OUR MISSION

To provide hope and opportunity to those whose lives have been visited by hardship or marked by special challenge, and to give them not only compassion but to offer them, too, an enhanced Dignity.
Mr. Edmond J. Safra was one of the most accomplished 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 fifteen 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. Edmond Safra was Founder and Honorary Chairman of the Republic New York Corporation and Republic National Bank of New York, and he was Chairman of its European private banking subsidiary, Safra Republic Holdings. Throughout his career, Mr. Safra was also an extraordinary philanthropist. Rarely taking personal credit, he supported tens of thousands of students, underwrote medical research, built and restored schools and synagogues, endowed professorships, and contributed to countless humanitarian, religious, educational, and cultural causes worldwide.

Mr. Safra endeavored 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 under the chairmanship of his beloved wife Lily, the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation draws continuing inspiration from its founder’s life and values.
FOREWORD BY LILY SAFRA

In his beautiful song, Circle of Life, my dear friend Elton John sings, “All are agreed as they join the stampede, you should never take more than you give.”

My husband Edmond was certainly one who agreed. He was humble enough to understand that his success did not come through his own hard work and talent alone, but that he had been blessed. And that those who are blessed are obligated to share those blessings with the less fortunate.

But Edmond never considered giving to be an “obligation” or a burden. For him it was a privilege and the great joy of his life, as it has become mine. In this fourth edition of Dignity, I can feel my husband’s spirit on every page: in the commitment of a Parkinson’s researcher to overcoming setbacks and in the triumph of a discovery; in families being able to find medical care for their children; in students learning the values of tolerance and compassion; in small, far-flung Jewish communities celebrating holidays together; and in the faces of the elderly poor, having a meal and a medical check-up in a dignified setting, and being reminded that they are not alone.

Throughout the past fifteen years we have had the pleasure to work with hundreds of organizations in more than 40 countries around the world, and their accomplishments have been extraordinary. This new edition of Dignity is dedicated to the thousands of energetic and dedicated professionals who lead and run these outstanding organizations, without whom none of the achievements detailed here would have been possible. I am honored and proud to call them our partners, and I know that Edmond would join me in admiration and gratitude.
It was in October that Elaine and I last had the opportunity of being with Lily and Edmond at the National Gallery, when we watched them receive a gold medal for the support they have given to that institution. I went, of course, to pay tribute, but I went with another motive. It was just after the annual meetings of the World Bank, and I recall over so many years, the remarkable receptions which Edmond and Lily gave that same institution. They became a tradition, and I went also because I knew that I would learn from Edmond what he thought about the world today, what he thought about banking, what he thought about politics, and to be quite honest with you, I wanted to get his advice and his endorsement for what I was doing.

Although I was close to Edmond in age, I always thought of him as a much older man. He was certainly wiser, and for years I had been to see him and had always told him, even from the mid-sixties, that I thought he was the brightest banker in the world. That might upset some of the people in this audience, but I did, largely because of his remarkable background. Originally from Aleppo, where his family had been financiers, bankers, and traders, they moved to Lebanon, where they built a bank, which I recently saw. Then Edmond went to Italy and then to Brazil, which is where he established a remarkable Latin America business, which he subsequently sold to his brothers. Then in 1966, he came to the United States, where he started Republic Bank.

To give you an idea of the difference between Edmond and me, I once went to Knox the Hatters, a haberdashery store on Fifth Avenue to buy a cheap suit when I was at Harvard. When Edmond went, he bought a hat, and then he bought the building as the headquarters for Republic Bank. Of course, prior to that, he had already built a remarkable institution before, beginning in 1956, I think it was: Trade Development Bank in Switzerland. These two institutions flourished. They flourished internationally, establishing branches and organizations around the world until the sale of Trade Development Bank and the subsequent beginnings of Safra Republic, which, again, was built into a remarkable institution.

People say about Edmond that he was a very conservative man – that he was conservative in banking – and indeed he was. He was regarded as extraordinarily prudent, and maybe Paul will tell you later, his bank was judged by the Federal Reserve to be a very sound institution. He was seen as someone who was very rigid, very strict in terms of banking, but that didn’t stop him from expanding into many, many innovative forms of banking in financing, in metals, in gold trading, in working with hedge funds, in securities management, and in gaining deposits.
I had a father-in-law who responded very much to Edmond Safra. I don’t know that they knew each other, but I know that he knew of Edmond, because when Elaine and I came back from London, we found ourselves with 18 savings books and a room full of television sets. In fact, I should thank him for furnishing our first apartment. We had television sets in every room and 18 bankbooks we had to fill in to collect the interest every month.

He was a wonderful marketer, but more than that he was a remarkable banker. He made it look easy. He used to say, “Banking is a simple, stupid business.” You pay interest to people a little less than you get for investing their money. Keep your costs down, and that’s all there is to it. He was a great judge of character. He looked at balance sheets, but he also thought that looking in people’s eyes was the best way of judging whether or not they were going to pay you back. He was a truly prudent banker. He used to say that you could turn a good man into a bad man by lending him too much money. All these things sound very simple, and Edmond’s greatness was that he stuck to very simple and basic principles.

As the Rabbi has already commented, these principles of integrity, loyalty, and fidelity were that which marked Edmond Safra. It was not his extraordinary success — capped by a sale to Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, another remarkable international institution — that makes him, in my judgment, worthy of the description as the greatest banker of his generation. It was the quality of the man. It was the leadership that he gave, and it was the tradition that he established for all future bankers to follow.

Lily, we are with you to celebrate his life and to tell you how much we loved him.
My wife, Angelica, and I met Edmond and Lily only a few years ago, so our friendship was brief. We saw one another very rarely, alas, much too rarely, but our encounters were such that they made a deep and lasting impression on Angelica and myself.

Edmond himself, of course, never had a chance to attend college, but he was passionately committed to education, and, as you may know, he gave generous gifts to several universities. Perhaps even more significant, he was determined to make sure that literally thousands of Israeli students who were in deep need were able to go to university to earn their degrees, to have the kind of future that they wanted and needed.

For several reasons, probably reasons best known to himself, Edmond developed a special relationship with Harvard over the past two decades. He helped to create facilities for a new Hillel society so that our Jewish communities could have a stronger communal life. He established two professorial chairs, each of them commemorating a person and also enhancing a field of study. The first was in memory of his father, the Jacob E. Safra Professorship of Jewish History and Sephardic Civilization, and the other in memory of Robert Kennedy, the Robert F. Kennedy Professorship in Latin American Studies.

All these gifts were thoughtfully and generously conceived. They all touched the lives of many, many students, faculty and others. They enriched and invigorated the cultural and religious traditions with which Edmond was so closely identified, and they made those traditions a permanent part of Harvard and its life.

Not long after I became President of Harvard, a meeting between the two of us was arranged; deliberately, perhaps surprisingly, I set no agenda and neither did Edmond, as far as I could tell. Instead, we talked at length in those measured and reflective tones that were so natural to Edmond about many subjects of shared interest – about the Middle East, international affairs, Israel, and so on – and I was struck, as many people have already observed, by the sort of weight of his judgments, by the frank realism of what he said as well as by the vision.

When we parted, I couldn’t really tell what Edmond had made of the meeting because I think he probably expected that since I was a new university president, there was probably one major reason why I had come to visit him. I wasn’t looking for money, but he seemed to wonder whether I was perhaps eccentric or perhaps just incompetent. Then, he stepped back and he rather smiled. He looked at me almost half paternally, because, as with Jim Wolfensohn, while I’m actually not that many years younger than Edmond, he seemed to be dozens of years older than I was. Then he said, “It would be nice to meet again.” I felt
welcomed in a very personal way into a very personal world, and it was that spontaneous feeling of welcome that provided the basis for all of our subsequent meetings.

During that first brief hour, I really gained the strong sense of someone who possessed a deeply grounded view about what was central and significant in life, about the nature of the world, and above all about human friendships. I had the sense of someone whose values and convictions seemed to be sort of bred in the bone. They seemed to have been born out of much difficult, but long and thoughtful experience, and, therefore, they seemed constant and clear, steady and unshakeable.

As we know, Edmond often worried, not without reason, about a great many things, but he never seemed to me to be a victim of doubt. Doubt, like belief, has to do with what is fundamental in life, and with respect to that, Edmond was a bantam, always on sure ground.

The fundamental values were essentially very simple. First, there was the circle of his family and close friends with Lily in the middle. Then, there were the rituals and devotions of his religious faith. Then, his scrupulous commitment to the integrity—and growing out of that, the success—of his business. Then, the deep connection to his cultural heritage, indeed his several heritages, which he never ceased to foster through generous acts of charity and philanthropy.

Finally, there was his vision that human intolerance and oppression, age-old conflicts and wars, must somehow be surmounted, that pathways to sanity and to peace must somehow be found and be followed. These were the values that were so clearly expressed when Angelica and I celebrated Shabbat with Edmond and Lily seated around their New York table. Edmond presiding ceremoniously, soberly, yet festively and familiarly, and then again when Angelica and I reciprocated in Cambridge with a sort of New England Chabad—or maybe it was a Unitarian—feast, with a little dash of Harvard transcendentalism. Edmond and Lily had journeyed bravely from New York, in the midst of one of the decade’s worst snow storms, that certainly would have kept me at home, and Lily came bearing lavender and white orchids as if to prove that it was really spring.

It has often been said of Edmond that he was an intensely private man, but within that sphere of privacy was a rare and flourishing spirit: open, sometimes grave, convivial, firmly rooted, generous. In losing him, we have lost not only the man but some substantial share of the deep values that he embodied. It has been a terrible loss, but he lives, if not in our presence, then brightly and powerfully in our memory.
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR EDMOND J. SAFRA
NEW YORK, 9 JANUARY 2000

MESSAGE FROM
THE HONORABLE EDWARD M. KENNEDY

I regret that I’m unable to attend Sunday’s memorial service for your husband, Edmond, whose passing was everyone’s loss. You have been in my prayers during this difficult period. Edmond was admired and loved for his wisdom and genius in business, for his loyalty and integrity. He built close relationships with giants of commerce throughout the entire world. I was grateful for his statesmanship and, most of all, his friendship.

His generosity was extraordinary and none of us in the Kennedy family will ever forget it. The visiting professorship he endowed at Harvard, in Latin American studies, in honor of Robert Kennedy continues to enrich the lives of students and leaders and is a fitting memorial to my brother and his commitment to the Alliance for Progress, and Edmond’s gift to the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial last year in memory of Bobby and Ethel’s son Michael touched our family very deeply.

Edmond shared Bobby’s vision of a better world, and the words my brother loved summed up Edmond’s brilliant life and career as well. “Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream of things that never were and say why not.”

With condolences and warmest wishes in memory of a giant for all times.

