

## Sustainable Environment and Disability

JDC-Israel's Division for Disabilities and Rehabilitation promotes independent living and integration within the community of adults with disabilities.

The division promotes innovative activities for people with disabilities in the field of social, economic and environmental sustainability – developing the individual's environment, safeguarding environmental resources and responding to the needs of generations to come.

### Integration of People with Disabilities in the Field of Sustainable Environment

- Promote environmental activities to reduce harm to people with disabilities
- Create green volunteer and employment opportunities adapted to people with disabilities
- Alleviate isolation and create opportunities to form new social connections
- Reduce household financial burden through increased energy efficiency
- Enhance quality of life through sustainable lifestyle
- Enable people with disabilities to contribute to society



### Need and Response

- Over 30% of people with severe disabilities report a sense of isolation, compared to 4% of the non-disabled population.
- Over 60% of people with disabilities are interested in integrating into society, in employment, volunteering and recreational activities.

**Environment and sustainability activities open new paths for people with disabilities to cope with isolation and loneliness.**

## Sustainable Environment and People with Disabilities: Programmatic Directions

- **Providing tools for sustainable personal lifestyle and community:** Household management, economic and energy savings, growing vegetables for personal consumption and safeguarding the environment
- **Training people with disabilities as sustainability trustees:** Counseling peers, family members, students, volunteers and professionals
- **Integrating people with disabilities as volunteers, entrepreneurs and employees:** in green business initiatives, at community gardens and public parks



Yehudit & Mark from the Center for Independent Living & Supportive Community in Jerusalem, are interested in volunteering in the area of sustainability.

In photo: Yehudit & Mark planting herbs at the accessible Botanical Gardens in Jerusalem.



Iris, a woman with a visual disability, is a model of sustainable lifestyle at her home and place of work.

In Photo: Iris shredding paper to reduce waste

**"See how beautiful and good are my creations. Everything that I have created – I created for you. Take care not to spoil or expand my world, for if you spoil it there is no one who will amend it after you..."**

(Midrash Kohelet Rabbah 7:19)

### ***For More Information:***

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