The University of Haifa
Carmel Fire Campaign

The deadly fire that decimated the Carmel Forest region of northern Israel has wreaked unprecedented proportions of enormous destruction. Lives have been lost, homes and places of business have been destroyed, and a huge section of the forest that has long been an integral part of the Haifa landscape has been ravaged. The blaze proved how vulnerable the University of Haifa campus is to such disasters.

The University of Haifa has launched a **Carmel Fire Campaign** to support the following needs:

- Provide humanitarian aid to address the financial and emotional needs of members of the University community impacted by the crisis; and
- Enable the purchase of life-saving equipment and upgraded fire protection and prevention systems to meet new, more stringent standards for ensuring the safety of the campus' main facilities.

The University’s top priority continues to be the safety of its students and staff and we will do everything possible to continue ensuring their safety to the fullest extent in the future.
Ensuring Life Safety and Fire Safety at the University of Haifa

Immediate Needs

I. Scholarships

A. The "Carmel Forest Fire" Scholarship Program to commemorate the men and women who tragically died in the disaster. This scholarship project will award 44 scholarships named in memory of those who lost their lives in the fire. The program establishes a personal connection between scholarship recipients and the bereaved families, which often develops into a special relationship.

- A gift of $200,000 will enable the establishment of this special scholarship program for one year.
- An endowment of $1 million will ensure that the scholarship program continues in perpetuity. A dedicated ceremony will be held to honor the benefactor of this generous program.

B. A Scholarship Fund for Members of Israel’s Rescue Services – to provide scholarships for members of Israel's Fire Department and Rescue services interested in pursuing an academic degree at the University of Haifa.

- A gift of $100,000 will enable the establishment of the Israel Rescue Service Scholarship Fund.

C. Annual Scholarships

- **Provision of Scholarships** - Students who have been directly affected by the fire require financial assistance to complete their academic studies and research. Scholarships will ease their economic and emotional burdens.

- **Dedicated Student Scholarships** for undergraduate and graduate students, where scholarship recipients volunteer in nearby communities that suffered damage during the fire, including Yemin Orde Youth Village, Kibbutz Beit Oren, and the Hai-Bar Nature Reserve.

- Annual scholarships for BA students - $3,000; MA students - $5,000; and PhD students - $15,000.
II. Supporting Fire-Related Research

Research centers at the University of Haifa are shedding light on the short-and long-term implications of the Carmel fire: the complex rehabilitation of the Carmel ecosystem and landscape, and the various psychological tolls it has taken on the Israeli community.

- A gift of $50,000 will enable each of these centers to continue vital research in these areas.

- **The Mount Carmel Research Center** was established at the University of Haifa in cooperation with the Israel Nature and Parks Authority to provide an umbrella organization that will develop a uniform policy regarding the preservation of the Carmel biosphere reserve. The Center is directed by Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology Professor Ido Itzhaki, whose research specializes in the ecosystem and diversity of Mount Carmel.

- **The Center for Loss, Bereavement and Human Resilience** is an independent research and training center dedicated to providing leadership and direction for bereavement efforts in Israel. The Center shapes national policies for assisting the bereaved, ensures the evolution of appropriate training and research and promotes the development and assessment of current intervention strategies. Professor Simon Shimshon Rubin of the Department of Psychology, an eminent clinician and researcher with over three decades of experience in theoretical work and clinical practice, is Director of the Center.

- **The Laboratory for Technological Innovations in Rehabilitation** develops state-of-the-art technologies, including 'virtual reality,' to ease the suffering of individuals with physical or cognitive disabilities resulting from trauma. Professor Tamar Weiss of the University's Department of Occupational Therapy, combines expertise in physiology and biomedical engineering to lead this innovative laboratory.

- **The Center for Community Mental Health Research, Practice and Policy** is an integrative, multi-disciplinary center unique in its comprehensive scope. The Center’s mission is to develop a body of research in the field and to link the findings to policy decisions and delivery and implementation of mental health services. The Center is directed by Professor David Roe, Chair of the Department of Community Mental Health.
III. Humanitarian Aid

The University of Haifa is committed to providing psychological support to members of our community – students, staff, security forces and Mount Carmel area residents – who have been affected by the disaster, having lost relatives, friends, and homes. Immediate psychological assistance is being provided at the Clinical Counseling Center, directed by Dr. Haim Kaplan and the Interdisciplinary Clinical Center, headed by Professor Rivka Yahav.