MESSAGE FROM
THE RIGHT HONORABLE BARONESS THATCHER

Edmond Safra was a giant. His business acumen was legendary. Along with his high intelligence and unquenchable energy, it made him one of the outstanding bankers of the postwar era, but he was more than that, for Edmond Safra was also a man of great integrity and enormous generosity to good causes. Like all of his many friends, I shall miss him deeply.
Ronny and I join all of our friends in New York today in remembering our dear friend, Edmond Safra. Our hearts go out to Lily and the family at this most difficult time.

Edmond was gifted with a brilliant mind, uncommon character, discipline, and determination, all of which served him well throughout his remarkable career. As much as Edmond was dedicated to the world of business, first and foremost were his love and devotion to his beloved Lily and his family, and hard as it may be, Ronny has always believed that we should not dwell on one’s death but on how one lived.

Although shy at times, Edmond was truly a giving man, full of kindness and great decency. Despite his serious side in business and his illness in recent years, he was not afraid to smile or laugh. Students throughout the world have been given a chance of a successful future because of his generosity. His philanthropy had no limits. His legacy we shall carry and so shall all of our generations.

We are saddened at the untimely death of Edmond Safra. We are all better for having known him and we join you in prayers.
Lily, and friends of Edmond, you know in one sense, my perspective with respect to Edmond Safra’s life and legacy is narrow. It was limited to his role in commercial banking, but, of course, as all of you well know, and has already been made clear this evening, commercial banking was Edmond’s heritage. It was his consuming passion. It has often been said that he thought of his banks as his children, and in his life, those children got more than a few hours of quality time. They were his business and much of his pleasure.

Now, as I thought about this occasion and about all the tributes that have poured in on Edmond’s death, about the spontaneous respect expressed for the man in both Europe and America, it struck me in a way as both paradoxical but also reassuring. Here is a man that grew up in a minority community in a turbulent Middle East. I suppose there was never much doubt that he would be in the long succession of Safra bankers, but he certainly never had much formal schooling. At an age when most of us were thinking about what college we’d like to enter, he was sent out pretty much on his own to explore business opportunities in both Europe and America, and by the time most of us were proudly receiving our degrees, maybe with an MBA, he had already opened banks from scratch on two different continents, and long before his untimely death, those banks and Edmond Safra himself had become remarkably successful on both sides of the Atlantic, and not just in financial terms.

Edmond and the Safra name came to command instinctive respect far beyond their Levantine origins, and what strikes me as paradoxical about all of that is that it was achieved by a man who exemplified a traditional approach in finance, a man who shrank from personal publicity, a man who had never claimed to be an innovator in what we think of as modern banking and finance. He didn’t pioneer exotic new financial instruments, complicated derivatives, highly leveraged deals, hybrid securities – none of that was his thing. He managed risk by knowing his clients and by matching maturities, by keeping a personal watch on the books rather than by mathematical modeling. He certainly was not caught up in the fashion for bigger and bigger mergers, nor, I’m happy to say, did he feel it necessary to test the limits of law and regulation. To the contrary, he built his banks, he made his money, and, not so incidentally, established his name the old fashioned way.

He did business that may have seemed a little dull to many, but it was a business that he knew firsthand: arbitraging and trading, and catering to the needs of wealthy families who placed priority on safety and discretion in the handling of their funds. In New York, in particular, he aggressively went out after the savings of the proverbial man-in-the-street looking for
both security and convenience, and at one point he became, indeed, the world’s largest purveyor of television sets. I hadn’t realized until this evening that the Wolfensohn family was a major beneficiary of his attraction for television sets as a means of introducing the bank to new depositors. He expanded his branch network, and he kept costs down long before that became every bank’s mantle.

It all sounds terribly outmoded and routine, but when it came to a decision, Edmond could match any modern entrepreneur. He launched that New York child, Republic Bank, with the largest initial capitalization up to that time of any American bank, some $10 million, a good part of it his own money, and he did it at a time very much unlike the present: markets were far from exuberant. The shares of the big banks in New York were then trading at less than their book values.

Over the years, as his success spread attention and envy, he stood up against all kinds of innuendo — innuendo that might have defeated a weaker man — and just weeks ago, in the midst of selling Republic Bank, it was reported to his great dismay that a bank customer had defrauded others, in the process using the bank facilities. Edmond, entirely on his own initiative, stepped up to protect other shareholders from any impact by accepting a significantly lower price for his own shares.

What was so reassuring to me and the central bankers is that he could run his business that way and still do exceptionally well in the crudest test of success on Wall Street: making money. It’s an interesting fact that anyone buying one of those original Republic Bank shares in 1965 would have found them worth some 200 times as much last week, almost 17 percent compounded annual return for 34 years. Not bad for a young man from the Middle East.

Now, I can’t claim close personal friendship with Edmond, but I do count myself very much among his admirers. I do admittedly have a parochial reason. In my days at the Federal Reserve, he never complained when interest rates approached 20 percent, and that alone made him almost unique among commercial bankers. The broader reason is that he made it a priority to recognize his obligations to his clients and to his staff. He also made it his priority to educate his colleagues in the way of prudential banking. He insisted they follow those precepts, and through it all, as again has been made so plain this evening, Edmond was strongly motivated by a sense of personal responsibility that couldn’t be counted in all those money numbers. He protected the Safra name. He honored the father he loved.

Today we are here to honor the son, a man who knew what it meant to assume responsibility in both his public and his private life, a man with the capacity, the determination, and the will to discharge those responsibilities: a man deserving of our respect and admiration.
Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I knew Edmond more from the Jewish side than the financial side of his life. The most beautiful plaza in Jerusalem, Safra Square, has seen many people assembling, praying, and thinking, and you cannot be but fascinated by this unbelievable phenomenon: a unique man and a unique Jew, extraordinary as a doer and builder.

I was thinking very much about Edmond’s father, Jacob Safra, who was born and lived his early life under a very strange regime, the Ottoman Empire. Today we have forgotten its limitations and scope – from seemingly one day to the next this mighty empire folded like a house of cards and a new world emerged. Not only did the family go from one age to an entirely different age, but also from one corner – almost a lost corner of our time, the Middle East – to the wide, demanding, imaginative world, and growing, thanks to Edmond, from a provincial bank to a worldwide institution, all the while remaining strong and devoted as Jews, across the continents, throughout the contradictory demands of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian life.

Edmond fascinated me a great deal. He had two competing merits in my eyes: an unbelievable vision, and an unlimited daring imagination. I always wondered how one could combine the knowledge of microscopic details and the doing of telescopic business. You cannot combine those two unless you have a very rare judgment: when you know where one thing begins and another thing ends; where you can go without limits; when you shouldn’t make a single step.

The first feeling you got from Edmond was a sense of trust. You know you will never be misled. You can hang on his judgment. You can depend on his strength, and you can even trust what is so rare in business, his heart.

Usually, we say a bank will never give you a loan unless you convince the bank you don’t need the money. With Edmond you would never get that reply if he was convinced that the need was the right need. So, he went, he acted, he changed, he overstepped all limitations and all norms to make a name for himself, and in a way, for the Jewish people. He was a devoted Jew and a real lover of Zion, not by speeches, not by declarations on the contrary, in a strange way, he was also a shy man. He wasn’t after photo opportunities. He wasn’t after publicity. He wanted to conquer you with trust, not win your impressions, and over the last year, years, actually, we discussed peace a great deal.
There were very few people who could have had the depth of understanding about the potential and also the obstacles of achieving a peaceful world in the Middle East. He knew the Arabs in a balanced way. He knew the United States. He knew Europe, and he knew the Jewish people, as well – four very complicated combinations. He felt that maybe a bank could do what the politicians could not. Maybe you can conquer by being large and investing widely, rather than by conquering with an army and defending.

I know that over the last years he dreamed deep in his heart to play a real role in bringing peace in the Middle East among the Arabs and the Jews, and while being so busy, he never stopped dreaming that Jewish history had not yet reached its real destiny. I know that his contributions, as meaningful as they were, were just the beginning. Even though he achieved a great deal in his life, he passed away as a potential in our own midst, as a potential of judgment, as a potential of greatness, as a potential of generosity, as a potential of a man who, while being careful as a banker, was an optimist, and a real human being.
We have gathered today to pay our last respects to Edmond Safra, an outstanding human being. That means many things to many people. For his family, he will forever be the devoted husband, father, and grandfather. His circle of friends, in which I have the privilege to belong, will always remember him, his generosity, and his kindness and understanding.

As for his numerous business associates, partners, and acquaintances, he will forever represent the paragon of professional high standards and confidence. His tragic and untimely passing ultimately constitutes for each of us – in different ways and different fashions – an irreparable loss.

Personally, I had come to appreciate, over the years, his unique combination of open-mindedness and a strong commitment to his beliefs. A deeply religious man, Edmond Safra had a profound spiritual tie with the land and the people of Israel, advocating tirelessly and helping generously their causes, yet his curiosity for human nature and genuine interest in world affairs had made him realize that everything was not black or white, and that justice and fairness transcended national borders and political considerations regardless of faith and nationality.

He perfectly embodied in that respect the Middle East he so intensely loved, a crossroads of many cultures, civilizations of conflicting interests and endless clashes, which at last seems to be heading in the right direction.

As I am reading these lines, I realize, however, that this is not a kind of homage that my dear friend would have loved to hear. He would have much preferred that I emphasize instead the invaluable support and affection of his family and pay tribute to his beloved and loving wife, Lily. For she, her children, her grandchildren, gave him the best years of his life.
We have supported projects and organizations in...
HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PROJECTS

HOPE
1. Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research
2. Parkinson’s and Movement Disorders Center, New York University
3. Edmond J. Safra Visiting Nurse Faculty Program in Parkinson’s Disease
4. National Parkinson Foundation
5. Edmond J. Safra Program in Parkinson’s Disease, Toronto Western Hospital
6. Edmond and Lily Safra International Institute of Neuroscience, Natal, Brazil
7. Parkinson’s Disease Care and Education Program, Montevideo, Uruguay
8. Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences, Hebrew University
9. Clinatec Institute, Edmond J. Safra Biomedical Research Center, Grenoble
10. Brain and Spinal Cord Institute, Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris
11. AFM-Téléthon: The French Muscular Dystrophy Association
12. Claude Pompidou Institute for Alzheimer’s Disease, Nice
13. King's College London
14. Imperial College London
15. Elton John AIDS Foundation
16. Fight AIDS Monaco
17. Edmond J. Safra Family Lodge at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland
18. Edmond and Lily Safra Children’s Hospital, Tel Hashomer
19. Hospitals in Israel
20. ALUT - The Israeli Society for Autistic Children
21. Aleh: Caring for Israel’s Disabled

OPPORTUNITY
22. Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University
23. Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Tel Aviv University
24. Edmond J. Safra Center for Bioinformatics, Tel Aviv University
25. Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities, University of Haifa
26. International Sephardic Education Foundation
27. Ecole Edmond J. Safra Bordeaux
28. Alliance Israélite Universelle, Paris: Centre Alliance Edmond J. Safra
29. Beatzmi: Support for Ethiopian Families, Israel
30. A Window to Tomorrow, Israel
31. Smart Classrooms in Israeli Schools
32. Keren Shemesh, Israel
33. Aladdin Project, Paris
34. Yahad – In Unum
35. Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Site
36. Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris
37. Yad Vashem, Jerusalem
38. Memoriale della Shoah, Milan
LOVE

