

---

TOGETHER WE  
WILL CHANGE  
THE DIRECTION  
OF THE WIND

---

Women's Spirit  
Financial Independence For  
Women Victims of Violence



2020



**Hagit Bekhor**  
Chair Women's Spirit  
Board of Directors

2020 brought with it a global epidemic that forced us and the rest of the world to deal with a new, harsh, and challenging reality. This epidemic required that we all change our habits, close ourselves off in our homes, and most of all, distance ourselves from what is familiar to us. This reality not only showed us how much our home is our castle our safe haven but also how for so many others, this is not the case. Many households suffered from anxiety and need, while others became pressure cookers just waiting to explode due to the constant presence of violence. COVID19 brought to the surface that for many the home is not a safe place. During 2020, Women's Spirit worked around the clock. We continued to work with our participants and became a refuge for many women seeking to escape the vicious circle of abuse.

The dedicated staff and volunteers of Women's Spirit demonstrated their commitment, resourcefulness, and creativity, as well as their operational and managerial flexibility. Thus, even during this complex year, we were able to expand the basket of services that could be offered to participants and the scope of the assistance provided. At the same time, we continued to be active in the field of legislation and advocacy, along with working to reinforce our visibility as an organization and expand public awareness. We increased the scope of our lectures to include businesses, organizations and private enterprises, enabling them to identify the phenomenon and recognize warning signs concealed in an abusive relationship.

For all this and more, I give my deepest thanks to all involved in this work and to all our partners who see our work as a social mission. Your support gives us strength and provides us with the ability to continue and work towards the economic independence of women survivors of abuse.

Thank you, our loyal and devoted partners – Women's Spirit's CEO, directors, staff and my colleagues on the Board.

**My hope is that 2021 will pave the way, for all of us, to have Economic and Personal Independence and Health!**

Финансовая независимость    አኮኖሚ ራሱን በራሱ ማስተዳደረ    Financial

This year, Women's Spirit, which I have the honor to head, celebrated 13 years of existence.

In 2020, together with the rest of the world, we were hit by an enormous economic and public health crisis. COVID19 worsened the condition of the weaker populations, women in general, and survivors of abuse in particular. In many homes, violence increased and with it, the number of referrals and the intensity of their severity, to Women's Spirit.

We must remember, and remind others, that many obstacles stand in the way of survivors of abuse in our midst; there are so many of them, coming from all parts of our society, and the obstacles they face are difficult to eliminate. The fact that these women are able to leave the vicious cycle of abuse does not end with the separation from their abusive partner.

Women's Spirit works closely and intensively with these women with the goal of promoting their economic independence and at the same time, acts to change policy, promote legislation and encourage awareness.

Our 2020 report is a short summary of our extensive and notable work. As you will see – the scope of our activities increased as did the range of professional responses that were adapted to meet the challenges of the times. In addition, we gained unprecedented public recognition for our work and noted significant achievements in the fight against violence, fighting for the survivors of abuse by changing policy, regulations, and legislation.

I want to thank our staff, volunteers, president of our Friends Association, and the Board members for their determined and outstanding actions carried out on a daily basis, every hour of the day.

It is my duty, and a very pleasant one at that, to thank you – supporters of Women's Spirit – for your confidence, encouragement and support of our endeavors.

**I have no doubt that our joint, determined, and just work will bring results as we continue striving to become an outstanding society, a culture of justice and social equality.**

Independence    الاقتصادي الاستقلال    ኢኮኖሚ ራሱን በራሱ



**Tamar Schwartz**  
CEO

# What Happened in 2020?

During 2020, we faced COVID19 which impacted us, and the rest of the world. Because of the limits placed on movement, and instructions from the Ministry of Health, we took steps to quickly adapt all of our frontal/personalized services and ongoing activities to online and remote communication. Our work was more intense than ever and focused upon providing support to and working with women survivors of abuse, promoting policy and legislation, as well as increasing the public's awareness and exposure to women survivors of abuse in all its forms.

**429** active participants

**277** active volunteers

**286** chose to be married in gowns from our Bridal Boutique

**103** lectures and workshops happened and thousands of people from all walks of life began to learn about Economic Abuse

**21** received Women's Spirit scholarships and began studies in cosmetology, education, psychology, website design, etc.

