

MACK NESS FUND

2007–2026



Jewish Community
Foundation OF GREATER METROWEST NJ
MACK NESS FUND



MACK NESS FUND

2007- 2026

MackNessFundjcf.org.il



Jewish Community
Foundation OF GREATER
METROWEST NJ
MACK NESS FUND



ABOUT US

Since the Fund's inception two decades ago, the dedicated advisory council members of the Mack Ness Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ have awarded more than \$10 million in grants for economic and demographic development in the Negev.

OUR MISSION

A Strategic Focus on the Negev

The Mack Ness Fund was established in 2006 by a significant bequest from the estate of Mack Ness, a recluse vegetable farmer from Somerset County, NJ. To fulfill Mr. Ness' desire to help the people of Israel, the mission of the Mack Ness Fund is to nurture economic development in the Negev region of Israel, with a special focus on increasing the region's population and promoting economic growth.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



I am deeply honored and privileged to participate in the realization of developing the Negev with the endowed funds of Mr Mack Ness. The economic growth that is being accomplished daily is transforming the land physically, the State of Israel geopolitically, and elevating and improving the lives of its growing number of inhabitants. Our board and staff are all extremely grateful to be part of this endeavor, dedicated toward the goal of maximizing the impact of the legacy of Mr. Mack Ness.

Howard Tepper
Chair, Mack Ness Fund



MEET THE STAFF



As the US Director of the Mack Ness Fund entrusted with realizing Mack Ness' vision, my primary goals are to identify leaders, innovative collaborative initiatives, and promote transparency, accountability and impact. At the heart of this endeavor lies a profound dedication to the people of the Negev, their dreams, and potential to transform this beautiful region of Israel into a thriving hub of quality communities, opportunity, and prosperity.

Pam Greenwood
US Director, Mack Ness Fund



For me, Keren Ness is the fulfillment of the ability to influence and promote the environment in which I was born and in which I raise my children. Thanks to Mack Ness, we are given the opportunity to help important and creative organizations in the Negev to establish groundbreaking ventures and thus develop this important and special region of the country.

Odelia Karutchi
Israel Director, Mack Ness Fund

MEET THE COUNCIL MEMBERS



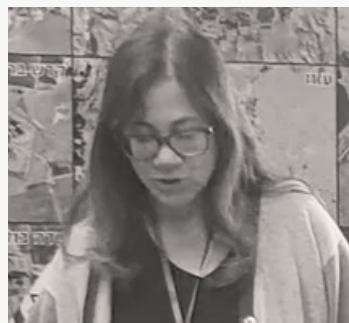
Norman Weinberg



Jim Shrager



Sanford Hollander



Judi Harrison



Gerry Flanzbaum



Bob Kuchner



Jewish Community
Foundation OF GREATER
METROWEST NJ
MACK NESS FUND

MEET THE COUNCIL MEMBERS



Louis Beckerman



Jean Mandell



Genesisia Kamen



Ken Heyman



Robbie Weissenberg



Marsha Hoch

MEET THE COUNCIL MEMBERS



Yael Birin



Steve Needle



Steve Needle

OUR PROJECTS



Mack Ness Fund Grantmaking

Annually, the Mack Ness Fund seeks proposals from Negev-based non-profit institutions with a clear vision for strengthening economic development and a targeted approach that will grow and enhance the quality of life of the region's population. Start-up, new organizations are encouraged to apply. In addition, pilot programs and programs expanding in scale will be highly considered.

Applicants will describe ways the organization will leverage innovation, collaborations, and strategic partnerships to tackle issues that are a part of a complex ecosystem related to growth and sustainability of the broad Negev region and/or local municipalities.

Applicants will indicate the proposed project's impact on the Negev region and/or local municipalities, specific economic development strategies to be employed, activities to occur, target population(s) that will benefit, and committed partners to be associated with the initiative.

Involvement of municipal leaders, regional councils or governmental bodies, and other key leaders in the community are encouraged.