65  Hope and Homes for Children, Romania
67  Elderly Welfare in Odessa, Ukraine
69  Tikva Children's Home, Odessa, Ukraine
71  UNICEF (Sahel Crisis)
73  Children Action, Geneva
75  Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, Rwanda
77  Les Restaurants du Cœur, Paris
79  Support for the Homeless
81  Henry Street Settlement, New York
83  Neve Michael Children's Village, Israel
85  Jordan River Village
87  American Red Cross: Measles and Rubella Initiative

FAITH

89  Edmond J. Safra Synagogue, Brooklyn
91  Edmond J. Safra Synagogue, Manhattan
93  Edmond J. Safra Grand Choral Synagogue, St. Petersburg
95  Tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, Meron, Israel
97  Tomb of Rabbi Meir Baal Haness, Tiberias, Israel
99  Beit Yaakov Synagogue, Clermont-Ferrand, France
101 Grande Synagogue de Lyon
102 Communauté Israélite de Troyes et de l'Aube
103 Jewish Community of Buenos Aires
105 Yeshiva University, New York
106 Rabbinical Excellence Program
107 Synagogue Construction in Israel

INSPIRATION

109 Royal Opera House, London
111 Opéra National de Paris
113 Château de Versailles
114 The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
117 Grand Théâtre de Genève
119 Somerset House, London
121 Juilliard School, New York
123 National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
125 Carnegie Hall, New York
HOPE

During his lifetime Edmond J. Safra donated millions of dollars to provide medical treatment for people who sought his assistance. Hospitals and research institutes across the globe benefited enormously from his generous support of their efforts to unlock the mysteries of disease and provide the best treatments possible for patients. Following this example, Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation sustain an extensive grantmaking program in the area of medical research and patient care, specifically focusing on Parkinson's disease in memory of Mr. Safra. Mrs. Safra and the Foundation support groundbreaking research in neuroscience, as well as initiatives aimed at improving training for medical professionals and empowering patients and caregivers.
The Michael J. Fox Foundation is one of the world’s leading funders of Parkinson’s disease research. Since its establishment in 2000, it has distributed more than $450 million towards the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of Parkinson’s disease. The organization works to accelerate the lengthy process of drug development, getting better Parkinson’s drugs to patients more quickly.

Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation have been among the Michael J. Fox Foundation’s most important donors, supporting a wide variety of research initiatives over the past fifteen years. Among these initiatives are the Edmond J. Safra Core Programs for PD Research, an annual program that serves to identify roadblocks along the therapeutic development pipeline, speeding novel treatments for the disease toward pharmacy shelves, and the Parkinson’s Progression Markers Initiative, a global landmark clinical study to validate biomarkers of Parkinson’s disease.
The NYU Parkinson’s and Movement Disorders Center was established in 2007 with support from the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, and it has quickly become a leader in innovative Parkinson’s care. Under the direction of Dr. Alessandro Di Rocco, the Center has become known for its clinical services, research, and community outreach, as well as its practice of building a network of effective multidisciplinary care partners for patients and their families.

With additional support from Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, the Center is currently implementing a comprehensive program for people with advanced Parkinson’s disease. Of the multiple stages of Parkinson’s care, advanced Parkinson’s care remains the most difficult to provide effectively. Most people, after a decade or more of disease progression, reach a level of disability that implies diminished independence and growing difficulty or inability to walk. The Center is pursuing a home care program for such patients, with at-home intervention and monitoring by a team consisting of a physician, a nurse, and a social worker. This program is the first of its kind in the United States, and likely, in the world, and it aims to be a model for a new approach to medical care.

Another of the Center’s unique offerings is the Edmond J. Safra Parkinson Wellness Program, aimed at helping people with PD maintain an active lifestyle in a supportive and meaningful environment. Based at the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, it provides a range of Parkinson-specific fitness classes, a Sunday educational series, and programs for family caregivers. In light of the program’s success, the Center is partnering with the National Parkinson Foundation to expand it on a national scale.
EDMOND J. SAFRA VISITING NURSE FACULTY PROGRAM IN PARKINSON’S DISEASE

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation established this program to address the fact that the vast majority of undergraduate nursing students in the United States receive little to no education on Parkinson’s disease, as well as to stimulate research in Parkinson’s nursing.

The program’s core is a week-long intensive seminar and clinical experience for nursing educators, who are then prepared to incorporate Parkinson’s information and case studies into their curricula. The program enhances the knowledge and confidence of nursing school faculty in developing and delivering clinical lectures, and in mentoring undergraduate nursing students. Participants attend lectures and seminars with a variety of medical professionals, spend time in patient encounters with physicians, nurses, and therapists, and pursue an independent project related to Parkinson’s nursing care. Through “teaching the teachers”, as many as 1,400 nursing students each year enter the workforce better prepared to care for Parkinson’s patients and their family members.

Built into the program is an alumni network, continuing education opportunities, and a long-term relationship between participating guest faculty and host faculty experts in Parkinson’s disease, providing them with ongoing interaction with leading Movement Disorder Centers.

Since the inception of the program in 2009, 97 nursing school faculty members (representing 57 nursing schools across the country) and 13 other medical professionals have participated. Many of the scholars are highly influential in their respective institutions, serving on curriculum committees or otherwise able to have an impact far beyond their own classrooms. The alumni of the program are now equipped to provide an estimated 7,700 student nurses each year with a working knowledge of caring for Parkinson’s patients and their families.
The National Parkinson Foundation (NPF) has been working for more than 50 years on efforts to improve the quality of care for Parkinson’s patients through research, education, and outreach, in the United States and around the world. At the heart of NPF are its “Centers of Excellence”: Parkinson’s centers with a high quality of patient care and research, leadership in the field, and innovation in education, services, and outreach.

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation provided leading support for NPF’s “Aware in Care” campaign, an innovative program aimed at improving hospital care for people with Parkinson’s. There are specific dangers for hospitalized Parkinson’s patients, most of which stem from a lack of knowledge about the disease among hospital staff. In order to empower patients and families to speak up, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation helped NPF produce a “hospitalization kit”, which contains practical materials and tools to ensure that, for patients hospitalized for trauma or surgery, their Parkinson’s will not be overlooked. These tools include an educational booklet on what to do in case of hospitalization, brightly colored stickers to alert changing shifts of hospital personnel to the critical need for on-time medications, and an information sheet that families can give to doctors and nurses.

The Foundation is also working with NPF to expand the Edmond J. Safra Parkinson’s Wellness Program at New York University to other locations around the United States, in order to bring this program’s benefits to thousands of additional patients and caregivers.
Under the leadership of Dr. Anthony Lang, the Movement Disorder Center at Toronto Western Hospital is one of the most well-regarded Parkinson’s disease research and treatment centers worldwide. Among the largest such facilities in North America, it attracts some of the most promising young neuroscience research talent from around the world.

Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation have been significant long-time supporters of what is now known as the Edmond J. Safra Program in Parkinson’s Disease. The Foundation established two senior faculty positions (in neuroimaging and invertebrate modeling); created a dedicated PET (positron emission tomography) facility; and endowed the Edmond J. Safra Fellowships in Neurodegenerative Diseases for junior researchers. In addition, the Foundation is currently funding the renovation and expansion of the Program’s physical space: the new space will allow for the installation of state-of-the-art equipment and the growth of clinical research activities. Mrs. Safra has also established the Lily Safra Chair in Movement Disorders, a position held by Dr. Lang, providing ongoing support for research on improving care for Parkinson’s patients.
The Edmond and Lily Safra International Institute of Neuroscience (ELS-IINN), based in Natal and Macaíba, northeast Brazil, is dedicated to economic and social development through science and education. It has quickly become the most prestigious center for neuroscience research in the country.

On June 12, 2014, billions of TV viewers around the world witnessed a paralyzed person kick off the World Cup in Brazil. The young man was wearing the ‘Walk Again’ brain-controlled robotic exoskeleton developed by an international team and based on years of research at the Edmond and Lily Safra Institute. In addition to their participation in the Walk Again Project, ELS-IINN’s scientists are also contributing to the development of innovative treatments – from new prosthetic limbs controlled directly by thought, to new therapies for neurological disorders and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s.

ELS-IINN combines the pursuit of scientific knowledge with education and social progress. Featuring two neuroscience research centers; an innovative science education curriculum for children, implemented at ELS-IINN’s two schools and named in memory of Alfredo J. Monteverde; and a prenatal care program, ELS-IINN’s decade-long history has profoundly impacted the lives of thousands of people living around it.
Each year, up to 1,500 disadvantaged teenagers from the public school system are given the chance to attend the Alfredo J. Monteverde School: to take part in a hands-on science education program aimed at enhancing their scientific knowledge through creative thinking and experimental work (including chemistry, physics, engineering, robotics, and many other subjects), performed in state-of-the-art laboratories. In this ebullient environment, students are inspired to continue their education for life and create a better future for themselves and their families.

ELS-IINN was established through a gift from Mrs. Safra, at the time the largest-ever private donation to scientific research in Brazil. Subsequently, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation made a similar donation for the program’s further development.
PARKINSON’S DISEASE CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM
MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation is providing ongoing support for a highly successful therapeutic, rehabilitation, and education program it helped to establish for PD patients and their caregivers in Montevideo, Uruguay – the first of its kind (for any disease) in that country. In what has developed into a novel model of care delivery for the developing world, a team of eleven professionals offers weekly therapy sessions for patients (speech therapy, physical therapy, and psychological help); weekly mental health counseling sessions; monthly informational conferences for patients, families, caregivers, and medical professionals; and a monthly support group meeting for families and caregivers. Most of the participants are elderly and poor – the program’s services are provided free of charge.

The monthly educational program attracts about 80-100 people for each session, and almost 200 patients have participated in the rehabilitation and therapy groups. In addition, over 200 relatives and caregivers are involved in the program. A detailed website concerning the program and useful information for patients has been established, the first of its kind in the country. The team has published four booklets that contain transcripts of all of the monthly lectures as well as other badly-needed information on Parkinson’s disease for patients and medical professionals. Over the past two years, the program has added weekly water therapy to its services for patients, making use of a local swimming pool.
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is consistently ranked among the top universities worldwide, excelling in particular in the biological, chemical, and physical sciences. The Foundation has been the leading supporter of its neuroscience research program over many years, culminating in the establishment of the $150 million Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC), the most ambitious initiative of its kind in Israel’s history.

