane world, a caring world, and a fairer world.”

CONNECTION TO PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:

The shop’s location in the Old City of Akko makes it a perfect place for a visit.

HOURS:

3:00 PM – 8:30 PM

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www.westerngalilee.org.il
PARTNERSHIP 2GETHER: House on Wheels
A Center Providing Activities for Physically Handicapped Children
Supporting both the children and their families

WHAT IS HOUSE ON WHEELS?
The Shai Society for the rehabilitation and support of disabled children is the volunteer organization behind the House on Wheels program, which was established by the late Miriam Schwartz in 1979. It is devoted to the development of physically handicapped children in Israel and also provides the families of the children a brief respite during the time the children are under the direct care of the organization. There are four of these centers in Israel, one in the Western Galilee region in Moshav Bustan HaGalil. The center provides activities for the physically handicapped children, the majority who suffer from muscular dystrophy and cerebral palsy. The activities take place in the afternoons, weekends and vacation days with professional instructors. The activities include drama, psychodrama, journalism, video, sailing, art and music.

CONNECTION TO PARTNERSHIP 2GETHER:
PARTNERSHIP 2GETHER works in cooperation with House on Wheels and encourages designated donations to the organization.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT:
Briefing by the director and/or a meeting with the volunteers and children for informal talks.

HOURS & LENGTH OF VISIT:
3:00 PM – 7:00 PM / 45 - 60 minute visit
The Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya is a regional hospital and a place of hope that serves the population of 500,000 in and around the Western Galilee. Its staff and patients reflect the ethnic diversity of the region. During the 2006 Second War in Lebanon, it became the frontline hospital for Israeli soldiers and civilians because of its 450-bed underground facility. The hospital suffered a direct hit on its ophthalmology department that had been evacuated in the first days of the war to the security of the underground hospital. In early 2009, the hospital began construction of a new sheltered Emergency Department funded in part by the Central Area Consortium.

The hospital is a major PARTNERSHIP2GETHER partner; it hosts many of the community delegations, American medical students and runs the PARTNERSHIP2GETHER ERG course. The ERG course (Emergency Response Group) is a professional program for doctors, hospital administrators and medical personnel to train and become familiar with the hospital and its systems, in order to be available in times of war and need, particularly if the hospital doctors have to go to the field. It is also a teaching tool for hospital personnel to learn about hospital emergency preparedness. The program is once a year for one week.

A tour of above-ground “sealed rooms”, the 450-bed underground hospitalization facility, the air-conditioning filter rooms that protect against biological and toxicological contamination and the fully protected operating and recovery areas of the surgical wing. The tour gives the visitors a visceral understanding of the hospital’s proximity to the Lebanese border and its practical, operational consequences.

8:30 AM – 1:30 PM / 60 – 75 minute visit

Sara Paperin, International Liaison, Western Galilee Hospital
Sara.Paperin@nahariya.health.gov.il / Tel: +972-4-910-7501
What is the Musical kindergarten?
The musical kindergarten in Akko is a unique kindergarten with a special teacher, Efrat Srebro, that has developed a program to teach children basic math through music. In addition, she has created an internet site that is the platform for shared activities and mutual learning between preschool and kindergarten teachers in Akko, Matte Asher, and in the consortium communities. Any preschool or kindergarten teacher from the Central Area Consortium can download materials as they wish. The website is called Hava Nagila Gan and is on the PARTNERSHIP2GETHER website: www.westerngalilee.org.il

Connection to Partnership2Gether:
Preschool and Kindergarten teachers from the Western Galilee and Central Area Consortium work on the Hava Nagila Gan materials. They exchange experiences and materials and can post their work on the website.

Options for your visit:
Participate in hands-on activities with the students [includes costs] or observe a kindergarten group.