2026

- **AgroNegev** – AgriApplied
- **Arava Community Center** – GoArava: Sports & Wellness Tourism Industry
- **Budur** – Professional Development for Hebrew Teachers in the Negev
- **Hinenu** – The Pioneering Center
- **Eilat Regional Community Center** – Summer Card 2026
- **Eve-Medarom Festival** – Medarom: Culture as an Engine for Regional Recovery and Growth in the Western Negev
- **MAOZ-Seal** – Regional Business Leadership Program for the Negev
- **MindCET (Center for Educational Technology)** – Negev EduLAB (Learning, AI & Beyond)
- **Ramat HaNegev Regional Council** – Ramat HaNegev “Farm to Table” Culinary and Agri-Tourism Festival
- **Rifman Institute** – Bedouin Site Managers Course and Integration into Management
- **Sderot Development Foundation** – Regional Tourism Network Plan
- **Dead Sea** – Pioneering Sustainable Solutions in Hyper-arid Environments (second year)
- **Eretz-Ir** – Negev Cities’ Community Resilience Program (second year)
- **Hura municipality** – AlSalam: Transforming Hura’s Main Road into an Economic and Social Lifeline (second year)

Mitzpe Gvulot



2025

- **Alumot** – The Carpentry Workshop: A Home For Local Art
- **Erez Lezmicha** – Kibbutz Erez/Community Strategic Planning
- **Place-IL** – Contributing to the Negev prosperity by creating tech career opportunities
- **Amuta 51** – 710 west
- **Tech 7** – Challenges and Acceleration Entrepreneurship Programs
- **Tzeirim BeYeruham** – AeroLabs: International UAV Innovation Center in Yeruham
- **Tor HaMidbar NGO (Eretz-Ir)** – Negev Cities' Community Resilience Program – capacity building
- **Matan – Investing in the Community** – Deep Space: Creation Space
- **Arava Development Company** – Arava Roots and Routes: Developing Educational Tourism in Central Arava
- **Elad Theatre** – Scaling Up and Working Toward Sustainability
- **Dead Sea & Arava Science Center (DSASC)** – Arid+: The Desert Resilience and Learning Center
- **Hura Local Municipality** – AlSalam: Transforming Hura's Scenic Main Road into an Economic and Social Lifeline
- **Atida Association** – Promoting Quality Employment for ultra-Orthodox Women (Daroma)
- **BeNetivei Udi** – Nitzanim to Tech