ELSC unites outstanding academics from the Hebrew University with top neuroscientists and researchers from around the world: its interdisciplinary team explores the relationships between gene function, brain neuronal circuits, and behavior, conducting pioneering research with profound implications for our understanding and treatment of neurological and psychiatric disorders. It aims to revolutionize current neuroscience research by creating a space for both theoretical and experimental work, allowing the two approaches to stimulate and guide each other. ELSC invests significant resources in training future generations of interdisciplinary neuroscientists through its graduate program, the largest in Israel with almost 100 Ph.D. students.

Designed by world-renowned British architect Norman Foster, ELSC’s four-story building will blend traditional, local architecture with cutting edge scientific capabilities. In addition to laboratories, each floor of the new building will offer extensive social spaces to encourage interaction between disciplines.

Prof. Eilon Vaadia, Director of the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences
The Clinatec Institute, a joint initiative of the French Atomic Energy Commission and the University Hospital of Grenoble, is a research laboratory dedicated to biomedical and health applications of micro- and nanotechnology, founded by the world-renowned neurosurgeon Alim-Louis Benabid. Using these technological advances, multidisciplinary teams from around the world are developing new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to neurodegenerative and other diseases, translating technological developments into better treatments for patients.

Inaugurated in 2012, the Institute’s Edmond J. Safra Research Center features a medico-surgical facility directly within a research space. The building allows engineers, biologists, and physicians to meet at the bedside and work directly with the patients on developing, implanting, testing, adjusting, and improving new methods and prototypes that were designed in the same building’s laboratories.

Recognized internationally for his outstanding achievements, Prof. Benabid has received dozens of prestigious distinctions, including the $3 million Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences and the Lasker Award, often referred to as “America’s Nobel”.

HOPE IN FRANCE
Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation are the largest private supporters of the Brain and Spinal Cord Institute (ICM) at the Pitié-Salpêtrière. A hospital and a research center, the ICM allows scientists and physicians to constantly collaborate on translating laboratory discoveries into practical treatments for patients suffering from neurological and psychiatric disorders. Its vast laboratories and cutting-edge technology are used by hundreds of researchers recruited from around the world and from a wide variety of fields within the neurosciences, all working to understand the causes of brain diseases and to develop mechanisms for their prevention and cure.

Mrs. Safra recently provided additional support to the ICM for the purchase of an advanced MRI system for human neuro-imaging. This system allows researchers to pursue the search for biomarkers to accurately diagnose Parkinson’s disease and to track its progression, among many other applications.
The French Muscular Dystrophy Association (AFM-Téléthon) serves patients with neuromuscular diseases and their families through its support of biomedical research for rare diseases in France and worldwide. It funds over 300 scientific programs and multiple clinical trials in different genetic diseases affecting the eye, blood, brain, immune system, and other organs and systems. AFM-Téléthon is able to produce and test its own gene-based medicines at its Genethon research lab. While working towards cures, AFM-Téléthon develops and implements innovative programs to improve patient care and increase patients’ autonomy, such as reference centers and a network for specialist consultations, developing new technical aids, and advocating for a national policy for rare diseases. France’s annual national Téléthon takes place the first weekend of December, and donors including Mrs. Safra contributed more than €80 million in 2014. Each year, more than 200,000 volunteers and five million people gather to celebrate the Téléthon and support the AFM-Téléthon’s work.
Mrs. Safra played a leading role in helping to construct the Claude Pompidou Institute for Alzheimer’s Disease in Nice, a collaborative project between the Fondation Claude Pompidou and the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU) of Nice. The Institute, which opened in March 2014, already serves as an innovative model for Alzheimer’s treatment across Europe. Designed with the goal of addressing the challenge of Alzheimer’s disease research and care as a whole, the Institute comprises medical care facilities for short-term and long-term stays (including rooms for 72 residents), the clinical research units of the CHU, and a variety of spaces for non-medical therapies and social interaction. Overall, the Institute offers a comprehensive and groundbreaking approach to Alzheimer’s disease, uniting patient care, medical research, education, and assistance for families of patients.

The building itself is located in the very heart of the city, as opposed to being isolated on the outskirts, and it was designed as a bright and elegant city residence, rather than a hospital or traditional care facility. The terraces and gardens also offer residents the chance to participate in horticultural therapy, which has been shown to be beneficial in Alzheimer’s patients.
King’s College London has more than 1,000 people pursuing research into the workings of the human brain, and it has made significant progress in the treatment of Parkinson’s disease. The Edmond J. Safra Foundation and Mrs. Safra have supported King’s College for many years, funding numerous research projects on topics including neurobiology, treatment targets, drug discovery, and imaging. The Edmond J. Safra Lecture Theatre hosts an annual Edmond J. Safra Memorial Lecture on advances in Parkinson’s research.

Mrs. Safra recently created the Edmond and Lily Safra Research Fellowships, as well as the post of Lily Safra Senior Lecturer in Neurodegeneration Research – now occupied by Dr. Marios Politis, a specialist in PET imaging. The Fellowship program allows exceptional young neuroscientists to pursue research related to Parkinson’s disease over a period of five years, giving these Fellows the time and resources to pursue innovative projects.

Edmond and Lily Safra Research Fellows, left to right: Dr. Eva So, Dr. Martin Broadstock, Dr. Tobias Wood, and Dr. Diana Cash
Imperial College London attracts the very best academics and students from across the globe. As host to one of Europe’s largest medical schools, it is also uniquely positioned to make significant contributions to clinical research and therapeutic advances.

Imperial College is addressing the challenge of neurodegeneration by breaking down traditional barriers between subfields, bringing together the disciplines across psychiatry and neurology into one Division of Brain Sciences, in order to address shared problems. The vision combines scientific excellence with a commitment to deliver therapies for improved brain health.

Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation have established two senior neuroscience research and teaching positions at Imperial College. The first, the Edmond J. Safra Chair in Neuropsychopharmacology, is held by Professor David Nutt, widely regarded as a global leader in the field, whose research focuses on neuropsychiatric disorders, with a particular emphasis on addiction, dementia, and affective disorders.

The second, the Edmond and Lily Safra Chair in Translational Neuroscience and Therapeutics, is held by Professor Paul Matthews, the Head of Imperial’s Division of Brain Sciences, and its aim is to further scholarship on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of neurodegenerative brain diseases such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s. Mrs. Safra and the Foundation have also funded the Edmond and Lily Safra Neuroscience Scholars Programme, aimed at training the next generation of researchers in this field.
ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION

The Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF) has raised and distributed more than $300 million for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS since it was established. It supports innovative HIV prevention programs, efforts to eliminate stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS, and direct care and services for people living with HIV/AIDS, especially marginalized populations with special needs. These direct services include HIV/AIDS-related medical and mental health treatment, testing and counseling, food distribution, assisted living, social service coordination, and legal aid.

Mrs. Safra has been one of the Elton John AIDS Foundation’s most generous donors, and along with the Edmond J. Safra Foundation has supported EJAF’s prevention, treatment, counseling, and advocacy work throughout North and South America and the Caribbean.

Above: World AIDS Day in Haiti
Below: Clinical staff at an HIV/AIDS facility in Haiti
Fight AIDS Monaco, founded by H.S.H. Princess Stéphanie, pursues projects focused on three main goals: to disseminate information about HIV/AIDS, to help prevent its spread, and to support patients and their families in Monaco.

Mrs. Safra has provided significant support for the organization’s work, in particular for the “Maison de Vie”, a center for people living with HIV. Located in the French city of Carpentras, the Maison de Vie is a space for rest and recuperation, offering recreational and creative activities and personalized care to visitors, with the aim of helping people living with HIV maintain the physical and mental strength essential to their quality of life.

Where possible, Fight AIDS Monaco also provides grants to specific projects in other countries, including training doctors in Madagascar, subsidizing blood tests and providing anti-retroviral treatments in Lebanon, and job training initiatives for poor HIV-positive women in Burundi.
The Edmond J. Safra Family Lodge is a home away from home for families of patients receiving care at the NIH Clinical Center, the premier clinical research hospital in the United States. The Lodge has welcomed more than 74,000 family caregivers from all 50 states and six continents since its opening in 2005. It provides space for supportive fellowship, family meetings, and solitude during a difficult and stressful time.

In addition to 34 guest rooms, the English manor-style residence includes a library, a business center, a children’s play area, a large kitchen and dining area, comfortable social areas, and the Claudio and Evelyne Cohen gardens. With another recent gift from Mrs. Safra, the Lodge’s kitchen will be renovated and expanded, giving guests easier access and making it possible for several families to cook their meals at the same time.
With support from Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, the Edmond and Lily Safra Children’s Hospital has become one of the leading children’s hospitals in the Middle East. Over the past decade it has developed from a small pediatric medical division into a unique and well-regarded tertiary medical service, treating children from Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and throughout the region. The hospital’s physical facilities are one of its hallmarks, designed to provide a family-centered and child-friendly healing environment, including play and education areas, a library, a cinema, and facilities for parents and caregivers.

The Edmond J. Safra International Congenital Heart Center, established with the Foundation’s help, is one of the most advanced in the world, performing complex procedures on premature babies, children who are underweight, and children with various types of congenital deformities.

Recently, Mrs. Safra and the Foundation have helped to improve and expand various departments that have outgrown their original spaces. Two additional floors have been added to the general pediatric ward in order to provide optimal services to the approximately 4,000 children admitted annually to this ward. In addition, a new floor is being built to house the expanded Claudio Cohen Pediatric Intensive Care Department. This department, a multidisciplinary facility, was the first of its kind in Israel and remains the country’s largest.
HOSPITALS IN ISRAEL

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation provides regular support to hospitals throughout the State of Israel, particularly through the provision of specialized medical equipment. These contributions have helped to provide critical care to thousands of people, improving the quality of treatment they receive, and removing the need of people living in the periphery to travel long distances to better-equipped hospitals.

Among the range of hospitals supported by the Foundation are: Poriyah (Tiberias), Rabin (Petah Tikva), Ziv (Sefad), Bnai Zion (Haifa), Meir (Kfar Saba), Reuth (Tel Aviv), Soroka (Beer Sheva), and Barzilai (Ashkelon), as well as Mashi, a rehabilitation center in Jerusalem for children with severe neurological and/or muscular disorders.
ALUT provides educational, residential, vocational and leisure-time services to children and adults with autism. Their treatment program encompasses educational programs for young children at seven kindergarten centers around the country; eleven rehabilitation and vocational training centers; eighteen “Homes for Life” (residential communities for autistic children); training courses for autism professionals; and a network of six family support and guidance centers.

The Foundation has supported ALUT for over 20 years, helping fund the construction of two residential communities in Jerusalem, one in the northern city of Carmiel, and recently, another in the southern city of Be’er Sheva. The ALUT village in Be’er Sheva comprises a communal building and six separate houses, each accommodating up to eight residents. Each house includes a bedroom and bathroom for each resident, a kitchen and dining room, a living room, and a patio. In addition, all houses have a small garden, a spacious recreational area, and a small specially-adapted playground. The village’s central building is one of the largest of its kind in Israel and contains an after-school club, a family center, an events hall, a central kitchen, administrative offices, and a room for the on-call staff. ALUT makes these communal facilities available to the families of non-resident autistic children living in the region during the holidays, giving them a chance to have a break from their everyday routines.
The Aleh Association is Israel's largest and most advanced network of residential facilities for children and young adults with severe physical and cognitive disabilities: residents receive top-quality medical and rehabilitative care, along with educational opportunities, at four branches around the country.