# 2020 Milestones

We strengthened our partnership with the Ministry of Welfare and continued our activities aimed at promoting the economic independence of women survivors of violence

משרד העבודה הרווחה והשירותים החברתיים



We "exported" the Women's Spirit model overseas in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as part of the framework of a series of unique lectures to professional women in Myanmar on the subject of economic abuse

We expanded our physical presence in the social and geographical periphery in the north and south of Israel

We received the prestigious Golda Meir Award, for inspiring social action. Golda Meir was the first and only female Prime Minister of Israel to date



As part of our activities within the Coalition for Ensuring Child Support Payments, during COVID19 we managed to terminate the policy against double stipends, so that women who were fired during COVID19 were entitled to both alimony and unemployment payments

"Shattering Illusions" - possibly most important of all, during 2020 we experienced significant mobilization on the part of the public to be part of the fight which we have been promoting for over 13 years. Thanks to this, we will be able to bring light to dark corners, "shatter illusions" and continue to promote this uncompromising fight for economic independence of women survivors of abuse

# “Crossing the Street”

“Crossing the Street” is a long-term community project that provides tools, knowledge, and support for women survivors of violence in order to help them build safe and independent lives for themselves and their children. The program acts to advance the integration of women survivors of abuse into the workforce. Our mission is to establish economic independence as an effective tool to escape the vicious cycle of abuse.

The program is personally adapted to the needs of each participant, based upon her personal story, her needs and her aspirations, and at the same time, considering the unique difficulties that characterize women survivors of violence. The program includes employment workshops; mentoring and personal training by volunteers; training sessions towards owning a business; grants to help with tuition; private lessons for reinforcing computer skills and language; assistance in work placement, etc. In 2020, and despite the many challenges that arose as a result of COVID19, the program continued to be implemented and at the same time, was significantly expanded. Today, “Crossing the Street” currently operates nationwide – in the North: in Nahariya, Haifa, the Krayot and their surroundings; throughout the central periphery, in Tel Aviv-Jaffa; and in the South: in Be'er Sheba, Ofakim, Netivot, and beyond!

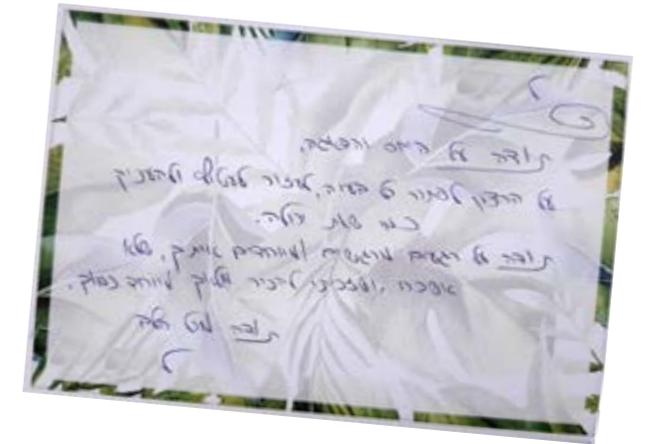


## HerStory

*“I came to Women’s Spirit totally broken, without knowing how to start anew, unable to figure out what was happening to me, how to function and even, how to think logically. During my first conversation with those amazing women who took me in with such warmth, serenity and understanding, I felt that I was not alone and stopped blaming myself. From the very first week I began feeling an improvement; I felt that I was not alone and that there was someone I could talk to without being judged.*

*I felt surrounded by love and support that I had not experienced before ...” A.*

*“You became a “wailing wall” for me. Support in times of need and assistance with every request”  
T.*



---

# Town Square

During the year, in spite of COVID19, we continued holding the Women's Open Space group, an open group session, that was held on a weekly basis via. Within the framework, we hosted past and present participants for an informal gathering which included lectures and a variety of workshops.

The workshops that we held included the ART of mindfulness, pilates and yoga, improvisation, nutrition, numerology, allowing oneself to feel happy, etc.