The Carpentry Workshop

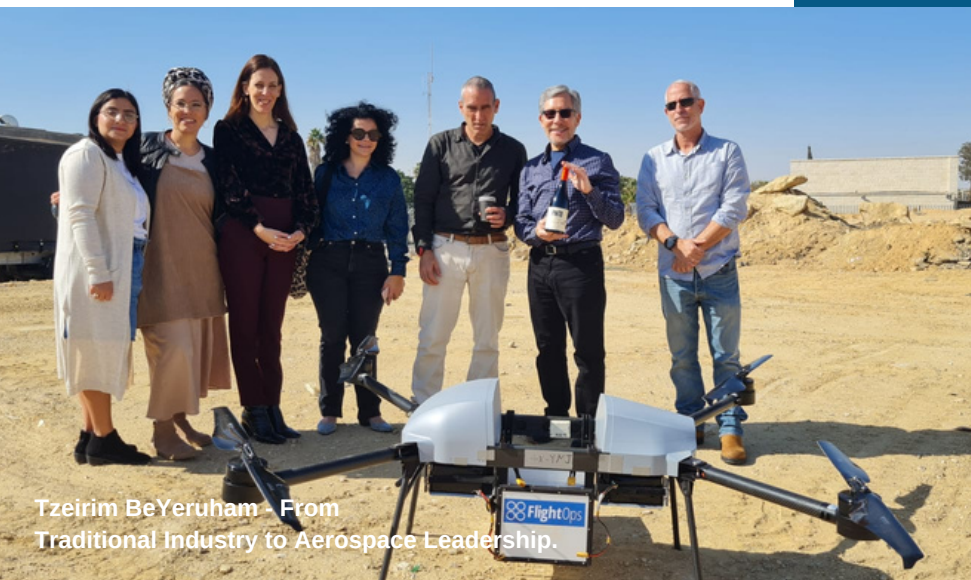


2024

- **AJEEC-NISPED** – Rahat Resilience Program
- **Amuta 51** – Occupational Rehabilitation Plan for the Gaza Envelope Community, "710 West"
- **Eden** – Eden for You: Community Resilience Strengthening Center for Women in the Gaza Envelope Community
- **Hen Hanegev** – Strengthening the Sense of Resilience of the Young Generation to Live a Full Life Later On
- **Israel Trauma Coalition** – Ofakim Resilience Center
- **NETGEV Dimona** – Eastern Negev Innovation Champions
- **Ramat HaNegev Regional Council** – DESERT START: The Young Neighborhood Project in Ramat HaNegev
- **Rimon Farms** – The Negev Orbit
- **Sha'ar Hanegev Regional Council** – Reconnecting People
- **The New Yeruham Fund** – Yeruham Tourism Cultural Festivals
- **Yanabia** – Preparing Bedouin municipalities for future emergencies.
- **Yozmot Atid** – Entrepreneurship & Micro-Business Development for Bedouin Women in Rahat

2023

- **Hamuta Lekidum Toshvei Hevel Eshkol** – AGROWTH Accelerated Growth Center for AgTech Related Start-up.
- **Gvanim** – Development of a Transportation Model for the First and Last Mile.
- **Elad Theatre** – Children's Theater
- **GoArava** – Sports & Wellness Tourism Industry
- **Tech 7** – Magnet Accelerator
- **Kikar HaTarbut** – Media Industry in the Western Negev: 'The Leap'.
- **Arad Music Conservatory** – PianoFest Arad
- **Switch** – Resource Development and Utilization Course in the Bedouin Society
- **The Fringe Theatre, Beer Sheva** – Training Programs for the Technical Professions of the Performing Arts.
- **Me'ever** – Musical Ecosystem Mitzpe Ramon.
- **Moona** – Advanced Manufacturing ('4.0') Regional Training Center.
- **Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council** – Ag-Tech Ecosystem as a Catalyst for Economic and Demographic Regional Development
- **Tzeirim BeYeruham** – From Traditional Industry to Aerospace Leadership
- **Arava Development Company** – The Arava Valley of Tastes: Cultivating the Culinary Culture in the Arava as an Economic Engine



Tzeirim BeYeruham - From Traditional Industry to Aerospace Leadership.



Elad Theatre for children

2022

- **Me'ever** – Mitzpe Ramon Creativity, Culture and Music Ecosystem
- **Tzeirim BeYeruham** – Applied Scientific, Pharma R&D Center in Yeruham
- **Yeruham Foundation** – From Traditional Industry to Aerospace
- **Sderot Development company** – West Negev Animation Studio
- **South up Sha'ar HaNegev** – Ag Tech Ecosystem as a Catalyst for Economic and Demographic Regional Development
- **Arava Development Company** – Arava Valley of Tastes
- **Monna** – Space for a change
- **Yeruham Tourism Association** – Yeruham Tourism Center
- **GoArava** – Sports & Wellness Tourism Industry
- **Or Movment** – Agro-Tech Training and Innovation Center, Ofakim
- **Apple Seeds** – MitzpeTech: Developing a Technology Employment Ecosystem in Mitzpe Ramon
- **Eretz-Ir** – Negev Coalition for Small Business
- **Sapir Academic College** – Film & Media Industry in the Western Negev

Me'ever - Mitzpe Ramon Creativity, Culture and Music Ecosystem.



2021

- **Elad Theater** – Desert Campus for the Performing Arts
- **Yerucham Tourism Association** – Tourism Center
- **Project Wadi Atir** – Bedouin Empowerment
- **GoArava** – Sports & Wellness Tourism Industry
- **Or Movement** – Agro-Tech Training and Innovation Ctr, Ofakim
- **Apple Seeds** – MitzpeTech, Mitzpe Ramon
- **Ramat Negev Muni** – Frontier Agro-Tech Innovation Center
- **Atid Bamidbar** – Bedouin Tourism Western Negev
- **Eretz-Ir** – Negev Coalition for Small Business
- **Ben Gurion University** – Yazamut 360
- **Siraj** – M'HaLimudim L'Adovdah: An Enrichment
- **Tzeirim BeYeruham** – Medical Cannabis
- **Hamuta Lekidum Toshvei Hevel Eshkol** – Artist Hub
- **Sapir Academic College** – Film & Media Industry in the Western Negev

