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## Audio: Prof. Eliezer Jaffe Shares 50 Years of Social Welfare in Israel

the Father of Israeli Social Work - Professor Eliezer Jaffe shares 50 years of social welfare in Israel.

14:29 | 3:11 PM Font Size: **A** **A**

A7 Radio's "Life Lessons with Judy Simon" with Judy Simon

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Eliezer Jaffe, a native of Cleveland Ohio, first came to Israel in 1947, where he volunteered at the Maabarot (transit camps for new immigrants). It was in these muddy, primitive tent cities where he decided that in order to help this small but bustling country, he needed to return with a doctoral degree.

This he did. Making Aliyah in 1950 with a PhD. in social work, Professor Jaffe was one of the founders of the very first Department of Social Work in Israel, at Jerusalem's Hebrew University. Other universities followed suit, and based their own social work programs on the one Dr. Jaffe began at Hebrew U.

Specializing in social services for children, Professor Jaffe saw a need for research into inter-country adoptions, which were not possible because of government policies of the time. He and his wife spent a sabbatical year travelling to 15 countries and gleaming as much information as they could on the subject, before returning to Israel and re-writing the Israeli adoption laws.

Professor Jaffe saw a need for interest-free assistance for short-term needs. Based on the teachings of the Rambam, in which the highest level of charity is one which provides the needy with a means to become self-supportive, Professor Jaffe founded the Israel Free Loan Association in 1990. This organization has helped tens of thousands of people over the years, awarding loans totalling more than \$130 million. What is astonishing is the 99% return rate, a factor which Professor Jaffe attributes to the respect awarded to each recipient. "People who need the loans are no better or worse than any of us. It can happen to any one of us overnight!" Maintaining the dignity of those in need is one of the cornerstones of Professor Jaffe's work ethic and philosophy of life.

Tune in to be inspired by Professor Eliezer Jaffe, winner of many wards and writer of more than 14 books including "Giving Wisely" and "Letters to Yitz," who believes that anyone can make a difference, and that giving is just a way of paying off our interest on this gift we call "life."

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# Businesses in the south get \$1.5 million in interest-free loans

Thanks to a major private donation, the Israel Free Loan Association will be able to help businesses in southern Israel get back on their feet after Operation Pillar of Defense

January 2, 2013, 8:52 am |

**J**TA — More than 50 small businesses in southern Israel affected by the recent Gaza conflict are receiving a total of \$1.5 million in interest-free loans.

The Jerusalem-based Israel Free Loan Association is providing the loans, which have been made available through two gifts from the Legacy Heritage Fund and the Trudy and Bob Gottesman Fund amounting to just over \$1.5 million.

In an effort to speed up the distribution process, the association will slightly relax its review process for business loan approvals by requiring only two guarantors rather than the typical three.

Representing a diverse collection of individuals and small businesses, the beneficiaries include small shops and manufacturers as well as service providers such as hairdressers, carpenters and day care centers. The affected businesses reported steep cash flow challenges resulting from halted income during the military campaign.

Hundreds of small businesses were damaged or lost productivity during Israel's Operation Pillar of Defense in Gaza last month.

"The recent violence presented many small businesses and individuals with a desperate economic challenge, and we take great pride that we can play our part in helping Israel's South get on the road to recovery," said Edward Cohen, chairman of the association.

Founded in 1990, the Israel Free Loan Association has distributed more than 46,000 individual loans amounting to over \$170 million.

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