

EDMOND J. SAFRA  
PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION



*Press Kit*  
2010



EDMOND J. SAFRA  
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## About the Edmond J. Safra Foundation

**E**dmond J. Safra, one of the 20th century's most accomplished bankers and a devoted philanthropist, established a major philanthropic foundation to ensure that needy individuals and organizations would continue to receive his assistance and encouragement for many years to come.

Following his passing in 1999, and now under the chairmanship of his beloved wife Lily, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation draws continuing inspiration from its founder's life and values. With Mrs. Safra's leadership, the Foundation has assisted hundreds of organizations in over 50 countries around the world, and its work encompasses four areas: Education; Science and Medicine; Religion; and Humanitarian Assistance, Culture, and Social Welfare.

In the area of Education, some of the Foundation's most significant projects have included endowing the Center for Ethics at Harvard University and the science campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; helping Israeli universities develop, recruit, and retain the very best faculty through the Edmond J. Safra Program for Faculty Excellence; and supporting Yad Vashem (the international memorial to the victims of the Holocaust in Jerusalem) in its efforts to help teachers impart the lessons of the Holocaust and the values of tolerance and courage to their students.

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation continues to underwrite the activities of the ISEF Foundation, which has, since its establishment in 1977 by Mr. and Mrs. Safra, become the largest non-profit organization promoting higher education for gifted Israelis from disadvantaged backgrounds. ISEF has granted over 16,000 scholarships, including support for more than 1,000 MA and PhD students, and recipients of ISEF scholarships continue to distinguish themselves in every discipline.

The Foundation established "Keren Shemesh", an Israeli organization that provides loans and expert mentoring to young people wishing to start small businesses; it has been an underwriting partner of the "A Window to Tomorrow" program, distributing computers and technology training to over 12,000 families; and it initiated a far-reaching program to provide additional educational resources in Israel's Arab communities.

The Foundation has developed a significant portfolio of Parkinson's disease research and patient care projects at some of the world's leading universities and scientific institutes including University College London's Institute of Neurology, King's College London, Imperial College London, the University of Toronto,



New York University, the University of Lund (Sweden), Hadassah Medical Center, the Centre Hospitalier Pitié-Salpêtrière in Paris, and Université Joseph Fourier in Grenoble. It is also one of the leading supporters of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. It has funded the establishment of the Edmond and Lily Safra International Institute of Neuroscience of Natal, Brazil, encompassing a cutting-edge research facility, a school for 1000 underprivileged children in the region, and a women's medical clinic.

At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Foundation made a historic gift to create the largest center for brain research in Israel and one of the most ambitious in the world: the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences.

Additionally, the Foundation supports numerous hospitals worldwide (notably the Edmond and Lily Safra Children's Hospital at Tel Hashomer, Israel, which treats thousands of patients annually from across the Middle East), has built the Edmond J. Safra Family



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Lodge at the National Institutes of Health outside Washington, DC for patients participating in clinical trials and their families, and assists numerous other organizations providing relief for those suffering illness (including a camp for children with cancer; community Parkinson’s education services in New York City and Montevideo, Uruguay; residential treatment facilities for severely disabled children in Israel; and medical device lending services; among others). As part of the 450th anniversary of the University of Geneva, the Foundation established the Edmond J. Safra Chair in Humanitarian Medicine.

In the area of Religion, the Foundation has built and restored synagogues around the world, some of which are the Edmond J. Safra Synagogue in New York, St. Petersburg’s Grand Choral Synagogue, the Moscow Choral Synagogue, and over a dozen synagogues in towns and cities throughout Israel. The Foundation sponsored the renovation of the Prayer Hall and Plaza at the Western Wall in Jerusalem and is underwriting French translations of the Hebrew Bible and the 72-volume Babylonian Talmud.

The Foundation has assisted numerous arts institutions, providing scholarships for students and

helping organizations reach broader and more diverse audiences.

Receiving support have been institutions such as the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, New York’s Museum of Jewish Heritage, the National Gallery of Art in Washington (the Edmond J. Safra Visiting Professorship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts), the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation has been among the first to respond to some of the world’s worst humanitarian disasters, providing aid after Hurricane Katrina, the Darfur crisis, earthquakes in Kashmir and Indonesia, and the Indian Ocean tsunami.

It has also committed resources to rescuing children from the contaminated areas around Chernobyl through the “Children of Chernobyl” program and from Romanian state orphanages through the “Hope and Homes for Children” organization.

Additionally, it is helping to build the “Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village” in Rwanda for children orphaned by the genocide and is funding vital welfare services (food, medicines, clothing, and other necessities) for the elderly in Odessa and Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine.



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## About Mr. Edmond J. Safra



Mr. Edmond J. Safra was one of the most accomplished bankers of the 20th century, having established an unparalleled reputation for financial acumen and trust. Born in Beirut to a family that had started in banking at the time of the Ottoman Empire, he built a business that spanned more than thirty countries across the globe.

