

ICEJ Aid

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM



June 2011 Email Update

A Hope for Children

All children need the chance to flourish but for some, family circumstances may make it difficult. That is where the "Neve Galim" Children's Home steps in to provide a warm home for at risk children. Located in the centre of Ashdod, Neve Galim focuses on minimizing learning gaps through both formal and informal education while dealing with behavioural problems in a family-model home atmosphere. In this way, each child receives special attention for their unique needs. Recreational activities further enhance development and encourage each child to reach their full potential.



ICEJ Aid, with the help of Finnish and Norwegian Christians, made it possible to provide therapeutic treatment as well as replace old furniture in the home. Juha Ketola, director of our Finnish branch, along with his wife Kati and other Finnish friends joined us in visiting Neve Galim recently where they were treated to a wonderful concert.

The young people were curious about the visitors and asked lots of questions, but two of the girls looked very sad. Later we were told that they were new arrivals in the home because their father was jailed for the murder of their mother. With the love and support they receive in their foster family unit, we hope they will gradually gain strength to deal with this tragedy.

In the tour of the home with the new furniture we were introduced to Victor, a young immigrant boy with serious eyes. He seemed a bit shy to say much, but proudly showed us his newly refurbished room. The warmth and interest shown in him produced a shy smile.

Yossi Goshen, the general manager, expressed his appreciation, "Once again, I thank you for your wonderful help in raising the funds needed for the new furniture... We value your ongoing support and are so grateful to have friends like you who have become our partners in creating a better future for today's children - transforming risk into opportunity."



Serving in the Old City

Tucked away in the winding narrow streets of the Christian Quarter, The Good Samaritan Community Centre, devotedly cares for poor and lonely elderly who need help and a place to connect socially with others. Of the 450 elderly who receive food and medical assistance each has their own challenges and story. Over the years, ICEJ Aid has had the privilege of partnering with director Raja Salameh to provide for various needs. Since many of the elderly find it difficult to get out to medical appointments; this spring it was our privilege to purchase new wheelchairs that volunteers or family could use to assist the elderly out of the Old City.



Additionally, in May, ICEJ AID organized a "hands on" work group, to give our guests from Hong Kong the opportunity to show Christian care and compassion through cleaning the homes of the elderly.



Raja guided the group to different homes of elderly Christian Arabs within the Old City. Some of the group swept floors and others mopped. Some even did some yard work in a courtyard area. Raja was deeply appreciative of the help noting that "many of the elderly here cannot care for themselves let alone clean their own home. This will be such a blessing to them." The Hong Kong group also enjoyed the experience, getting to learn more about the dynamics of the elderly living in the Old City as well as serving those in need.

Recently it has come to our attention that many of these elderly don't even have a bathroom in their own private home. Instead they have to share a public one in the neighborhood that serves several homes. Often there are stairs or other obstacles that the elderly find difficult to manage. In addition, the food program is in financial difficulty and more resources are required to continue this essential aid for the elderly. One new bathroom for a home costs 1500 Euros. A gift in any amount towards these essential needs would be a tremendous blessing.



Go to the ICEJ AID homepage at www.icej.org and then click the Donate button for Minorities in Israel.