---

# HerStory

---

*"For me, Town Square is a space for a loving and encompassing social get-together, unconditional and non-judgmental. Women's Spirit's joyous acceptance of us every time that we joined the weekly get together made my heart beat fast, makes me feel that I am coming to visit my parents' home, parents who are happy to see me. Here one finds knowledge, tools, a different way of seeing one's daily reality and alternative ways of dealing with what I have with a smile. The emphasis is on the good, and what exists, on the future together with the present. I experience*

*power and growth and the set times for the weekly meeting provides me with enough fresh air for the new week that is full of challenges. Town Square is like a refuge and a place to recharge. Meeting other special women, ranging in age and each from somewhere else in the country is fulfilling and empowering. This is a place where each one can feel comfortable and share what is happening to her. Thank you for the opportunity you made possible for me."*

*A., a participant in Town Square*

# Spheres of Influence

Women's Spirit has been blessed with a community of volunteers who wholeheartedly dedicate their time and professional experience to our purpose and social message. Our hundreds of volunteers undergo intensive, in-depth training to become mentors and coaches. As part of our support model, volunteers form significant, beneficial and authentic relationships with the participants, without any material reward. They help the participants overcome professional and personal barriers and rebuild foundations of trust, self-esteem and a sense of personal capability.



## HerStory

*"I have been volunteering for Women's Spirit for a number of years, and it is a very significant part of my life. The ability to give something from myself, my observations, and just be there for her when she spreads her wings, gives me great satisfaction. Volunteering gives me the opportunity to develop my acceptance and listening skills and makes me a better person. Knowing that I was helpful, even in the small things, is very empowering. Sometimes just being there for her*

*and reflecting how much power she has, how much she does, and doesn't even notice.*

*Standing by our amazing and powerful participants is an experience that expands the heart, opens new horizons, and reveals a whole world. I'm not sure who benefits more, the participants or me."*

*Naama, volunteer Women's Spirit.*

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless"

# Breaking the Bind

Women's Spirit operates in the public arena to raise awareness about the financial state of women survivors of violence and the many professional, financial and legal barriers they face. We promote legislation and policy change to address these barriers in cooperation with other organizations and policy makers in the Israeli parliament and government.

The concept that guides us is that violence against women is a broad, social phenomenon that extends far beyond the particular case of a specific woman. Therefore, to eradicate violence, the social, cultural and legal structures that allow it to exist must be changed.



# Achievements

We have accomplished significant achievements including:

## Promoting the Economic Violence Law

Women's Spirit has led the preparation and promotion of the Economic Violence bill, the purpose of which is to define the term "Economic Violence" in the same manner in which mental, physical and sexual violence are defined. The bill passed the first reading, and awaits the reconvening of the 24th Israeli Parliament towards its second and third reading.

## Banking Availability Convention for Women Survivors of Abuse

the Banking Availability Convention of the Israel Bank and the Association of Banks provides a unique response to women who are in debt as a result of the abuse they experienced. Following this initiative, the Availability, which initially applied only to women in shelters, has been extended so that it is now also applies to women in the Centers of the Ministry of Labor, Welfare and Social Services for Prevention of Domestic Violence. In the past year, we have taken part in implementing the principles of the Availability in several centers.

## Abolishment of the "Double Allowance" policy

during COVID19 – as part of our activities in the Coalition for Ensuring Payment of Child Support, we brought about a change in policy such that women who were fired during the crisis and are entitled to child support from the National Insurance Institute, can receive unemployment benefits in addition to the child support, and not instead of it.



# Women Building Their Own Business

The program Women Building Their Own Business is designed for women who wish to establish an independent business or women who own a business and wish to promote it. The program opens up the world of entrepreneurship for these women, and allows them to form a solid business vision, build a plan for achieving defined goals, develop knowledge and learn professional tools and skills to manage a business and reinforce their feeling of self-capabilities.

## HerStory

*"I heard of Women's Spirit while I was going through my divorce. I heard from a friend of a friend who told me you 'saved her life,' and I thought to myself - I would also like a lifesaver.*

*My first meeting at Women's Spirit was with Sharon, who told me about the 'Women Building Their Own Business' course, even though I did not have a business. I always knew I wanted to be independent and something always tingled inside, but I did not know what it was. Sharon was there to encourage me and explain that even if I do not have a business yet, the course is much more than that. Some of the classes talked about business, but much of the course was also about understanding who I am and from there the passion for business will flourish. Throughout this process, I was becoming aware of my strengths and*

*how they can help the business. Every meeting gave me the opportunity to lay another stone and pave a safe and stable path, even if I still did not know where it would lead, it was clear to me that it would eventually lead to the right place for me.*

*Without Women's Spirit, I couldn't be where I am now. Their whole concept: the personal approach, professionalism, their true desire to help women who have experienced difficulties in their lives succeed and achieve financial independence, is both amazing and moving. As part of my desire to thank Women's Spirit, I decided that I would donate 5% of my profits to Women's Spirit at the end of each year. All that is left is to thank all the special staff of Women's Spirit from the bottom of my heart, for your help, care, concern and support." M.*

# Thank You for your Partnership



## Economic Independence

At Women's Spirit, we believe that financial independence is necessary for the independence, security and well-being of every woman. Similarly, Women's Spirit is constantly working to promote its own financial independence. Over the years, we have successfully developed a self-revenue system in order to create a safe and stable financial infrastructure, without only depending on external donations.



