



## THE GIFT OF ISRAEL SAVINGS PROGRAM RULES OF PARTICIPATION

The Gift of Israel Savings Program is a cooperative program in which families, congregations or Jewish institutions and the Greater Miami Jewish Federation each contribute funds on an annual basis to enable participating young adults to attend a qualifying educational program in Israel. The Gift of Israel Savings Program has the purpose of facilitating each participant to have a qualifying Israel experience as a part of his or her Jewish education. A family must contribute a minimum of \$100 per participant per year. Payments are to be made directly to the participating congregation or Jewish institution. Federation will match the family contribution of \$100 per participant per year, for a maximum of 10 years. The congregation or Jewish institution must match the family contribution of \$100 per participant per year, as solely determined by the congregation or Jewish institution.

### ELIGIBILITY

Any Miami-Dade County resident or any member in good standing of a Miami-Dade County congregation enrolled in Kindergarten-9<sup>th</sup> grade, with at least one parent who is Jewish, is eligible to participate in the Gift of Israel Savings Program. Participants must also comply with any and all rules of eligibility as established from time to time by their congregation or institution.

### ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

The family's contribution is due at the time of enrollment and each succeeding year. Payment is to be made directly to the participating congregation or institution, if applicable, or directly to the Gift of Israel Savings Program at Federation. Annual payment by each party to the Gift of Israel Savings Program agreement shall continue for a maximum of 10 years or until the participant attends an eligible peer program as early as grade 8, up until age 26. A participant must be continuously enrolled in the Gift of Israel Savings Program for a minimum of 3 years prior to attending any approved peer program in order to utilize the monies contributed by Federation and the congregation or Jewish institution.

### PROGRAM CRITERIA

In order to be eligible for funding through Gift of Israel Savings Program, any program must emphasize Jewish learning or living experiences, foster a positive

connection to the State of Israel, and constructively contribute to the participant's quality of Jewish life. Moreover, a program must be geared towards and limited to participation of teens and young adults. An approved peer trip provides an invaluable opportunity for Jewish youth to grow and explore in a meaningful way their own Jewish identity and their connection to Israel and the Jewish people. Therefore, family trips as well as Federation and congregational family missions are ineligible for funding. All programs must be sponsored or endorsed by the Israel Engagement Committee, which must certify the eligibility of any Israel program selected by the participating student. The Committee's determination shall be final and binding on all participating congregations, Jewish institutions, students and their families. It is strongly encouraged that Israel programs contain a pre- and/or post-educational component. Programs which are not eligible are scientific or technical education programs at all grade levels and those which have a principal emphasis on recreation, travel or touring, with only an incidental Jewish learning or living component.

### **SUSPENSION AND WITHDRAWAL**

*Suspension:* If a family contribution is not received for a student by the specified date, the student will be suspended for one full year. Federation will not tender its annual contribution during any period of suspension. A student may resume participation in the Gift of Israel Savings Program in any succeeding year prior to the ninth grade with the payment of the annual family contribution. If the account has a suspended status for multiple consecutive years, after the ninth grade, the account will be deemed as if the participant withdrew from the program.

*Withdrawal:* A participating family may withdraw from the program at any time and for any reason upon 30 days written notice to the Gift of Israel Savings Program director. On receipt of the notice of withdrawal, the family forfeits any and all rights to the contributions made by Federation and the congregation or Jewish institution; the principal contributions made by the family and congregation or institution will be returned to each respective entity without any accrued interest. Should the family change its mind within 14 days of the withdrawal, the account may be reactivated by re-depositing the principal contributions made by the family to the Gift of Israel Savings account. A \$250 processing fee applies to a reinstatement of the account.

### **TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

Transfer funds from sibling to sibling: Families have the option to transfer the family contribution, without any accrued interest, from one child's Gift of Israel Savings Program account to that of a sibling, at the sole discretion of the participating congregation and/or Jewish institution. Contributions made by the Synagogue will be returned to the Synagogue without any accrued interest.

Transfer from one community to another: If a student transfers from one participating Federation community to another, the student may continue to remain in the Gift of Israel Savings Program pursuant to the terms and conditions of the new community. All funds accumulated to date will be transferred to the participating community upon receipt of written notice from the participant. If a participant moves out of Miami-Dade County permanently, please contact the Gift of Israel Savings director at Federation.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

The Greater Miami Jewish Federation administers the Gift of Israel Savings Program at no cost. All family and congregational/institutional contributions shall be deposited into a federally insured financial institution. Participants shall receive annual reports of the status and balance of their accounts. Upon Federation's receipt of a written letter of acceptance, Federation shall forward the participant's funds directly to the eligible Israel program selected by the participant and approved by the Gift of Israel Savings Program Committee.

### **RULES AND PROCEDURES**

The Israel Engagement Committee of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation shall establish all rules and procedures, including any amendments or modifications.