The residential facilities offer a warm and supportive environment in which children receive the professional care and support they require for their daily activities, including eating, bathing, and basic hygiene. Aleh’s medical centers, staffed by doctors, nurses, dieticians, and medical assistants, are equipped with the specialized equipment required for treating the complex medical conditions of the residents.

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation provided a major grant for the construction of Aleh’s flagship residential complex. Located in the southern region of the country, with capacity for 230 residents, it also provides much-needed outpatient services to over 12,000 children and young adults living in the surrounding area every year. In addition to the assisted-living apartment units and the medical center, it comprises a vocational workshop center, a hydrotherapy pool, a petting zoo and horseback riding track, and therapeutic gardens.

The Foundation also supported the construction of Aleh’s Jerusalem residence and medical center, which serves more than 100 children full-time and conducts 250 outpatient treatments per month. The center includes a high-dependency hospital wing, assisted-living residential units, an integrated special education school, a paramedical community clinic, and a library.

Mrs. Safra recently provided leading support for the construction of the innovative Aleh Center for Advancement, Rehabilitation, and Education of Special-Needs Children (known as “Aleh C.A.R.E.S.”), located near Tel Aviv, which will offer special-needs children the opportunity to travel to school just like their peers. The new school campus will have the capacity to provide 200 children with special education classes ranging from kindergarten through high school. Unique in the world, it will include a sophisticated medical care facility, a range of therapy rooms, and an Olympic-sized pool to provide daily hydrotherapy treatments. An early childhood wing will offer an intense early intervention program, with the goal of helping children mainstream into regular educational frameworks if possible.
Edmond J. Safra believed deeply in the power of education and in the value of making it accessible to people from all backgrounds and walks of life. Motivated by this belief, he supported a variety of schools and programs, and he provided university scholarship funds for hundreds of needy students. Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation support scholarships, schools, and innovative educational programs worldwide.
EDMOND J. SAFRA CENTER FOR ETHICS
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

The Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics seeks to advance teaching and research on ethical issues in public life. Widespread ethical lapses of leaders in government, business, and other professions prompt demands for more and better moral education, and the increasing complexity of public life – the scale and range of problems and the variety of knowledge required to deal with them – makes ethical issues more difficult. The Center helps meet the growing need for teachers, scholars, and leaders who address such questions. More generally, Center Fellows address the ethical issues that all citizens face as they make choices that profoundly affect their societies in an increasingly interdependent world.
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
The Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Tel Aviv University was founded in 2012, and it has quickly gained a national and international reputation for its scholarship and contributions to public discourse around its first research theme: science, ethics, and democracy. Fellows of the Center are focusing on the ways scientific and technological developments give rise to new ethical challenges, as well as the tension such developments create between expert knowledge and popular democracy – and how this tension might be resolved through new forms of political deliberation.

The Center welcomes doctoral and postdoctoral researchers from Israel and around the world for residential Fellowships; provides grants to university faculty pursuing scholarship in ethics; organizes standing research groups; and hosts regular colloquia and conferences featuring senior international scholars and public policy leaders.
The Edmond J. Safra Center for Bioinformatics at Tel Aviv University is a multidisciplinary center comprising all of the University’s bioinformatics-related research and teaching activities. The Center boasts over 100 researchers in 26 research groups across the campus, pursuing cutting-edge work that straddles the traditional borders of computer science, life sciences, medicine, physics, engineering, and statistics.

The Center was recently ranked as the 11th institute in the world in bioinformatics, and the best in the field outside of the USA. Among the key achievements of the Center’s researchers over the last two years are: a new technique to diagnose schizophrenia at an early stage, the discovery of a new mode of reproduction in the most prevalent human fungal pathogen, the discovery of a privacy loophole in a human DNA public database, and a new method for predicting selective drug targets in cancer. Researchers at the Center are members of all four Israeli Centers for Research Excellence (I-COREs) in biology and medicine.
Established in 2008, the Edmond J. Safra Brain Research Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities at the University of Haifa is the only institute in Israel solely devoted to the study of learning disabilities, and it has become an international leader in this field. Its research areas and laboratories include reading and writing, numerical cognition, motor skills and learning, early childhood education, and social neuro-cognition. The Center is one of only a few in the world to use cutting-edge fNIRS (Functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy) brain imaging technology to investigate real-time brain activity in the study of learning disabilities.

A particular hallmark of the Edmond J. Safra Center’s work is its trailblazing program on learning disabilities in the Arabic language. For the first time anywhere in the world, researchers developed computerized Arabic-language diagnostic and remedial tools, in addition to programs for training teachers in Arab community schools. Active in hundreds of schools, Center faculty and graduates have provided training to many hundreds of teachers and have given direct assistance to thousands of students. The Center enrolls 50 Master’s students each year in a unique Arabic-language track, designed to give future teachers the necessary background to help Arabic-speaking students with learning disabilities, in Israel and throughout the region.
INTERNATIONAL SEPHARDIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

In the almost 40 years since its establishment by Mr. and Mrs. Safra and Mrs. Nina Weiner, ISEF has awarded some 20,000 university scholarships to gifted Israelis from disadvantaged backgrounds.

ISEF scholars are chosen through a national competition on the basis of their academic achievements and leadership potential. They study at all degree levels, from B.A. to Ph.D. and postdoctoral research, and they participate in a variety of community service projects, particularly tutoring schoolchildren. In addition to scholarship funds, ISEF offers its students leadership training and a support network, helping ensure that they make the most of their time at university.

ISEF alumni have distinguished themselves in every field: they have gone on to be members of the Israeli parliament and heads of government ministries, professors at top universities around the world, major business owners and managers, pioneering scientists and medical doctors, and leaders of non-profit organizations pursuing a variety of important causes.
The city of Bordeaux has always been home to a significant Jewish community. Recognizing the need to improve and relocate the community’s school, which had been located in a temporary structure on the outskirts of the city, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation provided funds for the construction of a new school and community center, which has been designated the Centre Communautaire Edmond J. Safra.

Located on the Place Magendie, in the very center of old Bordeaux, the new building houses the Ecole Edmond J. Safra, a large, modern primary school with spacious classrooms, a computer room, a courtyard for recreation, a cafeteria, two large all-purpose rooms, and a lecture hall. The rest of the space houses a community center comprising a library, a kosher restaurant open to the public, an amphitheater, and an events hall.
The Alliance Israélite Universelle was founded in 1860 to promote the social and economic advancement of Jewish communities in the Middle East and North Africa, primarily through the establishment of schools. Its network widened to encompass Europe and Israel, and today, in addition to the dozens of schools it operates directly, it plays a vital advisory and supporting role in all aspects of Jewish education internationally. Having himself attended the Alliance school in Beirut when he was young, Edmond J. Safra was a lifelong benefactor of the organization, and the Foundation continues his commitment.

The Ecole Normale Israélite Orientale, the organization’s educational hub and traditional home in Paris, was rebuilt and expanded with the assistance of the Edmond J. Safra Foundation. The new facility, now known as the Centre Alliance Edmond J. Safra, includes a primary school, a library and research center, an institute for Jewish education, and a renovated and enlarged synagogue/auditorium.

The Foundation has also helped the Alliance provide expanded pedagogical assistance for thirty Jewish community schools in ten countries across Europe. Alliance professionals visit schools and work with teachers and administrators on a one-on-one basis, improving their skills, offering suggestions on curricula, and providing either existing or made-to-order publications.
For several years the Edmond J. Safra Foundation has supported Beatzmi’s program for hundreds of socially-isolated Ethiopian-Israeli families in distress. This program helps children in their studies, provides parents with tools to cope with their children’s educational and social needs, and strengthens families’ ties with the broader society. The program is staffed by a group of volunteer counselors, who receive extensive training, ongoing guidance, and direction from the program’s professional coordinators. On a typical day, the counselor will go to school with the children in the morning, and in the afternoon will help in the family’s home. The counselor’s integration within the family structure encourages bonds of trust and affection; it also helps to address problems in the long-term as he or she grows to understand the family’s particular needs.
A WINDOW TO TOMORROW

ISRAEL

A Window to Tomorrow – A Computer for Every Child is dedicated to overcoming the technological divide in Israel. Disadvantaged children – many thousands each year – receive grants for “computer scholarships,” which comprise not only the computer itself but an internet connection and training both at home and at a local computer center, for the participant and his or her immediate family.

With long-time leading support from Mrs Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, the organization recently celebrated the donation of its 60,000th computer. It has worked in over 200 municipalities around the country with all sectors of Israeli society, paying particular attention to the Arab, Druze, and Ethiopian communities. A significant number of participants are handicapped, requiring specially-adapted computer kits. After receiving a computer, children report an improvement in their self-esteem, their feelings of social inclusion, and their achievements at school.
SMART CLASSROOMS IN ISRAELI SCHOOLS

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation is a proud partner of several student technology initiatives in Israel. Classrooms are provided with interactive whiteboards, an LCD projector, a laser printer, teaching software, a wireless network, and handheld computers, while teachers are provided with extensive and ongoing training.

ORT, one of the largest science and technology education organizations in Israel, worked with government partners to purchase such “smart classroom” technology for 1,000 classrooms in less well-off municipalities in the north of the country, and to train teachers in using these new tools. With the Foundation’s support, the program is nearly complete: over 100,000 middle and high school students now have access to cutting-edge educational technology.

The Foundation also assisted the city of Shoham in its effort to integrate new technology in its classrooms. Nearly 300 teachers were given laptops, and all specialty classrooms and laboratories were fitted with “smart boards”. The smart classrooms are used in all levels of education, from kindergarten through high school.
Established by HRH the Prince of Wales, Youth Business International (YBI) is a global network of 40 national youth business programs: loan-granting entrepreneurial employment programs that advocate “employment through entrepreneurship”. The Israeli member organization of YBI is Keren Shemesh, launched and funded by Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation.

Keren Shemesh is dedicated to helping young Israeli entrepreneurs without access to capital or business training build sustainable businesses and create new employment opportunities for themselves and others. The organization’s innovative approach has made it a leader in the field, and other YBI branches continue to look to it as a source of best practices. Once accepted, each new entrepreneur receives a complete “package” of assistance, including a specially-chosen personal volunteer mentor (an experienced business professional), entrepreneurial counseling, business training, access to specialized lectures and training sessions, booths at fairs and other platforms from which to sell their products, and access to financing as needed. This novel approach, in which financial aid is just one of many offerings an entrepreneur can take advantage of, has helped Keren Shemesh assist a greater number of young entrepreneurs than other initiatives offering financing alone.
The Edmond J. Safra Foundation has been a leading supporter of the Aladdin Project, a Paris-based educational and cultural outreach organization that was launched under the patronage of UNESCO in 2009. The Aladdin Project aims to combat the pervasive lack of knowledge about Jewish culture and history in the Arab and Muslim world, with a particular focus on Holocaust denial.