## Lectures and Workshops



Throughout the past year, and despite the many challenges, we have experienced significant growth in our lectures and workshop activities. As part of our work, we created new collaborations, promoted existing projects, and increased our circle of exposure and awareness of the complex issue of violence against women in all of its forms. Following COVID19 and in accordance with the changing guidelines of the Ministry of Health, we held most of the activity via zoom and held dozens of lectures and workshops that provided knowledge and practical tools for identifying, responding to and preventing violence.

## Community Ties

Women's Spirit has extensive collaborations with the social and business community and the general public. These connections expand circles of awareness and bring exposure to the issue of violence against women while encouraging audiences to take action. These efforts include the recruitment and retention of hundreds of volunteers and dozens of businesses, who support Women's Spirits activities and help promote the financial independence of women survivors of abuse.



## Social Responsibility and the Business World

### יום המאבק הבינלאומי באלימות נגד נשים 25.11.2020

במסגרת להעלות את המודעות הציבורית לסוגיה של אלימות פיזית, מינית, נפשית וכלכלית מנגה סובלות נשים בארץ ובחצי העולם במתיקן, במקומות העבודה ובמרחב הציבורי, הכרז על ידי האו"ם יום המאבק הבינלאומי.

המטרה המשותפת - להשאי את הסוגיה על סדר היום הציבורי, להגביר חקיקה ואכיפה ולקדם יחד, חברה, פתרונות מתאימים.

חודה לחברות השותפות לדרך על חלק במאבק הבלתי מתפשר באלימות וחוסמתן לצדק חברתי ושוויון הדמוקרטי בחברה הישראלית.



עמותת רוח נשית (ג.ר. 580474658) זוכת מטעם יעקב מינדר לאו"ם משנת 2019 (ECOSOC), את האפקטיביות לעשייה חברתית ואת ההוקרה של השרה לשוויון חברתי בתחום המאבק באלימות כלפי נשים.  
לפניות, תרומות ושיתופי פעולה / 072-2507770 / [www.ruach-nashit.org.il](http://www.ruach-nashit.org.il)

On November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, we had the privilege of holding the "Social Responsibility of the Business World" project for the second year in a row. As part of the project, we collaborated with leading companies in the Israeli economy to expand the circles of exposure and awareness of the issue of violence against women and we held dozens of lectures that exposed hundreds of people to this complex issue.

# Bridal Boutique

The Bridal Boutique of Women's Spirit is a unique social enterprise, which offers a variety of dresses that have been donated by designers and brides at affordable prices. We offer an alternative for affordable bridal gowns while combining social awareness and doing something good for others. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who are the heartbeat of Women's Spirit boutique, we can offer a positive, pleasant and professional experience to every bride.

Over the years, the boutique has become an inseparable part of Women's Spirit's financial resources that helps strengthen independent revenues while expanding the circles of exposure and awareness of the importance of financial independence for women in general and women survivors of violence in particular.



*"When we decided to get married, we wanted to find a wedding dress at a reasonable price and we heard about Women's Spirit from all over, so we decided to check it out. Once we understood that the goal of Women's Spirit is to help women who survived abuse and that our money would go to this cause, it was clear that that is what we wanted to do. We arrived at the fair in Tel Aviv and saw the huge selection of wedding dresses. We did not know what to choose! Within a few hours, we each found a perfect dress. One of our fondest memories of the wedding is from the moment we entered the Chupa (wedding canopy), and our guests told us how our dresses sparkled."*

# Thank You for your Support

assafpelleg

RISH

BO-E  
— Fashion —

Jul

GALI KARTEN  
BRIDAL COUTURE

easywed  
משום לארגן חתונה

DISPLAY S.

