

Edmond and Lily Safra
&
The Edmond J. Safra Foundation

Mr. Edmond J. Safra was one of the greatest bankers of the 20th century, having established an unparalleled reputation for financial acumen and trust. Born in Beirut to a family that had started in banking at the time of the Ottoman Empire, he built a business that spanned more than thirty countries across the globe.

Edmond Safra was just sixteen when he went to Milan to work on behalf of his family's banking business. Following Edmond's recommendation, the Safra family moved to Brazil, where father and son founded Banco Safra S.A. Edmond Safra was Founder and Honorary Chairman of the Republic New York Corporation and Republic National Bank of New York and was Chairman of its European private banking subsidiary, Safra Republic Holdings S.A.

Edmond Safra was also an extraordinary philanthropist. Rarely taking personal credit, he supported tens of thousands of students, underwrote medical research, built and restored schools, endowed professorships, and contributed to countless humanitarian, religious, educational, and cultural causes. He made major contributions to the national, cultural, and religious life of the State of Israel, including donating to the Israel Museum Einstein's 1912 manuscript of the Special Theory of Relativity as well as an abandoned 18th-century synagogue from Suriname; and by building Safra Square, where the offices of the mayor and the city administration of Jerusalem are located.

Edmond J. Safra created a major philanthropic foundation to ensure that needy individuals and organizations would continue to receive assistance and encouragement for many years to come. Following his passing in 1999, and now under the chairmanship of his beloved wife Lily, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation draws continuing inspiration from its founder's life and values.

With Mrs. Safra's leadership, the Foundation has assisted hundreds of organizations in over 40 countries around the world, and its work encompasses four grantmaking areas: Education; Science and Medicine; Religion; and Humanitarian Assistance, Culture, and Social Welfare.

In the area of Education, some of the Foundation's most significant projects have included endowing the Center for Ethics at Harvard University and the science campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; helping Israeli universities develop, recruit, and retain the very best faculty through the Edmond J. Safra Program for Faculty Excellence; establishing the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Tel Aviv University; and supporting institutions like Yad Vashem (Jerusalem), the Mémorial de la Shoah (Paris), and Facing History and Ourselves, in their efforts to help teachers impart the lessons of the Holocaust and the values of tolerance and courage to their students.

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation continues to underwrite the activities of the ISEF Foundation, which has, since its establishment in 1977 by Mr. and Mrs. Safra, become the largest non-profit organization promoting higher education for gifted Israelis from disadvantaged backgrounds.

ISEF has granted over 20,000 scholarships, including support for thousands of MA and PhD students, and recipients of ISEF scholarships continue to distinguish themselves in every discipline.

The Foundation established “Keren Shemesh”, an Israeli organization that provides loans and expert mentoring to young people wishing to start small businesses. To date, over 2,500 new businesses have been created across the country, and businesses launched by Keren Shemesh-supported entrepreneurs have created over 6,000 new jobs, many in Israel’s peripheral regions or populations. The Foundation has also been an underwriting partner of the “A Window to Tomorrow” program, distributing computers and technology training to over 75,000 disadvantaged families.

The Foundation funded the development of a groundbreaking learning disabilities diagnosis and treatment program for Arabic-speaking children at the University of Haifa, which is providing hope and new opportunities for thousands of families. It has also provided ongoing assistance for the Beatzmi organization’s social and educational support program for the Ethiopian community in Israel.

The Foundation has developed a significant portfolio of Parkinson’s disease research and patient care projects at some of the world’s leading universities and scientific institutes including the University of Toronto, King’s College London, Imperial College London, New York University, the Centre Hospitalier Pitié-Salpêtrière in Paris, the Université Joseph Fourier in Grenoble, and the Clinatec Institute, also in Grenoble. It is also one of the leading funders of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research, and it sponsors the Edmond J. Safra Fellowships in Movement Disorders, an elite training program for the next generation of Parkinson’s clinician-researchers.