The University of Haifa has a longstanding relationship with Israel's Police Force and Prison Services and will continue to provide them with support at this difficult time.

► A gift of $50,000 will enable the University's Counselling Centers to provide immediate psychological support to the University community.

IV. Upgrading Fire Safety and Prevention on Campus

A. The Eshkol Tower

In the wake of the recent devastating fire and the immediate danger posed to the University of Haifa, fire safety requirements in Israel have become more stringent. The Eshkol Tower requires immediate fire renovation to comply with the latest life safety and fire safety codes, including automated sprinkler systems, smoke alarm systems, carbon monoxide detectors, and emergency action plans and communication systems.

► A gift of $300,000 will enable fire renovation of each floor in the Eshkol Tower. In recognition of the donor's generosity, the University would be honored to include a plaque on the renovated floor noting the donor's support.

B. The University Library

The University of Haifa's library is the largest academic library in Israel, containing collections of more than two million books, manuscripts, journals, microfilms, database, maps, and photographs.

At this time, 5,000 square meters of the library need to be brought up to current life safety and fire safety standards. This area of the library is located at the northern end of the campus which is surrounded by the Carmel Forest, making it especially vulnerable to potential fire hazards. Due to the structural and architectural design of the library's older section, installation of sprinkler systems will be extremely difficult and costly, and will require the replacement of ceiling and lighting systems.

► A gift of $1.5 million will enable the fire safety renovation of the University library.
V. Critical Needs

- **Construction of an ecological path (for walking, cycling, or educational tours) of 4.2 km around the campus** to create a firebreak. A firebreak is a defined area designed to contain a spreading fire that will separate the campus perimeters from the vegetation of the Carmel. The strategic project will be completed in three stages:
  - Diluting vegetation within the campus grounds (combustible pine trees will be thinned and replaced with other suitable vegetation) $150,000
  - Construction of 2 km of the path $2 M
  - Completing the path on the northern side of the campus $5 M

- **Construction of a Water Pump Station** to create sufficient water pressure and to provide water for fire services. The project will include: the addition of four new pumps, overhaul of existing pumps, addition of a water supply pool, and renewing the control system in the Eshkol Tower to include the pump station and to ensure notification of low water pressure. 1M

- **Installation of a Central Control System**
  - University-wide security command center $70,000
  - Updating the public announcement system to a central, state-of-the-art system $250,000
  - Thermal camera for the Eshkol Tower to record variations in temperature and to identify fire outbreaks $100,000

- **Replacement of wood paneling** in the Main Building, classrooms, 4th Floor of Eshkol Tower, lobbies, and other campus areas ($100 per meter) $500,000

- **Upgrade of Campus Fire Extinguishing Systems** - The purchase of fire engines, fire extinguishing equipment (sprinklers, fire hoses and extinguishers).
  - Installation of sprinkler systems in the following buildings:
    - Eshkol Tower - $60,000 per floor
    - Terrace Building - $25,000
    - Main Building - $50,000
    - Multi-purpose Building - $660,000
    - Maintenance Area - $150,000
The University of Haifa, the largest comprehensive research university in northern Israel, sits atop Mount Carmel and presently serves a student body – the most pluralistic in the country – of more than 17,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

The University of Haifa is dedicated to academic excellence and social responsibility. Its location provides a unique backdrop for novel interdisciplinary programs, cooperative endeavors with academic institutes around the world and a diverse student body primed to address regional challenges and universal social issues. Jews, Arabs, Druze, new immigrants, IDF officers and security personnel come together to study, research, socialize and share knowledge in an atmosphere of coexistence, tolerance and mutual respect.

Instruction is offered within six faculties: Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, Natural Sciences, Social Welfare and Health Sciences and Education; and the Graduate School of Management. The University's dual mission of first-rate higher education and service to the community at large is manifested in the equal educational opportunities open to all sectors of society and in its many forms of programs promoting social outreach.

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