

ICEJ Aid

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM



July/August 2011 Email Update

Dental Care for those in Need

In Israel today, one in every 200 babies are born with some sort of mental handicap. Some will be able to integrate into society. Most will need treatment for the rest of their lives. Akim was founded in 1951 by the parents of mentally handicapped children who decided to take action to improve their children's quality of life. Today 59 branches nationwide serve 30,000 of Israel's mentally handicapped.

Since Israel's national health care does not cover dental treatment, a dental service was also opened through Akim and the Department for the Mentally Handicapped. Currently over 10,000 mentally handicapped people receive treatment in thirteen regional dental clinics.



Akim dental clinics are very proactive in initiating care and providing regular treatment in order to prevent or locate problems early on. Dr. Chaya Nadav, the director of the Department for the Disabled observed, "Good dental treatment changes the quality of life for the residents, improves eating habits and overall health. The residents are calmer. Since they often cannot say what hurts, preventative dental care is very important."

However, the program currently focuses only on those residing in hostels, leaving those living at home with their families without dental care. Many of these families possess only modest means and are unable to cover the high costs of dental treatment. Our help is needed for these individuals who often suffer from major dental problems. Also, additional clinics are needed in order to provide efficient and accessible care for some 2,000 new patients a year.

ICEJ Aid was privileged to provide a new state of the art dental chair for the Akim dental clinic in Acco which treats 850 disabled. When ICEJ Aid staff visited the center, we were deeply impressed by the level of care and sensitivity to the patient's needs.

Dr. Amir Arnon has 13 years of experience working with the disabled and truly cares for his patients. He expressed to us how delighted he was to receive the new equipment, "I could have waited many more years and not gotten this quality of equipment if it weren't for your donation. It is very blessed and has jumped the clinic forward several levels in terms of our capabilities. Thank you very much."

This coming year, ICEJ Aid would like to continue to provide aid for this vulnerable population. We invite you to join with us to help purchase necessary equipment for a new clinic in the Negev where service is currently unavailable.



Hopeful: Looking Forward to the Future

Nitzan welcomed ICEJ Aid staff warmly into her well kept home on a recent visit. This past year, ICEJ Aid provided Nitzan with the opportunity to study accounting due to a generous gift from Finnish friends. The dream to get an education wasn't something that Nitzan took lightly but she faced more than a few challenges in the pursuit of it.

Ten years ago while working a part time job as a security guard for extra money, she found herself thrust into the center of a mega terrorist attack in Hadera. At the time of the event, two attacks happened one after another and what started as an ordinary day for Nitzan changed the instant the shock wave washed over her sending her body flying. Physically she wasn't wounded seriously, but the after effects of the shock and trauma would remain as scars in her innermost being for years to come.

Ten years later, Nitzan is still struggling to move beyond that terrible day, pull together the threads of her life and create a new beginning. Now married with four children, she still lacks confidence and suffers from undefined fears and depression. In an instant a smell or association can transport back to that moment in time.

When ICEJ Aid heard her story, we knew we had to help and encourage her. She told us, "I want to prove to myself that I'm able and I can go out and work despite my fears. This gift has meant a lot to me. I thought it worth a try to accept the challenge to study. It feels good to pass the tests. I really appreciate the door of opportunity that your help has given me. I'm so grateful." Today, with the help and support Nitzan is facing her inner fears and choosing life. For us, the reward was her smile and the hope in her eyes for the future.

To partner with ICEJ Aid here in the land of Israel, please visit our website at www.icej.org, navigate to ICEJ Aid and click on donate.

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