One of the organization’s major tools is their online library: full translations – for the first time – of fundamental works of Holocaust literature, including *The Diary of Anne Frank* and Primo Levi’s *If This Is A Man*, into Arabic and Persian. There are now nine books, all available to download free of charge in four languages (Arabic, Persian, English, and French). Over 35,000 copies of these books have already been downloaded by Arabic and Persian speakers around the world, as well as countless more accessed via other hosting websites. In addition to its online library, the Aladdin Project presents its books in physical form at book fairs throughout the Arab-Muslim World, including those in Casablanca, Abu Dhabi, Beirut, Tunis, and Cairo.

The organization also worked extensively to disseminate Claude Lanzmann’s nine-hour documentary “Shoah”. This powerful film was subtitled in Arabic, Turkish, and Persian, and the Aladdin Project helped to ensure that the film was shown on Iranian and Turkish television. At the 2013 Berlin International Film Festival, Claude Lanzmann won the Honorary Golden Bear – the festival’s lifetime achievement award – and he acknowledged the Aladdin Project’s efforts above all in allowing his film to reach viewers in Arab countries.
YAHAD-IN UNUM

Yahad-In Unum (“together” in Hebrew and Latin), established by Father Patrick Desbois in 2004, is dedicated to identifying and preserving the sites of Jewish mass executions by Nazi mobile-killing units in Eastern Europe during World War II. To date, Father Desbois and his colleagues have documented more than 1,300 execution sites and have gathered over 3,500 witness testimonies during the course of their 80 investigative research trips in seven countries (Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Poland, Romania, Moldova, and Lithuania).

Yahad-In Unum’s work in Eastern Europe is conducted on two fronts: archival research and trips to the execution sites. Research at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other repositories provides the background information for the field teams. These teams travel from village to village, locating, recording, and examining the sites of execution, and interviewing witnesses. After the visits, the video testimonies are translated into French and English and are archived, along with the physical evidence.

As part of its worldwide educational activities, Yahad-In Unum also operates a research center at its archives in Paris. The research center makes the findings of Yahad-In Unum available to historians, researchers, students, and relatives of the victims, as well as to Holocaust museums and centers around the world.
AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU MEMORIAL SITE

Auschwitz-Birkenau was the largest Nazi concentration and death camp: the site of the murder of approximately 1.1 million people, 90% of whom were Jewish. It is a uniquely powerful and authentic testament to the genocidal crimes of the Nazis, as visitors are confronted by the original grounds, buildings, objects, and the vast quantity of the victims' personal possessions. Almost 70% of the 1.3 million annual visitors are teenage students, and the site's value as a memorial and teaching tool cannot be overstated. Mr. and Mrs. Safra were among the first to visit Auschwitz with the “March of the Living” groups almost 25 years ago.

The camp buildings (what remains after what the fleeing Nazis destroyed) were built with slave labor and were never meant to last long. They have deteriorated significantly since the end of the war, as have the remaining documents and personal possessions, and it became clear that without serious long-term conservation efforts, evidence of the crimes risked being erased. Understanding that the preservation of the site for future generations is essential, particularly as the last generation of survivors passes away, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation joined dozens of governments and other donors to provide crucial support for this ongoing work.
Clockwise from left: preservation of documents, children’s shoes, and camp buildings
The Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris is one of the world’s leading Holocaust remembrance institutions, welcoming 200,000 visitors annually. The Mémorial has become a national center for Holocaust education and diversity training over the years. Its Edmond J. Safra Education Institute organizes programming for the 30,000 young people who visit with their school classes each year, as well as groups of police officers, health care professionals, army officers, and elected officials.

The Institute produces a wide range of teaching materials and age-specific workshops, and organizes traveling exhibitions of materials for school classes around the country. Issues covered include hidden children, the art works produced by the children of Terezin, Jewish resistance to the Nazis, the Vichy regime, and life in Paris under occupation. The Mémorial also provides schools in the Paris region with the option of guided visits to the site of the Drancy internment camp (the principal place where the Jews of France were gathered for deportation).

In 2014 the Mémorial de la Shoah signed a groundbreaking partnership with Germany’s Goethe Institut. This partnership will allow both institutions to reach a larger audience, and will make Holocaust research and education part of the cultural exchange between the two countries.
Established in 1953 as the world center for documentation, research, education, and commemoration of the Holocaust, Yad Vashem contains the world’s largest repository of information on the Shoah. Its International School for Holocaust Studies welcomes thousands of high school and university students, teachers, and diplomatic and political leaders each year, providing educational programming at all levels.

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation continues Mr. and Mrs. Safra’s longtime support for education at Yad Vashem, funding teacher training seminars and the expansion of the school’s building. A new wing of the school was inaugurated in 2012, featuring the 330-seat Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall (pictured above).

In 2013, Mrs. Safra endowed the Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education, a position that will always be held by the Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies. Funds from the Lily Safra Chair will support the ongoing research and teaching activities of the Director and will provide opportunities for him or her to pursue additional international outreach initiatives beyond what had previously been possible.
In addition to being the center of Italian Jewish life today, Milan was also the site of a tragic chapter in the community’s history: after the German occupation of Italy, Milan’s central railway station became the main deportation point for Jews from across the country. Between December 1943 and January 1945, fifteen convoys of Italian Jews were deported on trains departing from the now-infamous “Binario 21” (Track 21), with most arriving at Auschwitz.

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation supported the community’s efforts to erect a permanent memorial and educational space at the site of Track 21 (pictured opposite), a vast two-level section of what is still Milan’s central train station. The basement level encompasses a large platform for the reception of cargo that was used as the arrival point for Jews transported to the station on trucks. Once at the station and loaded onto cattle cars (some of which are on display), the wagons were hoisted up onto the main level, from where they would depart. The Memoriale opens up this dual space, bringing the “hidden” into view, and showing the stark contrast between the bustle of a busy station and the horrendous crimes that took place alongside the indifference of daily commuters, workers, and the city at large.

In addition to its role as the Italian national Holocaust memorial and educational center for visitors and students from across the country, the Memoriale constitutes a hub for a wider intercultural and interreligious dialogue in Italy’s second-largest city. It comprises a total of approximately 7,000 square meters, encompassing elements including a two-floor library, temporary exhibition space, meeting rooms, a 200-person auditorium, a “wall of names”, and a memorial hall for quiet meditation. The Memoriale opened in 2013, along with the Piazza Edmond J. Safra that serves as the entrance.
Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation provide support to a variety of social welfare and humanitarian relief organizations around the world, including those detailed on the following pages.
Hope and Homes for Children (HHC) works to close Romanian state-run institutions and move children into family-based care; helps keep together families at risk of breakdown due to the pressures of poverty, disease, or conflict; and works to prevent child abandonment. As the leaders in deinstitutionalization in Romania, HHC has helped to close over 40 institutions, and today, only 9,000 children remain resident in such facilities, compared with over 100,000 in the 1990s.

HHC aims not only to close state institutions – by moving each individual child into a caring family environment – but also to change outdated attitudes to childcare policy and practice. The organization helps local governments put in place the alternative care systems that prevent children from entering institutions in the first place, training hundreds of childcare professionals around the country each year. Its pioneering work has become a model for closing institutions, one which has been recognized by UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and international experts as best practice in the field.

Recently, HHC achieved the permanent closing of Sf Spiridon, the last institution for children with special needs still in operation, with each child formerly in its care either returning to his or her family, being moved to one of HHC’s Small Family Homes, or entering another more suitable childcare service.
The Edmond J. Safra Foundation supports the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s welfare center in Odessa, which provides winter relief supplies, food assistance, emergency and health services, and both home and day care for thousands of needy elderly people. In addition to meeting basic needs, the center offers a range of services: volunteer physicians conduct free medical check-ups; trained lawyers set up sessions for no-cost legal advice; and specialized medical equipment is made available on long-term loan. The center also offers opportunities for social interaction, organizing cultural and religious activities, and warm meals are served in a convivial and festive atmosphere. The small staff of administrators and social workers is complemented by volunteers. In the countryside, the organization makes sure that at least one home in each neighborhood is heated for the entire winter, so the elderly always have a place to go nearby to stay warm.
TIKVA CHILDREN’S HOME

ODESSA

The Tikva Children’s Home was established in 1996 to care for homeless, abandoned, and abused Jewish children. Since then, it has saved over 1,000 boys and girls from life on the streets. Tikva provides a loving home, essential social services, and a first-rate education in the environs of Odessa’s revitalized Jewish community.

In Tikva homes, children have their own personal space, eat nutritious food, receive medical treatment, attend a high-quality school, participate in sports and music programs, and enjoy free time with their friends. Tikva’s wide range of programming assists each child in reaching his or her individual potential, transforming them from scared, detached, and untrusting youngsters into lively, inquisitive young adults.

Unlike the majority of Ukrainian public schools, which base their curricula on lectures and rote memorization, Tikva schools emphasize hands-on, inquiry-based learning. As a result, their students continually win national awards in mathematics, physics, English, computers, and dance.
In late 2011, UNICEF early warning systems predicted that poor rains and failed harvests would create a food and nutrition crisis in West and Central Africa’s Sahel region, jeopardizing the lives of more than one million children in nine countries.

UNICEF appealed for funding and rapidly prepared a comprehensive response plan that included therapeutic food, the prevention and treatment of malaria, immunization, and adequate sanitation. The agency and its partners, including Mrs. Safra, mobilized quickly and increased the number of nutrition centers by over 50%. The centers were provisioned with supplies and equipment, and mobile clinics were set up to service isolated areas. In all, it was the most extensive intervention ever seen in the Sahel.

By year’s end, more than 850,000 children had received treatment for severe acute malnutrition. Millions were immunized against life-threatening diseases, and 7.3 million families received insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria. Steps were also taken to improve governments’ abilities to monitor malnutrition and to make families more resilient in the face of similar shocks.
Founded by Bernard Sabrier, and marking its 21st anniversary in 2015, Children Action provides a range of life-saving services to children and families in need. Currently, the organization’s principal projects, all of which are supported by Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, include the suicide prevention and care unit at the University Hospitals of Geneva, surgical missions to Vietnam and Cameroon, support for young mothers and babies in Peru and Argentina, and building schools in Vietnam.
The Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village (ASYV), founded by Anne Heyman (pictured above right), is a full-time residential living community in rural Rwanda, home to 500 young people who were orphaned during or after the genocide in 1994. Its fundamental goal is to allow these children to become healthy, self-sufficient, and engaged in the rebuilding of their nation, preparing a new generation of leaders ready to take Rwanda forward.

