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All of Rashi's joint initiatives with the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Social Services for families, children, youth, and young adults are continuing their full range of activities. Our field staff and volunteers now use online platforms extensively in order to function at a high level in the field – this changeover required much effort under intense time pressure. This includes the Family Services Basket system, a joint

converted into digital vouchers for basic food products that can be redeemed with cellphone payments. In addition, three of Rashi's affiliate associations – Yachdav, Northern Goals, and Tafnit – are continuing to provide professional services in all of the welfare frameworks they run, supplemented by volunteers as necessary. All activities are conducted under full compliance with the social distancing and sanitary directives set by the Israeli public health authorities and government.

— Material assistance

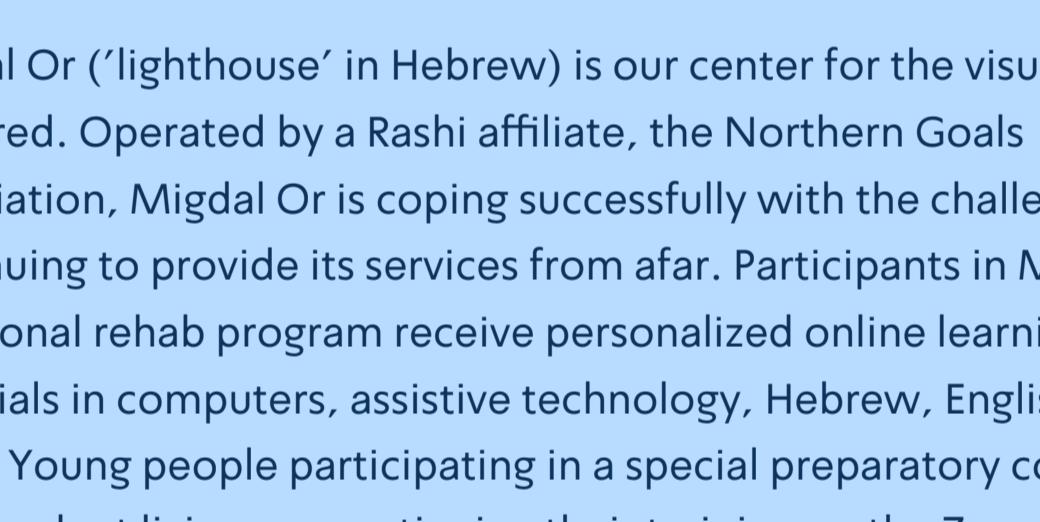
Rashi is expanding its provision of material aid in light of the crisis situation. In advance of the Passover holiday, we are sending digital vouchers redeemable for basic needs to families and elderly people in poverty or distress.

Rashi made a financial contribution to Latet's emergency fund through which packages of food and other essential supplies are packed by IDF soldiers and delivered nationwide to thousands of elderly people who comprise the highest coronavirus risk group. Other partners in this co-funding effort include the Keren LeYedidut (IFCJ), the Arison Foundation, the Azrieli Foundation, Fondation Adelis, Bank Hapoalim, the Strauss Group, Osem, and Tnuva.

— First computers for families in distress

Following the recommendation of our field teams, we have decided to provide computers to families that have none and cannot afford them.

Computers will help keep their children occupied with online education and recreational activities. At the same time, they will enable our field teams to maintain close contact with these families, continue interventions, and identify developing needs. As such, these computers stand to be a vital tool in reducing tensions and in enabling families in distress to make much more constructive use of the endless hours under lockdown. Due to the sheer numbers of disadvantaged families without computers, we are seeking partners to join us in this venture.



— Spotlight on our Lighthouse

Migdal Or ('lighthouse' in Hebrew) is our center for the visually impaired. Operated by a Rashi affiliate, the Northern Goals Association, Migdal Or is coping successfully with the challenge of continuing to provide its services from afar. Participants in Migdal Or's vocational rehab program receive personalized online learning materials in computers, assistive technology, Hebrew, English, and more. Young people participating in a special preparatory course for independent living are continuing their training on the Zoom platform. Migdal Or's call center has stayed open to answer questions about using computers, apps, and cellphones. It has also expanded its hotlines for emotional support, and for assistance in accessing Migdal Or's

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have taken the CEC's beginner level course in the Python language, and an advanced level course is now being offered. This success has led to the development of additional online courses, including one on the basics of computer networks and cyber security.

- **Closing educational gaps online, youth leaders for science education**

Extended periods of crisis widen educational gaps even further. In response, Rashi affiliate Beit Yatziv has joined with the Ministry of Education in forming an online center for thousands of high school students in dozens of peripheral locales who need to improve their capabilities in the core subjects of math, physics, chemistry, and English. This will give them a much-needed learning boost in advance of the Bagrut matriculation exams. The online lessons will be delivered by teachers and volunteers who are university students and private sector employees. Partnering with us in this program are Intel, several

The Science Leadership program for youth in the periphery, which is operated by Beit Yatziv, was forced to close down along with all in-person formal and informal educational activities nationwide. This didn't stop the program's counselors, who are organizing online group lessons on scientific topics on the Discord communications platform. The programmatic team has also put together a digital booklet of home science experiments for children and their parents, which are being distributed on several online platforms.

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