Edmond Safra was just sixteen when he went to Milan to work on behalf of his family's banking business. Following Edmond's recommendation, the Safra family moved to Brazil, where father and son founded Banco Safra S.A. Edmond Safra was Founder and Honorary Chairman of the Republic New York Corporation and Republic National Bank of New York and was Chairman of its European private banking subsidiary, Safra Republic Holdings S.A.

In 1999, Mr. Safra sold all of his holdings in Republic New York Corporation and Safra Republic Holdings to London-based HSBC. A victim of arson at his home in Monaco, he died on 3 December 1999 and is buried in Geneva.

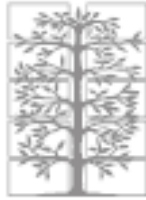
Throughout his successful career, Mr. Safra was also an extraordinary philanthropist. Rarely taking personal credit, he supported tens of thousands of students, underwrote medical research, built and restored schools and synagogues, endowed professorships, and contributed to countless humanitarian, religious, educational, and cultural causes worldwide.

He made major contributions to the national, cultural, and religious life of the State of Israel – including building Safra Square, where the offices of the mayor and city administration of Jerusalem are located; donating to the Israel Museum Einstein's 1912 manuscript of the Special Theory of Relativity; and building the Children's Hospital at Tel Hashomer.

In 1998, he was named Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for his achievements in the world of finance, his commitment and support for Jewish and humanitarian causes, and his contribution to higher educational opportunities in Israel. He was also honored with an Honorary Doctorate from Yeshiva University for his long-term support of Jewish education.

Recognized worldwide for his philanthropy, Mr. Safra was named Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by the French government; Commandeur de l'Ordre de Mérite by the Grand Duke of Luxembourg; and Commandeur de l'Ordre de Rio Branco by the government of Brazil.

Mr. Safra created a major philanthropic foundation to ensure that needy individuals and organizations would continue to receive assistance and encouragement for many years to come. Following his passing in 1999, and under the chairmanship of his beloved wife Lily, the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation draws continuing inspiration from its founder's life and values.



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## About Mrs. Lily Safra



**M**rs. Lily Safra shared her commitment to caring for the less fortunate with her husband, Mr. Edmond J. Safra, one of the twentieth century's most accomplished bankers and founder of the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation. Since 1999, she has chaired this Foundation, which supports projects related to education, science and medicine, religion, culture, and humanitarian relief in over 50 countries.

She has initiated many educational projects in memory of her husband, including endowing the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. A long and distinguished relationship with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem led to the naming of the Edmond J. Safra Campus. In an impoverished area of northern Brazil, she founded the Alfredo J. Monteverde School, which teaches science and technology to 1,000 children.

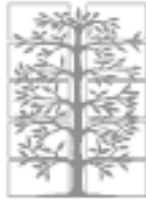
Mrs. Safra is Honorary Chairman of the International Sephardic Education Foundation (ISEF), which she established with her husband in 1977. ISEF is the largest non-profit organization promoting higher education for gifted Israelis from disadvantaged backgrounds. Since its founding, over 16,000 scholarships have been granted, including support for more than 1,000 MA and PhD students.

Both personally and through the Foundation, she supports research into cancer, HIV/AIDS, and neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, at dozens of hospitals and universities worldwide. Her awareness of the distress experienced by the families of those battling illnesses led her to construct the Family Lodge for patients and their families at the National Institutes of Health near Washington, DC. She and her husband built a cutting-edge children's hospital in Tel Hashomer, outside of Tel Aviv, which annually treats thousands of children from across the region. She is a member of the Board of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research and of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

Mrs. Safra is a Trustee of New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage and the Somerset House Arts Fund in London, as well as a member of the Chairman's Council of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). She is a member of the Director's Circle of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and is an Honorary Governor of the International Board of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mrs. Safra has also taken a lead role in humanitarian causes including building homes for orphaned children in Romania; constructing the Jordan River Valley Camp for children with cancer in Israel; helping to establish the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda; providing welfare services for the elderly in Odessa; and assisting the Red Cross with its relief efforts after natural disasters around the world. She is a Co-Founder of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, dedicated to the sustainable and equitable management of natural resources.

Mrs. Safra holds honorary doctorates from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, Brandeis University, and Imperial College London, and is an Honorary Fellow of King's College London and the Courtauld Institute of Art. She is a Commandeur of France's Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and she was named Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur by President Jacques Chirac in 2005.



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## *Press Contacts*

Seth Goldschlager

+33 1 57 32 86 25

+33 6 09 42 50 40

[seth.goldschlager@consultants.publicis.fr](mailto:seth.goldschlager@consultants.publicis.fr)

••••

Natalie Faulkner

+33 1 57 32 85 96

+33 6 48 37 89 40

[natalie.faulkner@consultants.publicis.fr](mailto:natalie.faulkner@consultants.publicis.fr)

*For more information on the Edmond J. Safra Foundation,  
please visit:  
<http://www.edmondjsafra.org>*