TALIA

LIVNÉ  
— White —

BRIDE'S STORY

David Hasbani  
FASHION DESIGN

MISSGEISHA

VICTOR VIV BELLAISH

VERED GILADI  
BRIDAL

LEE PETRA GREBENAU

MOTIL  
BRIDAL



קבוצת עיצוב מגוינה

NAAMA BEZALEL

מרינה טולורינה | מעצבת אופנה

TALI & MARIANNA  
Wedding Dress

nsindag

ShaniZimmerman

# Income and Expenses



- 74.3% Programming
- 14.4% General Expenses
- 11.3% Events, Initiatives and Collaborations



- 33.4% Foundations
- 38.1% Government & Municipalities
- 8.5% Private Donor
- 12.7% Businesses Collaborations
- 6.9% Independent Income
- 0.4% Participations Fee

# Team

- Tamar Schwartz** - CEO
- Amy Slater-Ovadia, MSW** - VP
- Attorney Dr. Merav Shmueli** - Director Advocacy & Policy
- Rosy Miller Minster, MSW** - Director of Professional Services
- Sharon Shapira-Nachum** - Branch Manager & Building Your Own Business
- Tamar Dagan, MSW** - Program Manager
- Galit Hamal, MSW** - Program Manager
- Sivahn Moor, MSW** - Program Manager
- Maali Abo Mukh** - Program Manager & Arab Community
- Sarit Bloom** - Program Manager - North
- Ravit Cohen, MSW** - Program Manager - North
- Nardeen Udeh, BSW** - Program Manager Arab Community - North
- Danielle Litt-Halpern, MSW** - Program Manager - South
- Jennifer Isakov, MSW** - Program Manager - South
- Miriam Peer** - Coaching Manager
- Hadi Gal** - Manager of Volunteer Services
- Shulamit Fishman** - Intake Coordinator & Community Relations
- Meital Ben-Dor** - Bridal Boutique Manager
- Sharon Rubinstein Mirkam** - Manager Development & Marketing
- Shlomit Binyamin** - Community Relations Manager
- Liad Lakritz** - International Community Relations Coordinator
- Karin Rabinovitch** - Program's Operation & Human Resources
- Lea Shani** - Coordinator of Measurement & Evaluation
- Oshrat Ben Shimshon** - Spokesperson
- Michal Baruch, ADV** - Office Manager



## Board of Directors



**Hagit Bekhor** - Chair, **Dr. Avital Kaye-Tzadok**, **Hassia Netter**, **Dr. Anabel Lifszyc-Friedlander**, **Hagit Meirovitz, Adv.**, **Wafaa Abed El-Ghani**



**Yael Abecassis**  
Women's Spirit Partner and  
Volunteer Mentor since its founding



**Motty Reif**  
President Friends  
of Women's Spirit

## Audit Committee

**Anda Barak**  
**Orna Tamir**

# Thank You for your Support

CBC GROUP



TheMarker

VARONIS

JWFA  
JEWISH WOMEN'S FUND OF ATLANTA



THE HADASSAH FOUNDATION



הקרן לידידות  
INDEPENDENT FELLOWSHIP OF CHARITIES FOR ISRAEL



artimedia

בנק הפועלים



Perion



The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

JWF  
JEWISH WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
OF THE GREATER PALM BEACHES

Medtronic



citibank



P.E.F.  
Israel Endowment Funds, Inc.



סופר-פארם

ONE  
השראה. פרסום. חדשנות.



ויקטורי  
חכמת-ניצחון



SAP

mobileye  
An Intel Company



קרן יוסף וקריסטינה קסירר

Greater Miami Jewish Federation

FLY  
Branding

H-ERP SIMPLY SMARTER  
חשבונות

ARGUS  
CYBER SECURITY

ironSource

בוינסטון  
מפתח



The Birmingham JEWISH FEDERATION

SAM AND BELLA SEBBA CHARITABLE TRUST

*Your small change can make a big change!  
Round up for Women's Spirit*

## **DONATIONS**

[www.ruach-nashit.org.il](http://www.ruach-nashit.org.il)

[office@ruach-nashit.org.il](mailto:office@ruach-nashit.org.il) | 072-2507770

[www.facebook.com/ruach.nashit](https://www.facebook.com/ruach.nashit)

Donations are tax deductible



Scan & Donate



Graphic Design  
hadar Cohen Yehieli



[www.ruach-nashit.org.il](http://www.ruach-nashit.org.il)