GoArava - Sports & Wellness Tourism Industry



2020

- **Eretz-Ir** – Wix Web Design Training Course With Guaranteed Placement, in partnership with Tribe Studio
- **Matnas Mitzpe Ramon** – Valley Lab
- **Arava Development Company** – Arava R2B "From Lab to Market"
- **Kedma** – Nir Oz Young Community
- **Kulna** – Learning and Cultural Center, Yerucham
- **AJEEC-NISPED** – Tamar Center Atudot Ha'Negev
- **Siraj** – Advancing Hi-Tech in the Bedouin Community M'HaLimudim
L'Adovdah: An Enrichment Program for Bedouin College & University Students
- **Beni Shimon Foundation for the Community** – Shaping the Workforce of the Future
- **Derech Eretz** – Derech HaNegev Program
- **Taub Center** – Research: *Who lives in the Negev?* Tracking two decades of population change"
- **Keren Shahaf** – Young Communities in the Negev



Kedma - Nir Oz Young Community

2020

SPECIAL COVID GRANTS

- **MindCET** - Educational Ecosystem for Educator in the Negev Region
- **Ramat Negev Municipalities** - Digital Businesses
- **Keren Shemesh** - Mentoring for small businesses
- **Maavarim** - Negev market
- **Start Up Center Beer Sheva** - Zooming your carrier
- **Yeadim** - I team B7: Digital Business
- **Eretz-Ir** - The Space for Communities
- **Eilat Regional Council** - Digital Business
- **Eilat Community Center** - Community Center in your Home
- **Yerucham Tourism Association** - Hackathon to Promote Tourism During Covid
- **Yerucham Science Center** - Smart Tablets for the Elderly
- **Unistream** - Youth business and entrepreneurship programs in the Bedouin communities
- **Mitzpe Ramon Tourism Association** - Special Events



Yerucham Science Center - Smart tablets for the elderly

2019

- **Yerucham Muni** – Medical Cannabis
- **Northern Negev Tourist Association** – Metro Negev
- **Wize** – Hahamim Balaila Wize Negev
- **Tech 7** – Negev Startup Accelerator Beer Sheva
- **Beer Sheva Foundation** – Cultural Accelerator Beer Sheva
- **Hamuta Lekidum Toshvei Hevel Eshkol** – Artist Hub
- **Matnas Mitzpe Ramon** – Valley Lab
- **Yanabia for a prosperous Bedouin society** – Sama19
- **Sapir Academic College** – Film & Media Industry in the Western Negev
- **South Up Sha'ar Hanegev** – Accelerator for start-ups in the Southern Negev
- **Arava Development Company** – Arava R2B "From Lab to Market"
- **Elad Theatre** – Start-up/Expansion of Theatre in the Negev
- **JAFI** – CROWD.IL Negev
- **Keren Shahaf** – Young Communities in the Negev



2018

- **Keren Lev Arad** – NETGEV: Occupational Hub Arad
- **Lev Arad Foundation** – Training Program for Practical Elect, Arad
- **Arava Development Company** – Arava R2B "From Lab to Market"
- **Elad Theatre** – Start-up/Expansion of Theatre in the Negev
- **AJEEC-NISPED** – Bridges to Employment
- **Yanabia** – Initiative for Development of Bedouin Society in the Negev
- **Eretz-Ir** – "The Network" Beer Sheva
- **Eshkol Regional Council** – Agro-Tech Based Makerspace
- **JNF Chalutza** – Agricultural Research
- **Sha'ar HaNegev YAC** – Social Business Innovation Accelerator, Sha'ar Hanegev
- **JAFI** – CROWD.IL Negev
- **Negev Council** – Collaboration Building
- **The Reut Institute** – Western Negev: The Leapfrog Center
- **Arad Tourism Association** – Tourism Development
- **Tor HaMidbar** – Eliav Community Hub
- **JAFI** – Nitzana Vista: Strengthening Tourism Nitzana
- **Collot BaNegev** – YAC in Hura
- **Keren Shahaf** – Young Communities in the Negev



Eretz-Ir - "The Network" Beer Sheva

2017

- **JAFI** – CROWD.IL Negev
- **Young Yerucham** – The Negev Council
- **The Reut Institute** – Western Negev: The Leapfrog Center
- **AJEEC-NISPED** – Bridges to Employment
- **Lev Arad Foundation** – Business & Occupational Hub: NETGEV
- **Arad Tourism Association** – Tourism Development
- **Tor HaMidbar** – Eliav Community Hub
- **JAFI** – Nitzana Vista – Strengthening Tourism Nitzana
- **Chaluza** – Ami-Da Student Program
- **OR Movement** – Barkai Collective Impact for the Negev, Ofakim
- **OR Movement** – Students for Nachal Oz.
- **Tarbut Movement** – Tarbut Community in Ofakim
- **Collot BaNegev** – YAC in Hura
- **Dror Israel** – Educators Kibbutz in Sderot
- **Keren Shahaf** – Young Communities in the Negev

