



Jerusalem, March 26, 2019

Reference No.: 2000-1110-2019-0425516

To our friends in ESRA, Shalom

Since the dawning of mankind, mutual aid and support has held a place of honor and respect. No society can maintain itself without citizens of goodwill and responsibility who assist one another. Caring, involvement in the life of the community and the society, volunteering; these are foundational values to which we educate generation after generation.

The roots of this basic life value run deep in the teachings of Judaism, that tell us the world is created in such a way that no one person alone can provide for his or her every need. The help of others is always needed. Human has intentionally been created with flawed capabilities, so that one may always be a complement to the other. Giving enriches the receiver and without a doubt also contributes to the giver – as the activities of an organization such as ESRA clearly demonstrates. It is in fact part of your organization's banner that volunteering drives integration. By volunteering in the community, English speaking *olim* become involved and further integrated into Israeli society.

ESRA is celebrating four decades of invaluable educational activity in Israeli society, through formal as well as informal education. You initiate and operate unique programs in English and in a range of subjects and areas.

The mission to educate is filled with challenges and includes many partners, as indicated by the sentence: "It takes a whole village to raise one child." You at ESRA, have taken upon yourselves to be that village.

I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Ministry, our deep appreciation of your activities. We consider you our courageous partners in the assistance you provide to our school children with their English studies, and in your spirit of volunteering that you introduce into the educational system. We believe this spirit will grow and bring about social change across society's sectors.

Our greetings and blessings on your 40th anniversary celebrations. I wish you and all your members and volunteers continued strength in all that you do.

With best regards,

Shmuel Abuav

E-mail: mankal@education.gov.il | 02-5602336 פקס 02-5602242 טל' 9510557 ירושלים, 34, רח' שבטי ישראל

شارع شبيطي يسرائيل 34, اورشليم-القدس, 9510557 هاتف 02-5602242 فاكس 02-5602336 | www.edu.gov.il