

Tenufa Bakehila – Testimonials: The Impact of our Assistance

~ Michael and Elina

Michael and Elina are both Holocaust survivors in their 90's who live in Jerusalem. Elina had a stroke and walks with the assistance of a walker. They have a son who lives overseas and a daughter in Israel. Their home was in terrible condition – covered with mold, with peeling and crumbling walls, and exposed beams in the ceilings. The Tenufa Bakehila team fixed the walls and painted the home. After years of disrepair - it was an intense job. The light fixtures were replaced with improved lighting which enables them both to see better.



While they worked in the home, the Tenufa Bakehila team noticed how difficult it was for Elina to leave her home and walk in the home. The team installed grab rails and banisters in the home and outside by the stairs leading to the door. This was a great aid and provided tremendous relief to the couple, enabling them to age in dignity and safety in the comfort of their home.

Tatiana, an immigrant from the former Soviet Union is divorced, coping with an oncological illness, and lives alone in her apartment. She is recognized in the welfare department due to her eligibility under the Nursing Care Law. She manages her days quietly, moving between medical treatments and routine checkups, with fatigue an inseparable part of her daily routine.

When Tenufa Bakehila's team arrived for a home visit, it became clear that the challenge was not only medical. Dampness was visible throughout most of the apartment — spreading dark stains over the walls, plaster was peeling in the corners, and the air felt heavy and humid. For someone in her condition, such a living environment is not merely an aesthetic issue; it affects health, overall well-being, and the ability to function safely at home.

The team approached the work thoroughly. First, the sources of dampness and the damaged areas were treated. Careful plaster repairs were carried out to smooth the walls, and afterward the apartment was repainted in a light color that restored brightness and freshness to the space.

At the same time, new lighting fixtures were installed, illuminating the apartment more evenly and safely — a significant upgrade for a woman who spends many hours alone at home.



By the end of the project, the apartment looked completely different. The walls were smooth and clean, the lighting warm and inviting, and the overall atmosphere had transformed from one end to the other. Tatiana stood at the entrance to the living room, looked around, and said that the home “finally feels fit for living again.”

Sometimes, repairing dampness and a peeling wall is far more than a technical fix. It restores a person’s sense of dignity, stability, and security — especially when they are facing far greater challenges.

Adebabay, an immigrant from Ethiopia, is an elderly and deeply emotionally sensitive woman who lives in a small apartment she owns.

The apartment is simple, old, and not particularly well maintained. But there has always been something about it that felt like home.

We had met her before. In the past, we carried out repairs in her apartment — walls, plaster, cracks. This time, we returned for something entirely different: to replace her kitchen.

We didn’t speak with her directly — she does not speak Hebrew — so communication was through her son. But what she couldn’t express in words, she conveyed through her eyes.

When we finished, and she stepped into the new kitchen — with its sturdy cabinets, clean sink, and open space inviting her to cook — her smile simply burst forth.

You could almost picture her there, preparing injera and doro stew, seasoning the air with the scent of home. That corner of the kitchen — which once looked forgotten — became once again the heart of the home. And that’s the whole idea behind what we do. Sometimes, all it takes is a new kitchen to restore one woman to the place where she truly feels she belongs.



Thank you for partnering with us to effect real change, by creating a safe, functional and dignified home environment and improving the quality of life for every individual in need.