Hours & Length of visit:
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM / 45 – 90 minute visit

Options for donations:
Musical instruments, computer, internet camera, video camera and digital camera
PARTNERSHIP2GETHER: Orot Hesed

Garin Ometz Supports the Akko Community
A special program to distribute food

WHAT IS OROT HESED? Orot Hesed is an organization which collects and distributes food to families in need. Garin Ometz, a growing group of religious families that have made their home in Akko have created Orot Hesed and other activities that service the community.

CONNECTION TO PARTNERSHIP2GETHER: The Orot Hesed is involved in the PARTNERSHIP2GETHER educational task force and is a partner to our PARTNERSHIP2GETHER programs in Akko.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT: Volunteer by sorting and packing food packages for families.

HOURS & LENGTH OF VISIT: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM (depending on the projects) / 60 – 90 minute visit

OPTIONS FOR DONATIONS: $30 one food package for a family
$120 food for one family for one month
$1,440 food for one family for one year
WHAT IS THE Ghetto Fighters’ House?

The Ghetto Fighters’ Holocaust and Resistance Heritage Museum (GFH) is a house of testimony to the story of the founders and a place of Holocaust memory. The GFH is the first Holocaust memorial museum in the world, founded in April 1949 by a group of fighters from the Warsaw ghetto and partisans who had experienced and survived the horrors of the Holocaust. When laying the foundations for the kibbutz, which would be their home, they also laid the foundation for a house of testimony for future generations.

Today the GFH is one of the largest institutions in this field in the world. The museum combines commemoration and remembrance of the past with revival and focus on the future.

CONNECTION TO PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:

The Ghetto Fighters’ Museum is a high quality educational resource that promotes ties with Israel and contributes to the strengthening of PARTNERSHIP2GETHER.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT:

Tours: Yad Leyeled, the Children’s Museum (very appropriate for adults) takes approximately 1 1/4 hours. A tour of the renovated main museum can be done in an hour.

HOURS OF VISIT:

Sunday - Thursday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Friday 9:00 – 1:00 PM / 1 to 3 hour visit

www.gfh.org.il/eng/
PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:
Security & Command Centers
Strategic Centers for Police, Fire, Safety, and Rescue
Get a tour of the border and perspective on the region’s ongoing safety needs

WHAT ARE THE SECURITY AND COMMAND CENTERS?
The Security and Command Centers of Matte Asher and Akko connect the police department, fire department and other safety and rescue entities into one communication network. The centers were built between 2005 and 2007 to provide security and safety support for the residents of the area. Command centers with video cameras, strategically placed above the region or main city thoroughfares help protect public places in the region.

CONNECTION TO PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:
The Central Area Consortium is breaking new ground for the country with these prototype Security and Command Centers (911 Center) which enable rural and urban localities of both Matte Asher and Akko to cope with local issues. Beginning in 2005 with our first IEC campaign money, we helped provide them with the capability to police their own communities during war time. The centers enable them to spot falling ketushayas for miles. In peace time they can identify crime as its happening. We allocated money to purchase high-tech security cameras for entrances of communities. In Akko, this ‘911 Center’ opened a few years ago, and to date it has reduced urban crime 87% due to the security cameras.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT:
A briefing by the directors and observation of the region through the eyes of the cameras in the Command Center. There is an additional option to tour the Israeli/Lebanese border with a staff member from the Matte Asher center on a bus or in jeeps.

HOURS & LENGTH OF VISIT:
The centers are open 24/7. To tour the Security and Command Center takes 20 to 45 minutes and the border tour takes 1.5 – 3 hours.

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www.westerngalilee.org.il
**PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:**

**Keshet Eilon Music Center**

International Violin Mastercourse, Seminars, & Concert Series

Training and promoting young violinists from Israel and the world

www.keshetei.org.il

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**WHAT IS KESHET EILON MUSIC CENTER?**

The Keshet Eilon Music Center and Violin Mastercourse, founded in 1990 at Kibbutz Eilon in the Western Galilee, is devoted to nurturing and advancing gifted young violinists. The center has acquired a prestigious reputation internationally. Its faculty is made up of well-known artists and senior violin masters from Israel and all parts of the world.