The Foundation created a novel program to improve the teaching of Parkinson’s disease in nursing schools throughout the United States, and it has sponsored numerous professional education programs on Parkinson’s disease throughout the world in partnership with the International Parkinson’s and Movement Disorders Society. Further, it has helped the National Parkinson Foundation (USA) produce and distribute tens of thousands of resource kits for Parkinson’s patients, aiming to give them the tools to receive better care in case of hospitalization. It also sponsors the Edmond J. Safra Parkinson’s Wellness Program in five US cities.

In 2006 Mrs. Safra established the Edmond and Lily Safra International Institute for Neuroscience in Natal, Brazil, now that country’s most highly-regarded brain research center. The Institute also includes the Alfredo J. Monteverde School, serving 1,000 underprivileged children in the region. With her leadership, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation endowed the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the largest and most ambitious neuroscience project in Israel.

Additionally, the Foundation supports numerous hospitals worldwide (notably the Edmond and Lily Safra Children’s Hospital at Tel Hashomer, Israel, which treats thousands of patients annually from across the Middle East), has built the Edmond J. Safra Family Lodge at the National Institutes of Health outside Washington, DC for patients participating in clinical trials and their families, and assists numerous other organizations providing relief for those suffering illness (including a camp for children with cancer and other life-threatening conditions in Israel; community Parkinson’s education services in New York City and Montevideo,

Uruguay; residential treatment facilities for severely disabled children in Israel; and medical device lending services; among others).

In the area of Religion, the Foundation has built and restored synagogues around the world, some of which are the Edmond J. Safra Synagogue in New York, St. Petersburg's Grand Choral Synagogue, the Moscow Choral Synagogue, and almost two dozen synagogues in towns and cities throughout Israel. The Foundation sponsored the renovation of the Prayer Hall and Plaza at the Western Wall in Jerusalem and is underwriting French translations of the Hebrew Bible and the 72-volume Babylonian Talmud.

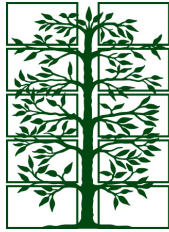
The Foundation has assisted numerous arts institutions, providing scholarships for students and helping organizations reach broader and more diverse audiences. Receiving support have been institutions such as the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage, the National Gallery of Art in Washington (the Edmond J. Safra Visiting Professorship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts), the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Grand Théâtre de Genève, as well as the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, home of the Edmond and Lily Safra Fine Arts Wing.

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation has been among the first to respond to some of the world's worst humanitarian disasters, providing aid after Hurricane Katrina, the Darfur crisis, earthquakes in Kashmir and Indonesia, and the Indian Ocean tsunami. It has also committed resources to rescuing children from the contaminated areas around Chernobyl through the "Children of Chernobyl" program and from Romanian state orphanages through the "Hope and Homes for Children" organization. Additionally, it supports the "Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village" in Rwanda for children orphaned by the genocide and is funding vital welfare services (food, medicines, clothing, and other necessities) for the elderly in Ukraine.

In addition to her work as Chairwoman of the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, Mrs. Safra is a Board member of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, and the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health. She is a Co-Founder of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, dedicated to the sustainable and equitable management of natural resources.

Mr. and Mrs. Safra were each named *Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* and *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur* by the French government and were both awarded honorary doctorates from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem for their commitment and support for Jewish and humanitarian causes and contributions to higher educational opportunities in Israel.

Mrs. Safra has since been made *Officier de la Légion d'Honneur* by the President of France and *Chevalier dans l'Ordre de Léopold II* by the King of Belgium. She also holds Honorary Doctorates from Brandeis University, Tel Aviv University, the University of Haifa, and Imperial College London, and Honorary Fellowships from King's College London and the Courtauld Institute of Art.



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Edmond J. Safra



Lily Safra

For more information on Edmond J. Safra, Lily Safra, and the
Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation, please visit:

<http://www.edmondjsafra.org>