

ICEJ Aid

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM



June 2010 Email Update

Help us support...

Showing Solidarity to New Friends

Last month, the ICEJ hosted a group of students from the US. While the group toured the country, ICEJ AID connected the students with **Keren Or** in the southern town of Sderot. The young people played sports with the kids and enjoyed a jam session on the guitar and bass. Sderot, despite enjoying a period of "relative calm", was hit by 33 rockets in April leaving the population still feeling on the front lines. Having visitors from other areas displays a feeling of solidarity in the midst of ongoing pressures. Yigal Levi, the director of the social services department in Sderot and founder of the **Keren Or Centre for Youth at Risk**, said "We appreciate everyone who visits Sderot. It's like telling us we have brothers... It was great for our kids." Click the picture above to view the video!



ICEJ AID has a long-standing relationship with **Keren Or**, a learning centre for troubled youth. At present, we are seeking to help them achieve their dream of expanding the building and making it protected from rockets. ICEJ AID has already covered the costs of the approval process for securing building permits to add a second floor and a reinforced roof. We are now raising funds to help with the building program. The next phase is to raise NIS 500,000 (approximately \$130,000) for the construction project with NIS 123,000 already in hand.

Spotlight on...

Honoring the Pioneers in Their Golden Years

Kibbutz Beit HaEmek in partnership with the Swiss branch of the ICEJ partnered together to refurbish a senior centre for residents of the kibbutz and surrounding area. As the former pioneers and founders of the kibbutz age, they are in greater need of assistance. With family members moving away, social interaction is more necessary to stave off loneliness as well. A youth centre on the grounds had fallen into disrepair and disuse, allowing the elderly to dream of remodelling it for their own activities.



Today the newly renovated kitchen, dining area and lounge complete with new furniture is an inviting area for the events that now happen weekly. Computers, an art area and morning sheltered workshop provide daily options for the elderly to be active and even earn a little money to supplement their income.

The opening took place June 1st with Swiss Directors Hansjorg and Astrid Bishof along with a group of Swiss friends. A highlight was unveiling the plaque posted beside the front door which

stated that the building was refurbished with the help of the Swiss branch of the ICEJ as a sign of their friendship to the people of Israel. We also were able to encourage the people that they have many friends around the world. Breaking in to spontaneous song, "Am Yisrael Chai" – The People of Israel Live –was a fit ending to a joyous event.

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