ASYV is modeled on aspects of the Yemin Orde Youth Village in Israel, which was established in 1953 to help orphans of the Holocaust and subsequent waves of Ethiopian immigrant children undergo a process of healing and social reintegration. A team of Ethiopian-Israeli volunteers from Yemin Orde worked closely with ASYV on its development.

The village includes 32 dormitories, a high school, a health clinic, a library, a chapel, the Edmond J. Safra Community Center, a range of facilities for extracurricular activities, athletic fields, the Lily Safra Amphitheater, and an organic farm. Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation have been among the Village’s leading supporters, providing support for both construction and the ongoing educational mission. Out of the first ASYV graduating class, an astonishing 99% passed the most competitive national secondary school exam.
Les Restaurants du Cœur was founded by the French comedian Coluche in 1985 to combat hunger in France. In its first winter, 8.5 million meals were distributed. Today, more than 130 million meals are distributed annually. In addition to providing millions of healthy, balanced meals to families in need, Les Restaurants du Cœur offers emergency and long-term housing support, tutoring, micro-loans, and other services to assist the needy.

In 2012, Mrs. Safra, a long-time supporter, provided a major donation to help renovate the organization’s Vogue la Galère site in Aubagne. This shelter provides housing for 50 residents, without imposing a strict timeline for departure, and a sense of community for people on the margins of society. Mrs. Safra’s donation also allowed Les Restaurants du Cœur to purchase a number of new food distribution trucks.
Every winter, working with partners including Emmaus and Soupe de Nuit, Mrs. Safra provides approximately 13,000 new items of clothing (shirts, pants, pullovers/sweaters, winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and – items that are always particularly needed – underwear, socks, and shoes) to homeless men, women, and children living in New York, Paris, London, Geneva, and Nice. In addition, she distributes hundreds of sleeping bags and backpacks, and thousands of toiletries (shower gel, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and razors), as well as toiletry bags. As needed, she also provides food items, including, for example, 16,000 bars of chocolate and 16,000 cans of sardines in Nice in the winter of 2014-15.
Facing page: Soupe de Nuit, Monaco
Top left: Emmaus Greenwich, London
Bottom left: EMMAÜS Solidarité, Paris
Above: Partage, Geneva
HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT
NEW YORK

Founded on Manhattan’s Lower East Side in 1893 by social work and public health pioneer Lillian Wald, Henry Street Settlement delivers a wide range of social service, arts, and health care programs to more than 50,000 New Yorkers each year.

A generous supporter over decades, Mrs. Safra’s recent funding has sustained core services in three of Henry Street’s most important programs: Youth Services, Workforce Development, and the Neighborhood Resource Center. These programs allow young people to gain critical skills needed for their academic success and their future professional life, help the unemployed or under-employed find a job and advance their career goals, and support parents struggling with the daily stresses of poverty. The Neighborhood Resource Center also acts as a “first responder” for those in crisis, helping them get food stamps, obtain health insurance, avoid eviction, improve their financial literacy skills, and connect to other support services that best meet their needs.

Through these contributions, over the course of one year, nearly 600 youth had access to safe, high-quality after school services; over 500 students received college preparation services; over 1,500 individuals received job readiness training and help seeking employment; over 3,000 individuals gained access to free or low-cost healthcare; and nearly 900 households received legal, financial, and/or parental counseling and help securing government benefits.
Neve Michael is a long-term residence and school for over 200 Israeli children (ages 3 to 18) whose biological parents can no longer care for them due to alcohol or drug abuse, mental illness, or other serious problems. Children come to Neve Michael from all over the country, often under traumatic circumstances, and the campus frequently becomes their permanent home. Having the reputation of the best such facility in Israel, it is often the first place the welfare department and the courts turn when confronted with very difficult situations involving children.

The mission of Neve Michael is to create a family-like atmosphere, to provide children with the best available therapeutic care and education, and to help them grow into responsible, capable, and emotionally-developed adults.

Residential units in the Village, one of which has been dedicated in memory of Mr. Safra, consist of a married couple with their own biological children, who live with approximately twelve children. The children are exposed to “parents” and to a home-like atmosphere providing love, care, and support. The school, which also enrolls 100 children from the city in which the Village is located, tailors its pedagogical program to the children’s individual needs.
JORDAN RIVER VILLAGE

The Jordan River Village is part of Paul Newman’s “Hole in the Wall Gang” network of recreational villages for children suffering from life-threatening diseases, including cancer, juvenile diabetes, and neurological disorders. Medical research indicates that psychological factors can strongly affect a child’s recovery from serious illness: a positive psychological outlook enhances self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-discovery and expression, all of which can facilitate the road to recovery. The Jordan River Village provides a space for children to play, experiment, socialize, and enjoy their lives to the fullest in spite of their conditions.

At the camp, children participate in a wide range of activities specifically adapted for their medical conditions and limitations, including sports, horseback riding, archery, drama, music, arts and crafts, cooking, woodwork, swimming, kite building, and an “adventure park”. In addition, the camp conducts family retreats, offering the opportunity for parents to share knowledge and resources.

The Village’s 60-acre, wheelchair-accessible campus in the Lower Galilee is the only camp of its kind in the Middle East. Open year-round, the Village can accommodate up to 64 campers during each week-long session. The children benefit from constant supervision, with one counselor assigned to every two campers, attending to their needs during the day and sleeping in the same room at night, and with specially-trained staff overseeing each of the daily activities. Staff doctors and nurses, as well as many volunteer medical personnel, provide the necessary medical care.
One of the most infectious and severe childhood diseases, measles is responsible for the deaths of more than 430 children each day, most of them under the age of five. For children in developing countries, who are likely malnourished and have limited access to health care, complications from measles can be severe.

In addition to educating parents about vaccination using mass media and community events, Red Cross volunteers also go door to door, having in-person conversations with parents. This personal outreach strategy has significantly increased participation in vaccination campaigns. In targeted countries, the program has now vaccinated more than 90 percent of children, leading to greater immunization coverage and warding off disease outbreaks.

A little more than a decade ago, measles was the leading cause of vaccine-preventable deaths among children. Since then, there has been extraordinary progress. With support from the Measles and Rubella Initiative, more than 1.1 billion children in 80 countries have been immunized. In turn, the number of measles deaths globally decreased by 71 percent between 2000 and 2011.
Edmond J. Safra’s Jewish faith played an essential part of his everyday life. He helped countless synagogues and religious schools and was particularly devoted to the Sephardi community from which his family came: in his lifetime, he was said to be the most important individual supporter of Sephardi institutions worldwide. Mr. Safra placed particular importance on the needs of smaller, less affluent communities, wanting to ensure that they had the essential facilities to sustain Jewish life. Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation support all aspects of Jewish religious life around the world.
The Edmond J. Safra Synagogue in Brooklyn will be among the largest Sephardic synagogues in North America. Located at the heart of the largest Sephardic community outside the State of Israel, the congregation is led by Rabbi Eli J. Mansour, one of the community’s most dynamic, hard-working, and well-known young scholar-rabbis.

Rabbi Mansour is widely admired for his skills as a religious teacher, and hundreds of people regularly attend his classes. He is assisted by five additional rabbis and seven other teachers, who together teach classes almost constantly throughout the day, every day of the week. In addition, he has attracted hundreds of thousands of students in 144 countries who follow his lessons – for every level of knowledge – broadcast on the internet. He offers more than 10,000 hours of audio-video classes for free, in several languages.

The synagogue building, located on Ocean Parkway at Avenue U, will occupy 42,000 square feet, with a total capacity of 1,620 worshippers. It will provide spaces for classes, youth programs, and charitable activities, as well as a mikveh (ritual bath). The social hall will host more than 100 annual festive gatherings such as weddings and bar mitzvahs.
The Edmond J. Safra Synagogue in Manhattan was conceived and planned by Mr. Safra, and was brought to completion in his memory by Mrs. Safra. Since opening its doors in 2003, the synagogue has become a focal point for Sephardim of the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Located on 63rd Street between Madison and Fifth Avenues, and designed by world-renowned French architect Thierry Despont, the building provides an iconic and permanent place of worship for the community.

The synagogue offers daily prayer services, a bi-weekly educational program, and liturgy studies. Moreover, it has become a prominent social, cultural, and educational center, hosting more than 50 events annually, including educational lectures, children’s programs, singles’ events, and parenting and cooking classes.
EDMOND J. SAFRA GRAND CHORAL SYNAGOGUE
ST. PETERSBURG

The Edmond J. Safra Grand Choral Synagogue of St. Petersburg, a magnificent imperial structure, is the second largest synagogue in Europe. Built between 1880 and 1888 and consecrated in 1893, the synagogue was damaged during World War II and largely fell out of use during the Soviet era. With leading support from Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, it was reconstructed and renovated, and it now serves as the heart of a thriving Jewish community.

The Foundation's partnership with the Jewish community of St. Petersburg now stretches over many years: in addition to the synagogue, Mrs. Safra and the Foundation have been major supporters of the community school, the soup kitchen for the elderly, educational projects, and special events.

The Foundation is currently providing funds for the restoration of the “Small Synagogue” adjacent to the main building, which serves as the community’s space for daily prayers. Constructed in parallel with the main synagogue in 1886, the Small Synagogue is a three-story brick building containing a small double-story sanctuary and a women’s gallery. A listed Historical Monument, it features intricate designs and elaborate finishings that had fallen into serious disrepair.
Far left: Interior of the Small Synagogue
Right: The soup kitchen
Below: Interior of the main synagogue
One of the great Biblical sages, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai is traditionally regarded as the author of the Zohar, the chief work of kabbalah. His tomb in the northern Israeli city of Meron is considered to be one of the holiest sites in the Jewish world. In addition to the actual grave, the tomb is also the site of religious study groups, with as many as two million pilgrims visiting annually.

Mr. Safra visited the site annually throughout his life, and he made a personal commitment to renovate the tomb and surrounding structure. The renovations, which were overseen by a committee of governmental and religious authorities, ensure the safety and comfort of the constant stream of visitors while enhancing the beauty and dignity of the sacred space.
Rabbi Meir was one of the greatest sages from the time of the Roman Empire, and his teachings became the basis for the Mishnah, the first major written redaction of Jewish law and traditions. His tomb is one of the most revered religious sites in Israel, receiving hundreds of thousands of pilgrims annually. Most of these faithful are of Sephardic descent, and Mr. Safra himself felt a special bond to the holy place, visiting regularly, and providing donations for its upkeep and religious school throughout his life. In 1986 he financed a refurbishment of the site, and on his last visit there expressed a desire to support more substantial renovations, a project that was adopted by the Edmond J. Safra Foundation.

In addition to the grave of Rabbi Meir, the tomb complex is also the site of multiple synagogues and a religious school. Renovations are currently underway throughout the entire site, including repairing structural damage, upgrading the existing facilities and infrastructure, and improving accessibility.
In 1990, Mr. Safra donated funds to help the Jewish community of Clermont-Ferrand buy back their historic synagogue building to save it from demolition. In recognition of this generosity, the community renamed their synagogue “Beit Yaacov” in memory of Mr. Safra’s father, Jacob.

