

## Friends of KKL-JNF from Canada Donate Sports Facility in Kiryat Shemona

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**The Balaban family, friends of KKL-JNF from Canada, contributed towards building a multipurpose sports and fitness facility at the Kiryat Shemona Hesder Yeshiva and participated in the cornerstone ceremony.**

### Sports Facility Cornerstone Ceremony for Hesder Yeshiva

Hadashot HaGalil  
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A cornerstone ceremony took place this week at the Kiryat Shemona Hesder Yeshiva for a multipurpose sports and fitness facility. For more than a decade, the tireless director of the yeshiva, Chaim Bomash, had been trying to realize his dream of developing a sports and fitness facility for the benefit of the students, so that alongside Torah studies they could also engage in physical fitness. This week, thanks to KKL-JNF and the Balaban family of Canada, the dream is coming true for the yeshiva students. Rabbi Tzefania Drori, Dean of the Yeshiva, and Chief Rabbi of the city, addressed the members of the family and said, "You are partners in our Torah studies here from today on. Our students, who combine scripture and sword, will be able to enjoy sports after their Torah study sessions."



Sport equipment at the Akko yeshivat Hesder. Photo: Yoav Devir

The happy members of the Balaban family told the audience what was behind the sports donation precisely in a place of Torah study: "Our father was a basketball coach, and he always taught us that basketball, besides being fun, was a noble game, not just a sport. It is an honor for us that students here in select units of the IDF, serving the community and studying Torah, will be able to play and exercise in this court."

Mayor Nissim Malka: "This project was very important for us, and when we saw that things were being delayed, we tried to do everything to speed up the bureaucracy. The yeshiva students are among the best boys in the city."

Zeev Kedem, director of the KKL-JNF Fundraising Department: "The donors from Canada wished to contribute a sports facility, and KKL-JNF deliberated between southern and northern Israel, but as soon as the members of the Balaban family arrived in the city [of Kiryat Shemona] and saw the students who combine Torah study with army service in combat units, they understood that the installation of the sports facility here would not just be for fun but for sports and physical fitness for their service in the IDF."

The Kiryat Shemona Hesder Yeshiva was established in 1977 and facilitates 250 students at present, who combine Torah study and army service. The students are from all over Israel, and many of them decide to reside permanently in the northern city even after they get married.

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