



## *Lights in the darkness*

Tel Aviv's Asif Culinary Institute, once a popular foodie destination, has been transformed into a war kitchen since the war began. The institute produces 2,000 meals a day to feed soldiers, injured in hospitals, and displaced families. The joint operation organized by Gilgul Culinary Productions and Asif CEO Chico Menashe, is part of a larger effort by dozens of Tel Aviv restaurants. Ha'Achim, a logistics hub, handles the dispatch of meals, and the Tel Aviv Rabbinat provides emergency kosher certification.



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Hundreds of volunteers in Tel Aviv are working to help Israel's soldiers and survivors of the Hamas massacre. The operation began when a few friends donated water to soldiers at a railway station. By Tuesday, an army of 2,000 people were sorting, packing, and dispatching boxes of food, clothes, children's toys, toiletries, cigarettes, and more. The volunteers work from 6am to midnight at the Expo Tel Aviv exhibition and conference zone, underground and safe from Hamas's rockets.



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Israeli nonprofit organization Early Starters has opened three safe spaces for children in conflict zones following Hamas attacks. These spaces are serving at least 1,000 displaced families and are being staffed by volunteers from IsraAID. The organization acknowledges the psychological trauma, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder caused by the attacks, and emphasizes the importance of creating a structured environment with a dedicated team of professionals to alleviate the trauma and positively impact children's wellbeing.



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Bedouin Israeli businessman Sami Elkrenawi has hosted evacuated families from Gaza border communities in 50 hotel rooms at his own expense since the start of the war. He provides food, drink, clothing, and supplies to IDF soldiers stationed in the south. Elkrenawi believes that Hamas' atrocities are not sanctioned in his religion. With expenses adding up to million shekels, he is seeking donations to continue providing free room and board at various hotels.



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The CEO of Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital was called and told informed that there was an error and that most of the hospital cleaning staff did not arrive on Saturday, and an urgent solution was required. At 6 in the morning 150 youths volunteers of a youth movement arrived and cleaned non-stop. The CEO added: I have been in hospitals for many years and I have never smelled such a good smell anywhere like in a hotel.. It was really so exciting because cleaning is not something that people run to volunteer to do and here overnight 150 teenagers arrive.'



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Blood donors waited for hours at Jerusalem's Pais Arena stadium for the Magen David Adom blood drive. The event, held at the arena, was the second day it had been held, after the previous day had to turn away donors. Jerusalemites of all stripes — secular teens toting guitars and yeshiva boys with prayer books in hand, groups of worried mothers, English speakers, Russian and French immigrants, Christian pilgrims — all waited for hours, quietly and patiently, in order to donate blood.



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Israel's Arab population faces challenges due to the war, the predominantly Arab Rahat chapter of United Hatzollah, an emergency response team responded to missile attacks by providing humanitarian aid to Israeli Gaza border communities. They took over a kosher food production plant in Rahat and used it to prepare hot kosher meals for soldiers and first responders.



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Being coeliac is difficult, but it can be a particular challenge for soldiers in the IDF. When Jamie heard about this issue, she got together with her friend Judith and worked hard to make all sorts of Gluten Free bread and rolls to send to the soldiers. Even Schar, the gluten free flour brand, pitched in and sent Jamie a large amount of ingredients.