**Keshet Eilon** is under the patronage of Maestro Shlomo Mintz and the musical direction of Professor Itzhak Rashkovsky of London’s Royal College of Music. Violin maker Amnon Weinstein initiates new music projects while Gilad Sheba, the Managing Director is a member of Kibbutz Eilon and the son of one of its founders.

**CONNECTION TO PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:**

Keshet Eilon offers world-class musicians to tour the Central Area Consortium as a part of the PARTNERSHIP2GETHER Performing Arts Series.

**OPTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT:**

Tour the grounds of the center along with a screening of a short video about Keshet Eilon’s music program.

**HOURS & LENGTH OF VISIT:**

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM / Approximately 60 minute visit
WHAT IS THE GAATON DANCE VILLAGE?

The Dance Village is located in Kibbutz Gaaton in the Western Galilee, near Israel’s northern border. The Dance Village is the home of the internationally acclaimed Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, the KCDC International Dance Center and The Dance and Ballet School. A college program will be offered in the future.

The Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company is among the world’s leading contemporary dance troupes. During its 37 years, the company has become highly renowned both in Israel and abroad and is regularly invited to represent Israel on the most prominent dance stages and at international festivals. The company was founded in 1970 by Yehudit Arnon, who was the company’s artistic director until she passed the baton to Rami Be’er in 1996.

CONNECTION TO PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:

The Gaaton Dance Group offers world-class dance performances to tour the Central Area Consortium as a part of the PARTNERSHIP2GETHER Performing Arts Series.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT:

A tour of the grounds and studio, including observing the students and professionals during rehearsals.

HOURS & LENGTH OF VISIT:

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM / 30 – 45 minute visit
The Gottesman Etching Center

Workshops, Masterclasses, Joint Projects & Etching Galleries

A venue for artists from Israel and abroad to produce etchings

www.cabriprints.com

WHAT IS THE GOTTESMAN ETCHING CENTER?

The Gottesman Etching Center at Kibbutz Cabri was founded in 1993. The center is located in a distinctive landscape overlooking the mountains and sea. It is a venue for artists from Israel and abroad to produce etchings and it attracts the art-loving public for a first hand view of etching techniques.

Kibbutz Cabri links business enterprise with art, reflecting a belief that art acts as a stimulus and contributes to the community and its individuals. Various artists live and work in Cabri. It has a beautiful sculpture garden located next to the workshop of the late sculptor Yechiel Shemi that is open to the public, the Cabri High School offers a study major in the plastic arts, the Cabri Gallery for Contemporary Art is located in the kibbutz and plans are underway for an art museum.

CONNECTION TO PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:

Many Kibbutz Cabri members have been a part of PARTNERSHIP2GETHER programs over the years.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT:

A tour by the director of the etching facility, including the galleries and observation of master printmakers. You can also choose to view a short movie about the center.

HOURS & LENGTH OF VISIT:

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM / 60 - 90 minute visit
PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:
Twinning Program
Sharing Curriculum and Building Friendships
A connection between our students, teachers and administrators

WHAT IS THE TWINNING PROGRAM?
Classes from the Western Galilee region along with classes from a Central Area Consortium community study a topic together, thereby forging relationships between the teachers and pupils. The twinned classes cover a broad age range and diverse subjects.

_CONNECTION TO PARTNERSHIP2GETHER:
The Twinning Programs are a central activity of the PARTNERSHIP2GETHER Education Task Force.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT:
Take the opportunity to meet the Israeli class that learns with a class in your community. The meeting can be a small group discussion with high school students or a hands on activity [i.e. making packages for soldiers or holiday greeting cards, etc.] with elementary students. Meeting a class that is paired with students from your community provides your group a chance to enrich the connections.

HOURS & LENGTH OF VISIT:
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM / 45 - 60 minute visit

OPTIONS FOR DONATIONS:
Computers

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