

Adopt a Holocaust Survivor

## News from the Haifa Home Adoption Program

### An Invitation to Dinner:

Shall we look in on an evening meal in the Home?

The Holocaust Survivors begin to come to the table in the attractive dining area. Staff together with some residents set the table. They check that each person has what they need and throughout meal the residents also help one another as at any family table.

The meals are made with love and thoughtfulness.



Yochai the chef says, *"This work is therapy for me. I love the people and like to cook what they like. I wake at night sometimes with ideas in my mind. Some people love pea soup for example because that is what they ate in the ghetto and therefore it has special memories. I work hard, but actually it helps me to relax and I feel very blessed by it. When you give, you get a lot in return."*

Yochai was significantly affected by his experience and wounding in the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Working in the kitchen is truly therapy for him. It is evident that he loves the Survivors and they love him back. He says, *"They are so smart and very gently they tell me how to make the food better or what to do to improve it!"* Even on Shabbat Yochai loves to be there and spoil them with all kinds of nice food. When he talks about it his eyes light up and you can see what a joy his work is for him.

During the meal, some of the people joke with one another and all of a sudden Elizabeta who speaks only Russian and Yiddish, stands up and starts to sing and dance, and she is a great dancer! Ester joins in the dancing and it is a beautiful sight to behold. Everyone joins in the singing and clapping, a spontaneous burst of happiness and joy. A big smile appears on Elizabeta's face and someone whispers that if Elizabeta had still been living alone in her place she would be in a terrible situation. Now she is taken care of and is with people who care for her. The result is a very happy 87 year old lady.



The meal is finished and some drift away to their rooms, others stay and continue to chat.

## THE HAIFA HOME FAMILY

HAVA SAYS:

*"It has been really good for me to be here. It is good for me to keep busy because then I don't think so much. If I don't do anything it all comes back to me. It is horrible. It is good to have my own room, because I can choose to be alone or to see people. At night I often wake up by my own screams as I have nightmares. I have two sons but they cannot always help me."*

HAYA SAYS:

*"Today I needed to go to the physiotherapist and had to do some other things too, but for the rest of the time I am here spending it with my friends."*

BENJAMIN:

*Benjamin loves to go to the markets to buy fruit and vegetables for the Home. On a day recently he came back feeling unwell and had to be taken to hospital as he had suffered a light stroke. The worry in the words and on the faces of the other residents proved that this is a family indeed.*

## AustralAsia



In January of this year, an ICEJ group from Hong Kong led by Director Colin and Nancy Chow included a visit to the Haifa Home in their tour schedule. Though the language communication was limited, ICEJ AID gave them the means of expressing their love by giving them knitted blankets from Australia to distribute to the residents. In the middle of winter this was a timely gift and the Survivors were very happy to receive them and also appreciated the hours of love that had gone into producing them.

*An ICEJ group in Tasmania, the southernmost part of Australia, has been instrumental for many years in collecting knitted squares from individuals and groups all over southern Tasmania and sewing them together and sending them to Israel. They do not just pack them – but pray over them and anoint them with oil!*



## April means Passover!

In the neighbourhood of the Home live many other needy Survivors and *Yad Ezer L'Haver* has been helping many of them with gift vouchers that help them purchase food for the special Festival of Passover. A greeting card is included bearing the organisation's name and ICEJ's logo as well. After the distribution of these items, Director Shimon Sabag received a call from the Chief Rabbi of Haifa to say that he had met a Holocaust Survivor who showed him with tears in her eyes what she had received from the organisation. The Rabbi not only thanked Shimon for the wonderful work he is doing, but said that he *"takes his hat off"* to the Christians who do this great work together with him. Shimon says that he could never have done what he is doing now without the help of ICEJ. Therefore he includes us as a partner in everything he does.

ICEJ AID thanks you - adopters and supporters - for your part in helping us help Holocaust Survivors.

Please encourage others to be an adopter

For more information write to [icejaid@icej.org](mailto:icejaid@icej.org)