

AFSI Chizuk Mission to Israel Oct. 20-28, 2026

A Journey of Strength, Solidarity and Commitment

Last month's AFSI Chizuk Mission to Israel was an unforgettable journey of connection, discovery, and unwavering solidarity with the Jewish homeland. From the heartland of Judea and Samaria to communities throughout Israel, our participants witnessed firsthand the courage, resilience, and determination of the people who are building, defending, and protecting the Land of Israel. We met inspiring individuals, visited old friends and communities and farms on the front lines, and experienced the deep historical and spiritual bonds that unite the Jewish people with their ancestral homeland. We are delighted to share these photographs, capturing some of the many meaningful moments, special encounters, and powerful experiences of our mission. These are more than photographs – they tell the story of a people, a land, and a commitment that remains stronger than ever.

A Very Special Sefer Torah Dedication

In the evening on Tuesday, October 20, AFSI had the tremendous honor and pleasure to join with the Tamam Family and their Holon community as we donated a beautiful and historic Sefer Torah memorializing the lives of their beloved Adare and Shiraz, z"l, a lovely young couple who were murdered in a roadside bomb shelter on October 7, 2023 on their way to the Nova Music and Dance Festival. May their memory be a blessing and Am Yisrael Chai!!!











PROOF!! AFSI Chizuk Mission Refutes “Settler Violence” Narrative

On Tuesday, Election Day in Israel, we had to return to Jerusalem earlier than planned so our driver could vote. This unexpected schedule change created an opportunity for an impromptu detour. Our contact at the Benjamin Regional Council put us in touch with a newly established farm along our route. After navigating a long, unpaved road with winding, sharp turns, we reached the hilltop of Chavat Gibori David. There, we were warmly greeted by Yossi, a man in his 30s who chose a new path after his army service, moving away from the Haredi lifestyle of his youth.

Yossi is an extraordinary young man. Beyond pursuing his vision of building a farm and securing 2,500 dunams of Israeli state land, he established a sanctuary for other young Haredi men completing their military service—offering them a community and meaningful work. Through sheer determination and the assistance of friends, he brought running water to the hilltop and personally built the access road. It is idealism in its purest form, and we left deeply moved, inspired, and grateful.

By Sunday morning, heartbreaking news arrived. Two young shepherds from the farm were ambushed while grazing their flock, attacked with stones and clubs by a group of local Arabs accompanied by foreign "provocateurs". These outside activists selectively record only the young men defending themselves, deliberately omitting the initial assaults to fabricate a hostile narrative.

Having met them personally, we can affirm that these young men are gentle, dedicated pioneers striving to preserve the land of Israel for the entire nation. By actively working the land and tending their herds, they prevent unlawful land grabs on Israeli state territory. While no community is entirely without exception, I firmly believe these shepherds were targeted solely for peacefully minding their herds on Israeli land.

Please pass along what we experienced firsthand to your friends and family. The "settler violence" narrative has become a primary weapon in the ongoing PR battle against Israel. Unable to prevail through conventional means, hostile groups seek to shape public perception. Please do everything you can to help share the truth!







Machane Yehuda Farm, Maoz Mechina in Hebron Hills

Welcome to the Machane Yehuda Farm and the Maoz Mechina in the Hebron Hills of Southern Judea nearby Ancient Sussiya. In May of 2025, our AFSI group of 23 while traveling on a larger bus was unable to traverse our up the winding and steep dirt road to this most beautiful, inspiring and peaceful place. So, the two families, who started this 2,500-acre farm just a few months earlier came down by Jeep and car to greet us and bring us a delicious and locally sourced burger lunch.

This time, with our smaller group, traveling in a Sprinter minibus we made it up no problem. And boy oh boy were we glad about that! Upon arrival, while the many young children were at kindergarten and school, we were warmly greeted by Israel Kaplan who in addition to building out this place has served roughly 500 days as a reserve in the IDF since 10/7, his lovely wife Moriah, and many of the young men who post high school are spending a year or so there at a Mechina. Coming from all over Israel, here they are learning Torah, tending to the 250-300 sheep, protecting the farm from potential invaders and preparing for their service in the IDF.

Sadly, these young men, should a problem arise with some sort of invasion, would be deemed by much of the global media as violent hilltop youth. Thankfully as we continue to learn, the presence of these farms which have grown so significantly over the past few years under the current administration, has for the most part not only helped to establish the land as Jewish land but has done so peacefully. It is absolutely our intention to return to this place and to continue to support and be even a small part of their growth and development. While we hope many of you will join us there sometime, please feel free to reach out if you want us to help make a connection for you.