With a rich history of Jewish life, the city of Clermont-Ferrand is particularly notable for being the site of the first recorded synagogue in France, which was destroyed in the year 576, and likely one of the first schools for training rabbis, also in the 6th century. The synagogue that Mr. Safra saved was built in 1862, but due to its small size, the community has prayed elsewhere since 1966.

Given the historic importance of the Beit Yaacov synagogue and the larger Auvergne region (where Jewish life has existed since the 4th century), the community embarked on a project to fully restore the synagogue and to create a cultural center to educate the public. With support from the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, the restoration and construction were completed in 2013.
The Grande Synagogue de Lyon is one of France’s best known and most beautiful synagogues. Built in a neo-Byzantine style in 1864, it stands on the banks of the Saône river, across from several Catholic churches, including the Eglise Saint Georges and the Basilique de Notre-Dame de Fourvière. The synagogue, which houses the headquarters for the region’s Chief Rabbinate as well as the Consistoire de Lyon, is home to an active Jewish community and provides a great deal of public education and outreach.

With around 600 member families and seating for 800 worshippers, the synagogue is the city’s largest. It hosts daily prayer services, as well as marriages and bar mitzvahs for the community. In addition to welcoming regular visits from schoolchildren, architects, soldiers, and tourists, the synagogue is often a meeting place for religious and political leaders.

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation provided significant support for recent major renovations to the building, which were completed in time for the synagogue’s 150th anniversary celebrations in 2014.
One of history’s most revered rabbis and the father of Biblical and Talmudic commentary, Rabbi Shlomo Itzhaki, known as Rashi, was born in the French city of Troyes in 1040 and died there in 1105. At the age of 25, Rashi was invited to be a member of the beth din (rabbinical court), and he later assumed leadership of the court. He also founded a school and rabbinical seminary in Troyes, and since that time, the city has always held a special place in Jewish history.

There has always remained a Jewish presence in Troyes: there are currently about 200 families, who create a small but vibrant community. The current synagogue and community center – a 16th century building in the medieval part of the city – was renovated with support from the Edmond J. Safra Foundation.
JEWISH COMMUNITY OF BUENOS AIRES

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation provides substantial ongoing support for a variety of organizations and projects in the Jewish community of Buenos Aires, including schools, synagogues, youth programs, and support for the needy.

Additionally, the Foundation is currently funding a program (run by the highly-regarded “Menora” organization) to train local rabbis and young professionals to be better community leaders, teachers, and youth counselors. This program focuses on non-traditional subjects for rabbis and Jewish teachers, including organizational management (administration, marketing, finance, economics, fundraising, human resources, legal issues, communications, and public relations), technology, public speaking, and organizational psychology.

The Foundation also recently helped to build a mikveh (ritual bath) in the Villa Crespo neighborhood of the city, which had not had one before. Spread over 500 square meters, it permits the fulfillment of a religious obligation in clean, comfortable, modern surroundings.
Now in its second century, Yeshiva University is the oldest and most comprehensive educational institution under Jewish auspices in the United States. Mr. Safra was a generous supporter of the university during his lifetime, and in addition to granting him an honorary degree, the university dedicated the Jacob E. Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies in memory of his father.

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation recently provided support for the establishment of a new position, known as the Edmond J. Safra Sgan Mashgiach, who serves as a rabbinic mentor, advisor, and role model for the university’s Sephardic students. He runs programs for students in the evenings and at weekends and aims to invigorate Sephardic community life on campus.
A critical element for the success of a Jewish community is the quality of its rabbi. Through its Rabbinical Excellence Program, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation aims to provide elite rabbinical students and exceptional newly-ordained rabbis with the “practical” skills and training needed to be professional and successful community leaders. The program provides courses in a wide range of topics that will help rabbis in their interactions with their communities, including public speaking, pastoral psychology, technology, business management, and strategic planning.

Working with partners in Israel including the highly respected “Eretz Hemda” and “Amiel” educational organizations, as well as a number of well-known and respected rabbinical seminaries in the Sephardic community, the Foundation has already helped train a number of dynamic and talented new rabbis that are currently serving in communities around the world.
Edmond J. Safra made a lifetime commitment to building and maintaining synagogues in Israel. The Foundation has honored this legacy, collaborating with municipalities across the country to construct new synagogues named in his memory. In the years since Mr. Safra’s passing, 26 synagogues have been built, each the center of a vibrant community, offering religious services, classes, and communal events for all age groups. One further Edmond J. Safra Synagogue is currently under construction.
Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation are proud supporters of numerous arts and cultural institutions worldwide, providing support for their educational missions, and helping organizations reach broader and more diverse audiences.
The Royal Opera House is home to the Royal Opera, the Royal Ballet, and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. All three performance groups are renowned both for outstanding performances of traditional pieces, as well as new works by today’s leading artists.

Mrs. Safra has been a Patron of the Royal Opera House for many years and recently made a major gift to support youth programming aimed at educating and inspiring young people through the performing arts. This programming includes the “Chance to Dance” initiative, which offers free scholarships for students from inner-city London to study dance, the “Young Creatives” residency program for promising young choreographers, and teacher training classes, which provide instruction and practical tools that teachers can use to bring the performing arts into their classrooms.
The Palais Garnier, the traditional home of the Paris Opera and Ballet, hosts around 380 performances per year of opera, ballet, and other concerts, drawing as many as 800,000 visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. Safra have been long-time supporters of the Paris Opera and Ballet, and Mrs. Safra was recently the Grand Mécène of the tercentennial of the Ecole française de danse. This celebration of the three hundred years of this elite dance school, which received significant support from Mrs. Safra, culminated in a performance that brought together young dancers from the school with stars of the Ballet de l’Opéra national de Paris as well as the other principal ballet schools from around the world.
The Château de Versailles began as Louis XIII’s hunting lodge before his son Louis XIV transformed and expanded it, moving the court and government of France there in 1682. Each of the three successive French kings who lived there until the Revolution enhanced it further, making it one of the largest and most beautiful royal estates ever constructed. Constant care and restoration have made it possible for visitors to continue enjoying one of the finest jewels that France has bequeathed to the world’s artistic heritage.

In 2014, Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation made an exceptional donation to the Château: a commode by Antoine-Robert Gaudreaus, commissioned for King Louis XV’s Apartments at the Château de Choisy, and delivered in 1744. Originally placed in the royal chamber at Choisy, this extraordinary commode, with Japanese lacquer panes and gilded bronze, is displayed today in the chambers of Madame Victoire, daughter of Louis XV.
Founded in 1965, the Israel Museum is the largest cultural institution in the State of Israel and is ranked among the world’s leading art and archaeology museums. Its collection comprises almost 500,000 pieces dating from prehistory to the present day, and includes the Dead Sea Scrolls, the world’s oldest Biblical manuscripts.

Mr. Safra helped the Museum with a number of key acquisitions, in particular, donating Albert Einstein’s 1912 manuscript of the Special Theory of Relativity and helping acquire one of the oldest synagogues in the Americas, a dormant synagogue building from Suriname. The Edmond J. Safra Foundation continues to provide ongoing operating support for the Museum.

The new Edmond and Lily Safra Fine Arts Wing, completed in 2010, brings together the Museum’s fine arts galleries into one wing. The Foundation also helped the Museum acquire a sculpture by Anish Kapoor, *Turning the World Upside Down, Jerusalem* (2010), which was commissioned for the inauguration of the newly renovated and expanded campus.

In 2012, Mrs. Safra purchased Gerhard Richter’s *Abstraktes Bild 849-3* (1997) for the Museum, and the monumental abstract work, painted in shades of magenta and blue, is on view in the Museum’s Edmond and Lily Safra Fine Arts Wing.
Gerhard Richter's *Abstraktes Bild 849-3* (1997), donated by Mrs. Lily Safra, on display at the entrance to the Edmond and Lily Safra Fine Arts Wing at the Israel Museum.
\[ \frac{\gamma \, \frac{d}{dt} \left[ \frac{m \gamma^2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \right]}{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}} = \kappa \, \kappa \]
Officially opened in 1876, the Grand Théâtre has been the hallmark Geneva cultural association since its inception. It was partly destroyed by a fire in 1951 and reopened in 1962 with the largest stage in Switzerland. It hosts more than 100,000 visitors for over 35 events annually, including opera, ballet, recitals, debates, and theater.

The Foundation has been a strong supporter of the Grand Théâtre, providing regular operating support for many years. With the building needing significant renovations, the Foundation has helped support a temporary location for the theater near the Place des Nations while these are taking place.
Somerset House is a spectacular neo-classical building in the heart of London that has become a major arts and cultural center. The courtyard has also become a very successful space, with a wide range of concerts and outdoor performances offered through the summer months, and a popular ice rink installed during the winter. When the space is not in use, it houses the first major public fountain scheme to be commissioned in London since 1945. In recognition of the support of the Foundation, this dazzling installation is known as the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court.
The Juilliard School provides outstanding artistic education for 800 gifted musicians, dancers, and actors from 40 countries. Its faculty includes internationally-renowned musicians, leading dance and theater professionals, and distinguished scholars, all of whom are fully involved in the artistic and educational life of the community.

Many of the most talented young performing artists around the world require financial assistance for their studies at Juilliard, and Mrs. Safra has provided support through the Marvin Hamlisch Scholarship Fund. Marvin Hamlisch, an alumnus of the Juilliard School and a close friend of Mr. and Mrs. Safra, was one of America’s greatest musicians and composers.
For well over a decade, the Foundation has underwritten the Edmond J. Safra Visiting Professorship at the National Gallery of Art’s Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts. The Professorship is open to researchers of international reputation who have a record of scholarly and/or curatorial achievement in an area in which the National Gallery has a significant collection. The Center works to ensure that the research and expertise of the Edmond J. Safra Visiting Professor is open to a wide audience of academics, curators, conservators, and students. Within the Gallery, the Edmond J. Safra Professor bridges the gap between scholars, conservation staff, and curators, allowing conversations to develop among experts who rarely have a chance to share knowledge. Coming from a variety of countries and specializing in a variety of areas, the Professors have invigorated the life of the Gallery.
CARNegie HALL
NEW YORK

Built by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1891, Carnegie Hall is one of the most prestigious musical performance venues in the world. With three stages and nearly 200 diverse concerts and events annually, spanning all musical genres, Carnegie Hall is also committed to education, providing music education programs (live and virtual) that reach 350,000 young people and teachers annually. In 2012, Carnegie Hall launched the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America, to wide critical acclaim.

Carnegie Hall recently completed the Studio Towers Renovation Project, a comprehensive undertaking to create new spaces for music education on the building’s upper floors and fully refurbish the venue’s backstage areas. The $200 million project, made possible in part by a major donation from Mrs. Safra, was completed in September 2014 and includes the Lily and Edmond J. Safra Education Floors.