



## March 2011 Email Update

### True Friendship Expressed Courageously

Who hasn't wondered when reading stories about the Holocaust, "What would I have done had I been faced with the choice to help my neighbor or look the other way?" Those who choose to risk everything to help the Jewish people during those dark years often paid with their own lives. Jaroslawa Lewicka was one of the brave who accepted the challenge. Taken in by Israel in gratitude for the courage she showed as a young child, Jaroslawa is the youngest person living in the land today that Yad Vashem awarded the title, "Righteous Among the Nations".



In 1942, Jaroslawa, was 5 years old living in the occupied town of Zloczow. When the Jews were placed in the ghetto, her grandfather, Aleksander Lewicka, used to pack her backpack full of food, canned goods and medicine then layer newspapers and school books on top. She walked 20 minutes into the ghetto bypassing the guards who never knew the secret in the little girl's backpack. In this way, her family was helping to save lives by bringing them nourishing food. When asked about it, Jaroslawa said that she and her family never thought they were saving lives, in her modest way she explained, *"I have not seen what I did as something great. They were people and so are we. They would have done the same thing for us."*



Several years ago in her late age, Jaroslawa made the decision to uproot herself from her hometown and move to Haifa so she could be closer to those she had helped. She loves life here in Israel, but requires weekly help with household chores. ICEJ AID, in partnership with ATZUM, an organization that focuses on correcting injustice in Israel, helped to provide her with items she needed. Jaraslawa also enjoys a weekly visit from a home care worker. Jaroslawa's story is a constant reminder that a true friend loves at all times.

### Giving Solace to Orphans

Born in May 1998 to an immigrant mother struggling with drug addiction, Vickie was taken immediately to foster care for her first few months of life. Though she lived with her mother for several years, at the age of five Vickie was placed in a children's home due to her mother's inability to care for her. Though her mother expressed care and concern for her daughter, her health problems prevented her from seeing Vickie often. Two weeks ago she passed away leaving Vickie forlorn with no family in Israel. The process to appoint a guardian has begun and hopefully a foster family will be found to adopt her. Without the Beit Singer Children's Home to provide a safe and loving environment for her, Vickie would be completely alone in the world.



For emotionally fragile children who have no family or foster family to visit on weekend breaks, a special orphans program was initiated to provide activities for the youth that remain in the home on weekends. ICEJ Aid with the help of Christians around the world and most recently from

Australia supports the orphans program at Beit Singer by providing a house parent on the weekends as well as therapeutic and fun activities for these children.

In a warm thank you letter from Beit Singer, the house manager, Yehuda Amsalem, wrote the following...*"With your generous and long-lasting support, we are able to provide these children with a suitable framework in a safe and stable environment, a refuge from their destiny of living in a world without any family support. During the past few months, we have received several emergency requests to accept young children. Your continual support makes us consider you a true partner in the never-ending endeavors of this Home to provide our children with a better future. "*

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