2016

- **OR Movement** – Barkai Collective Impact for the Negev, Ofakim
- **OR Movement** – Students for Nachal Oz
- **Tarbut Movement** – Tarbut Community in Ofakim
- **Collot BaNegev** – YAC in Hura
- **Collot BaNegev** – YAC Mitzpe Ramon
- **Dror Israel** – Educators Kibbutz in Sderot
- **Eilat-Eilot** – Renewable Energy Center
- **Keren Shahaf** – Young Communities in the Negev

2015

- **ITworks** – Spark It
- **Negev Funding Coalition**
- **Collot BaNegev** – Young Adult Center, Ofakim.
- **Alpha** – Affordable Housing, Ofakim.
- **Noah Initiative** – Ofakim.
- **Arad Foundation** – Care Center
- **Dualis** – Social Business in the Negev, Beer Sheva
- **Tor Hamidbar** – Negev Hub “Beta”
- **Ami-Da** – Chalutza absorption center
- **Gvanim** – Netivim Young Adult Center
- **Desert Stars** – Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship Program
- **Keren Shahaf** – Young Communities in the Negev
- **Arava MOP.**

2013–2014

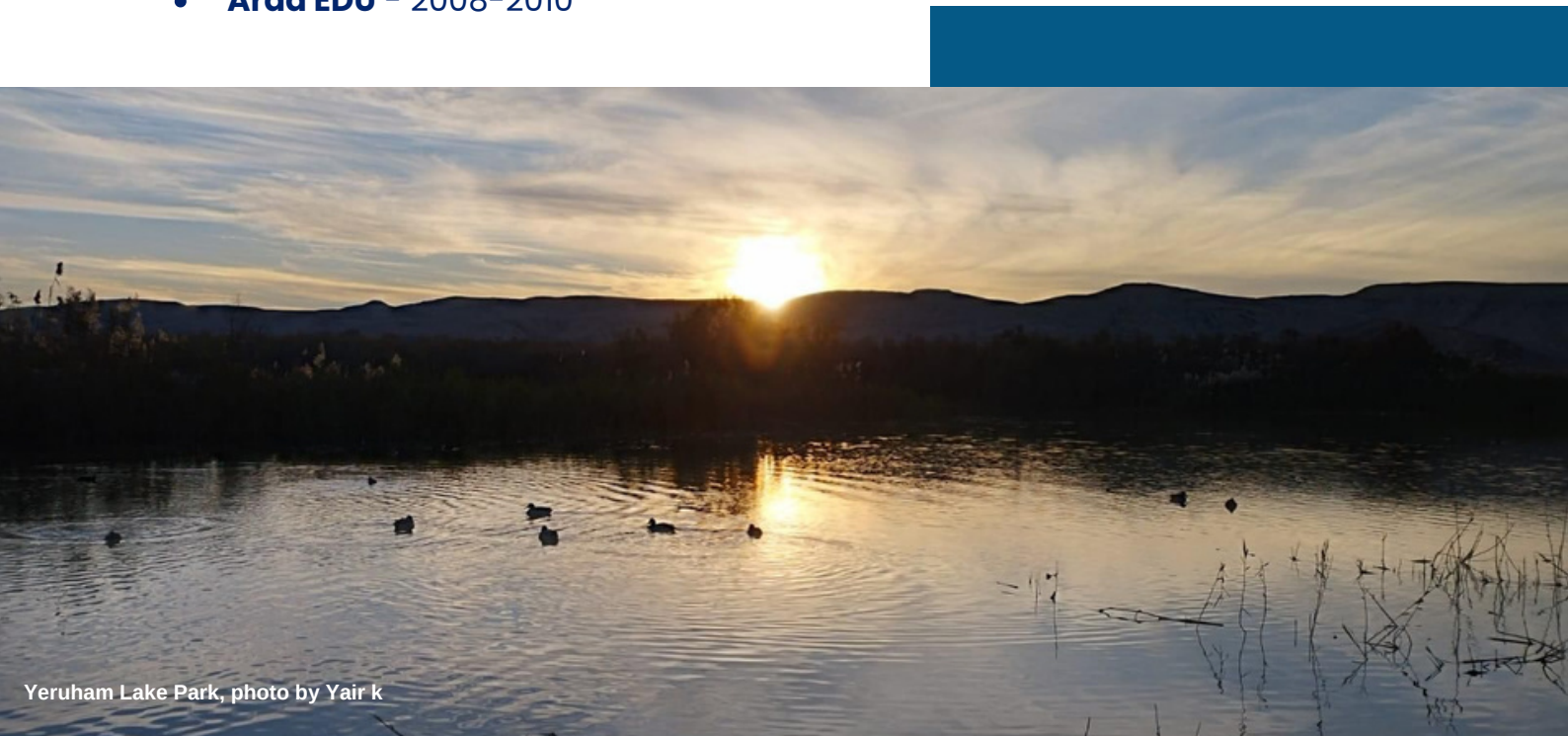
- **Presentense** – Hameitz Negev Venture Accelerator
- **Keren Shahaf** – Young Communities in the Negev
- **Arava MOP.**
- **Netivim Center** – Sderot
- **Dror Israel** – Educators Kibbutz in Mitzpe Ramon
- **Hashomer** – Ma’ahal v’Migdal
- **Kol Israel Haverim** – Netuim, Ofakim

