

Dialog for Life Farm Proposal To Jewish Columbus,

My name is Sivan Shefer, and I am the founder and CEO of "Dialog for Life," a nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing a sanctuary for animals and a healing space for humans in the Gaza envelope region of Israel.

The "Dialog for Life" farm is established in the heart of the Eshkol Regional Council in the Negev in Southern Israel (an area which was devastated in the October 7th massacre)

We are reaching out to you with a heartfelt request for financial support to help us bring this project to life. Beyond funding, we see this as an incredible opportunity to strengthen the bond between the Columbus Jewish community and our community in Israel. By working together, we hope to create lasting connections through shared values, collaborative initiatives, and meaningful engagement that benefits both communities.

Our Vision

[Please watch our video to discover the story of Dialog for Life](#)

Nestled in the heart of the Eshkol Regional Council in the Negev, "Dialog for Life" is a sanctuary of healing and hope. Guided by the belief that connections between humans and animals promote mutual healing, the farm will serve as a refuge for animals and a therapeutic space for people.

The farm is dedicated to the memory of my beloved nephew, Dudi Turgeman, from Moshav Sde Nitzan, who was tragically murdered in the horrific attacks of October 7, 2023. Dudi, a passionate lover of animals and nature, was deeply cherished by all who knew him.

With a mission to restore resilience after profound loss, the farm will provide a safe space to process trauma, rebuild trust, and foster mutual healing for people and animals alike. It will be a place of compassion, growth, and renewed community strength.

What the Farm Will Offer

- **Healing and Therapy:** Spaces for personal and group therapy focused on rebuilding trust and security.
- **Animal Sanctuary:** Free-range areas and treatment spaces for horses, donkeys, camels, goats, sheep, and more.
- **Community Connections:** A vegetable garden, fruit orchard, nursery, and carpentry center supporting therapy and farm maintenance.

This eco-friendly, sustainable farm embodies our core values, serving as a model for a better world where all life coexists with mutual respect, compassion, and safety.

Who We Help

The farm welcomes all, focusing on:

- Victims of the October 7th attacks
 - Residents of Western Negev communities
 - IDF soldiers and security forces
 - Survivors of the Nova Festival
 - Bereaved families and families of hostages
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A Modular Vision for the Future

(Attached to the email are farm renderings for illustration).

The sanctuary will span 5 acres (20 dunams) and will be developed in two stages:

- **First Stage:** Launching on Tu B'Shvat, this phase includes tree planting and a community event introducing the healing center to the Eshkol region. Financial assistance is needed for fencing, landscaping, animal shelters, therapy meeting rooms, temporary office buildings, a vegetable garden, a fruit orchard, and a nursery.

Estimated costs for specific projects in the first stage:

- First stage office facilities: \$60,000
- Fencing (Animal + Perimeter): \$140,000
- Infrastructure (Electricity, Water, Sewage) + Landscaping: \$400,000
- Animal, Therapy, and Maintenance Structures: \$450,000

Total cost of the first stage: \$1 million

- **Second Stage:** This phase involves gradual construction of permanent buildings, roads, paths, parking spaces, and farm equipment, as detailed in the attached preliminary architectural plan.

Total estimated cost for both stages: \$2 million

Strengthening Community Connections

The connection between Dialog for Life and Jewish Columbus is deeply personal. My family originates from Columbus—my mother was born there, my parents were married there, and they later made ALIYA in 1972 to Israel, where they established Moshav Sde Nitzan in the Eshkol region. My parents were among the Eshkol region founders, and today, we are working to rebuild the area after the tragic events of October 7th. Our extended family and friends still reside in Columbus, creating a meaningful bridge between our communities.

We envision many opportunities to deepen this bond, including:

- **Tu B'Shvat Tree Planting:** Offering community members the chance to purchase and plant trees on the farm, symbolizing growth and renewal.
- **Volunteer Delegations:** Trips for adults, students, and youth from Columbus to volunteer at the farm and experience life in Israel firsthand.
- **Virtual Animal Adoption:** Supporters can virtually adopt animals, contributing to their care and the farm's mission.
- **Future Collaborative Projects:** Exploring shared initiatives that strengthen our partnership.

By fostering these connections, we aim to create a lasting partnership where both communities benefit, ensuring the farm's sustainability and a shared sense of purpose.

Strengthening Connections Between Communities

We see the farm as a place that brings our communities closer together, no matter the distance. Strengthening these connections has so much to offer:

1. **Building Friendships:** By creating opportunities for people—especially teens—from both communities to meet and work together, we can help build real friendships. These relationships create a strong sense of connection and shared purpose, beyond cultural and geographical differences.
2. **Encouraging Understanding:** Through farm visits, virtual meetings, and shared activities, people can learn more about each other's lives. They'll gain a better understanding of the challenges we face as Jews and the unique experiences we have as Israelis and Americans.
3. **Creating a Shared Community:** Bringing people to the farm, whether in person or online, helps them feel like part of something bigger. American visitors can feel more connected to the farm's mission, and Israelis can feel supported and understood by their friends abroad.

4. **Inspiring Youth:** Involving young people is key to building future leaders who will continue these connections. The farm can host programs and projects where teens work together, learn from one another, and grow into a strong and united generation.

By bringing our communities closer, we're not just supporting the farm; we're building a stronger, more connected future for all of us.

Funds Raised to Date


- Crowdfunding Campaign: \$120,000 received
 - Anonymous Donor: \$32,000 (commitment)
 - Berelowitz Foundation: \$500,000 (commitment)
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We deeply appreciate your time and consideration and hope you will join us in making this vision a reality by supporting our project and fostering a meaningful connection between our communities.

Thank you

Sivan

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 [Visit our website for more information](#)