CHABAD OF
EAST DERRY


שמעה
אלהים
רנתי
הקשיבה
תפלתי

In Chavat Gilad with Old Friends

Our Chizuk Mission experienced the first good rain of the season at Chavat Gilad with the Shimon family.









The Shomron community of Havat Gilad, which AFSI has been deeply connected with for over 15 years as they have grown from 8 families to over 100 families suffered a devastating fire on Saturday, July 18, 2026, destroying many homes and forcing dozens more to evacuate their homes. In these photos we are with our dear friends Ilana and Yehuda Shimon looking down the valley over the burnt land through which the fire roared and hearing their story of what happened on that devastating day and being reminded of the overwhelming strength, resilience and faith that emanates so clearly from this amazing couple and their family of 12 as well as from their entire community. While looking down, feeling the prevailing winds coming from the west that brought

the blazes up from the valley, hearing the story of the tragic fire and still being able to smell the burn, a thunderstorm started to build over the horizon which brought a most welcome and overdue downpour that definitely felt like it arrived as a blessing from HaShem. After a great group discussion, hearing their story of the role their family has played in building out and growing the Jewish communities based here in the heartland that is Judea& Samaria while enjoying their overwhelming hospitality in their temporary home we shared hugs, love and maybe most importantly the support and Chizuk (strength) that we are able to help bring and gain to and from them. Until our next visit, we leave with the faith that B"H they will not only recover but continue to grow stronger over the coming months and years to come.

Maoz Shaul Farm and Viewpoint in Memory of Charlie Kirk, z"l

Our AFSI group with Yigal Dalmoni Founder of American Friends of Judea & Samaria at Moaz Shaul farm in Samaria. Named in memory of two Israeli soldiers who were killed in battle defending the nation, the panoramic viewpoint is in memory of Charlie Kirk z"l.

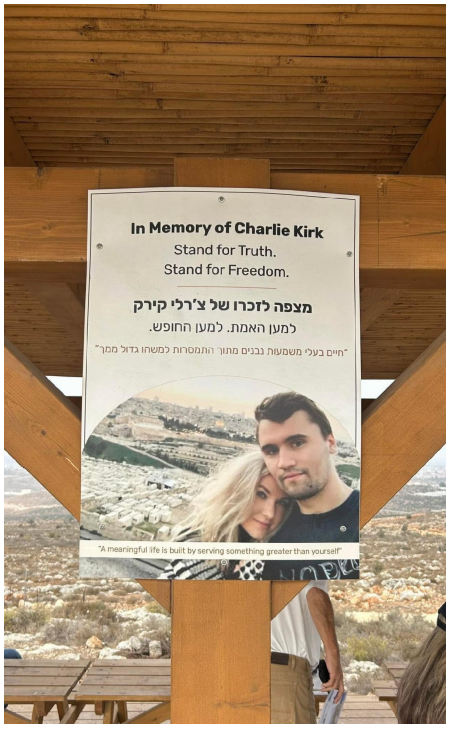














In Binyamin: When We Say Hilltop, We're Not Kidding!

We visited the northeast corner of Binyamin in Judea and Samaria. This is a 2,500-acre hilltop farm, and when we say hilltop, we're not kidding, the winding and unpaved road up here was not only spectacular but somewhat harrowing, but welcome to Heroes of David Farm. Founded by a young Haredi named Yossi, 14 months ago, is a story of extraordinary strength and conviction. Yossi, who against the narrative, served in the IDF, against all odds broke away from the traditional Haredi lifestyle with his pregnant wife and 3-year-old child, to build this place. While the accomplishments, from the road building to bringing water to the farm are astounding, it's the Haredi part of the story that we found almost even more compelling. Yossi decided somewhere along the way that the Haredi lifestyle that we see in places like Bnei Brak wasn't for him and for this was originally shunned by his parents who more recently having seen all that he has accomplished, have not only embraced his life decisions but couldn't be more proud. And to complete the circle, the farm is now a place where fellow Haredi's are coming after serving in the IDF, to work the farm and build out and protect the land from surrounding Arab invaders. While there was a bit of language barrier, as our Hebrew continues to improve, we're excited to return and grow our support of this amazingly inspirational place.