2011-2012

- **Arad Absorption Center**
- **Ayalim Arad**
- **Clalit** – Incentive Grants for Nurses, Beer Sheva
- **Arava** – Zuqim Artist Village
- **Yeruham foundation**
- **Jewish Agency for Israel**
- **Sami Shamoon College of Engineering**
- **JDC**

2007-2010

- **Technoda** – 2007
- **Ayalim** – 2008-2010
- **Or Movment** – 2008-2010
- **Ivn** – 2008-2010
- **Yeruham Foundation** – 2008-2010
- **Arad EDU** – 2008-2010



Yeruham Lake Park, photo by Yair k

THE STANLEY STONE SPECIAL GRANT



The Stanley Stone Meoravut Hevratit (Social Involvement) Award honors Stanley Stone, the founding Director of the Mack Ness Fund. Stanley valued innovative ideas for community-building and ways to strengthen the Negev communities.

This annual award of \$5,000 supports one selected outstanding and visionary Negev resident, associated with a registered amuta in Israel who best meets the following criteria:

- A strong lead individual proposes the development, execution or expansion of a creative, innovative solution/project to a social, economic or demographic problem unique to the Negev.
- The solution/project involves collaborative efforts among organizations.
- The lead individual will attract and leverage funds from additional funders for his/her ideas and solutions.

The organization applying on behalf of the individual must be a registered amuta in Israel and must have Nihul Takin status with the Registrar of NGOs (Rasham HaAmutot).



2021

"Sratim al shiknim"
Film Festival



Jewish Community
Foundation
OF GREATER
METROWEST NJ
MACK NESS FUND

THE STANLEY STONE SPECIAL GRANT



Taimaa Ahmad

2026

From my home to
your home



Avishi Efrat

2026

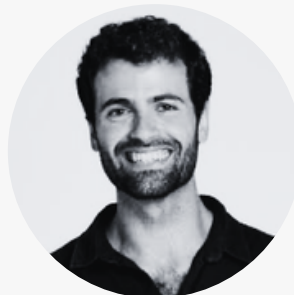
VisitMizpeRamon: Digital
Tourism Ecosystem



Ben Morag

2024

Producing a film about
the Mack Ness Fund



Roe Azizi

2025

Hinenu - Pioneers
of Hope



Yaniv Hagyi

2025

710 Memorial

THE STANLEY STONE SPECIAL GRANT



Moshe Nagar

2020

Pre-Army mechina
for youth in Dimona



Yael Romny

2021

"Sratim al shikinim"
Film FESTIVAL



Eilon Kotler

2022

Producing a film about
the Mack Ness Fund



Nir Amitay

2023

Rimon Farm for youth in risk:
establishing a bakery

MAKING MIRACLES IN THE NEGEV

Macknessfundjcf.org.il



Jewish Community
Foundation OF GREATER METROWEST NJ
MACK NESS FUND