



This past month has been filled with meaningful work, reminding us once again of the incredible strength and vitality of civil society. In times of social and security challenges, it is inspiring to witness how persistence, determination, and creativity can drive real change.

Two shining examples of this, which we are proud to spotlight this month, are two growing initiatives in our social entrepreneurs network: The Day After—a new and impactful program offering support to reservists and their families who have faced so much over the past year; and Niji Dojo—an established initiative that recently opened its innovative, spacious new home in Be'er Sheva. It is the first center of its kind in Israel, promoting inclusive martial arts and sports for children and individuals with special needs in the community.

On another note, I'm pleased to share (following last month's newsletter) that thanks to our collaborative efforts at the Round Table on Urban Renewal, we succeeded in removing a legislative proposal that would have hindered urban renewal efforts, especially in Israel's periphery.

These successes underscore the transformative power of working together, even in the face of significant challenges. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

In continued doing and faith,
Uri

Policy Shift in Israel

A Collaborative Effort for Urban Renewal

About a month ago, the Israeli government introduced its 2025 economic plan, which included a proposal to change the state's support for urban renewal projects—from grants to loans that would be repaid upon the sale of the property. This shift threatened critical efforts in the periphery areas of the country that aim to strengthen and safeguard communities through urban renewal.

In response, EretzIr convened an urgent meeting of the Multi-Sector Roundtable on Urban Renewal bringing together 40 representatives from various sectors. The consensus was clear: immediate action was needed to either amend or remove the proposal. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our partners, public pressure mounted, including appeals from over 100 municipal leaders, resulting in the withdrawal of the proposal from the government's agenda.

This advocacy not only halted a detrimental policy but also opened new opportunities for collaboration and reinforced our ongoing mission to promote urban renewal in peripheral regions. It also ensured that urban renewal remains a national priority.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Round Table members and partners for their dedication and unwavering commitment. Together, we are making a real impact!



Niji Dojo

A New, Inclusive Sports Center

Three years ago, Niji Dojo began as a small karate class with just three children on the autism spectrum. Last Thursday, it reopened as a groundbreaking sports center in Be'er Sheva, now training around 120 athletes (with the potential to grow to over 500)—including children, teens, and adults, both with and without special needs. The center's mission is to make inclusive sports accessible to all.

As the first facility of its kind in Israel, Niji Dojo offers a unique blend of sports, movement therapies, and wellbeing for children with autism and ADHD—populations that have few such opportunities throughout Israel and especially in the Negev. The new dojo features four active training spaces and two dedicated clinics providing movement therapy and emotional support tailored to individual needs of the center's students and families.

Led by Nofar Eyni-Hadass, a 4th Dan black belt karate coach who specializes in martial arts for special populations, Niji Dojo aims to pioneer adaptive training for individuals with autism and use sports as a tool to create true equality of opportunity.

At EretzIr, we recognized the incredible potential of Niji Dojo. For the first time, we're not only offering professional guidance and resources but also investing financially in this unique project to ensure its continued growth and success.



Learn more and consider supporting >>

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The Day After

A New Initiative Supporting Reservists and Their Families

We're proud to introduce The Day After, a new initiative born from the urgent need to support Israel's reservists and their families, who often bear the emotional and psychological toll of war. Led by a team of social entrepreneurs, former elite IDF unit members, and mental health professionals, this program offers comprehensive emotional and social support to those returning from military service.



Learn more about The Day After >>

[Click Here >>](#)

Eretz-Ir is a professional, organizational, and economic platform that enables and encourages the influence of residents on the space around them. We help active residents who want to create positive change in their environments. We help active residents by helping them develop professional tools and meet like-minded partners, while increasing their sense of ability to create cities that are simply good to live in, specifically in Israel's periphery regions.

Help us continue to serve these champions of civil society and social action.

[Donate Now!](#)

