



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS NCSY ISRAEL



Message from NCSY Israel's Leadership



This year marks a remarkable milestone: the 10th anniversary of NCSY Israel.

Ten years ago, we set out with a mission to create a space where English-speaking teens in Israel could thrive-spiritually, socially, and emotionally rooted in Torah, Zionism, and personal growth. Over the past decade, we have grown from a handful of programs in a few neighborhoods to a national movement reaching over 600 teens this past year alone across five chapters, impacting lives, families, and communities. We look back with immense gratitude, for the lives touched, the leadership cultivated, and the deep connection to Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, and Torat Yisrael that we have seen flourish.

As we reflect on this milestone year, it is fitting to invoke the legacy of Rav Avraham Yitzchak HaKohen Kook zt"l, whose 90th yahrzeit we commemorate this year. Rav Kook envisioned a Jewish people united not by uniformity, but by shared purpose and divine mission, and in the Land of Israel. A vision that NCSY Israel strives to bring to life each day. Our teens come from diverse

backgrounds, each with their own story and journey. But through our programming, relationships, and learning, they come together around shared values, discovering their personal connection to Torah and Israel while feeling part of a greater whole.

Rav Kook famously taught, "The old shall be renewed, and the new shall be sanctified." This message could not be more relevant as we mark a decade of achievement. We renew our original purpose with fresh strength and sanctify new ideas, new teens, and new opportunities for the future. Just as the Menorah in the Beit HaMikdash had to be kindled daily, our mission requires constant light, consistency, and renewal. This year alone saw the launch of our Chai single-gender programming, the expansion of our YAIR Torah learning seminar, record-breaking participation on Regional Shabbatonim, and a Giving Day campaign that surpassed all expectations. Even amidst the challenges facing our country and our people, we saw growth-not just in numbers, but in depth, heart, and impact.

Looking ahead to our second decade, we remain driven by the belief that the teens of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Our work is not just about events or numbers. It's about nurturing emunah, building resilience,

and creating a home where each teen is seen, supported, and inspired to build a life of meaning rooted in Torah and responsibility to the Jewish people in their homeland.

To all who have been part of this journey—our teens and their families, our staff and madrichim, our generous supporters, our partners, and our Board, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your belief in this mission makes it possible.

With Hashem's help, may the next decade bring even greater unity, inspiration, and redemption - *בְּאַחֲדוּת נִזְכָּה לְגֻאֲלָה* - as Rav Kook dreamed and as our teens are helping to build each day.

Thank You,

Rabbi Michael Kahn

Executive Director, NCSY Israel

Rabbi Yosef Ginsberg

Regional Director, NCSY Israel



Dear Friends,

“If you build it, they will come.”

That famous line from *Field of Dreams* (1989) has always inspired me. In the movie, a farmer risks everything to build a baseball field, trusting that paying fans will show up. The deeper message is clear: when you have the courage to dream and take bold steps, Hashem opens doors you never imagined.

5785 was a year of remarkable growth for NCSY Israel—growth that began with just such a dream.

I will never forget a breakfast meeting in the Ramot Mall with Mitch Aeder, now

President of the OU. I asked him how he hoped his new administration would be remembered. He tapped the table and said a single word: “Israel.” He explained that the writing was on the wall—the future of the Jewish People is here—and the OU must prepare for it. In later conversations, Rabbi Dr. Josh Joseph, the OU's COO, echoed that same vision. That moment became the spark for something new: a different kind of NCSY, for a different kind of generation. Together with our founders, Rabbi Michael Kahn and Rabbi Yosef Ginsberg, we began to design what NCSY Israel could—and must—become.

With the OU's substantial investment, NCSY Israel launched Chai, our separate-gender program, which has grown beyond anything we imagined. This past year our reach and attendance doubled, and demand has spread to new regions and communities. With full-time staff now serving all five regions, we've professionalized in powerful ways—introducing data, analytics, marketing, programming, and operational excellence.

But the story doesn't end here. The need is only growing. Jewish teens and their families are seeking inspiration, guidance, and belonging. And when families make Aliyah, we must ensure that their move strengthens—not weakens—their spiritual growth. That is our sacred responsibility.

If we build the right institutions, they will come. And when our children look around one day and ask, “Are we in heaven?” we will smile and answer: “No... this is Israel.”

Wishing you a Ketiva VaChatima Tova—a year of health, peace, joy, and redemption.

With gratitude,

Yigal M. Marcus

Board Chair, NCSY Israel ■