



Blessing  
Holocaust  
Survivors

## A SYMBOL OF HOPE

BY YUDIT SETZ

The Haifa Home has become a symbol of hope to the nation of Israel as a demonstration of Jews and Christians working tirelessly together to surround Holocaust survivors with the love and care they need in their later years. According to Director Shimon Sabag, this hope is witnessed by many Israelis. Many groups visit the Home and the newly opened museum, which are stark reminders of the deep wounds in the hearts of these people. The Holocaust took place in "Christian" Europe, but the strong partnership between the ICEJ and Yad Ezer L'Haver gives hope for a better future.

Christian love is tangibly displayed with names of donors from around the world who planted a tree in our FOREST OF LIFE. Our Christian volunteers and the regular presence of ICEJ Staff also provide a living witness of support and care for the survivors.

The Haifa Home has a variety of staff members, Jews and Arab alike, who do everything possible to make the Haifa Home a place where the residents feel loved and cared for. One of those special

people is Tami. As a daughter of Holocaust survivors, she understands the lasting impact of the Holocaust on survivors and their children. Growing up, she didn't have a regular childhood. Instead of children's stories at bedtime, her father related the horrors of Auschwitz. Tami's sensitive heart was impacted forever.

How is it that Tami ended up at the Haifa Home among Holocaust survivors? "I wanted to flee from the subject all my life, to get the Holocaust out of me, but somehow I never managed," said Tami.

She became acquainted with the Haifa Home through graphic designing, and slowly became more involved. "Even though it is not easy for me, I feel committed to help them. They are all like my parents, and I want to give them as much as I am able. This desire is very strong in me." Tami's loving heart ensures that every resident receives the help and attention from her that they need. We are privileged to have people like Tami on staff who make the Haifa Home a real home, where giving love and care to each one is the most important value. 🌍

**To be a part of this great work, please visit: [int.icej.org/aid/haifa-home-holocaust-survivors](http://int.icej.org/aid/haifa-home-holocaust-survivors)**

## A FAITHFUL FRIEND

BY MAXINE CARLILL

Homecare often hears stories from aging Russian immigrants who have lived through war and tyranny. As their trust in the ICEJ staff grows, more of their stories come to light.

In Soviet Russia, Stalin's harsh repression meant any expression of faith was forbidden; therefore, Sofia's family lit the Sabbath candles in secret. When she was three years old, her older brother, mother, and herself fled to escape the German invasion of Russia. After the war, they returned to find their house taken over by others, along with a shocking discovery of a heap of skeletons nearby. Despite death all around, Sofia's mother gave birth to a baby girl named Faina. Shortly after, Sofia's father died, so her mother remarried a widower with four children. He lovingly cared for the family, despite sharing a home with other families in the bitter cold.

Growing up, Faina was restricted in her studies because of her Jewish identity, yet she managed to train and qualify as a teacher. In 1990, following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, Sofia and Faina finally came home to Israel! Faina could not find a teaching job, so she accepted a factory job and was thankful just to be in Israel. She recounted, "My father always said, 'Go to Israel.'"

When dear Sofia became ill, Homecare nurse Corrie Van Maanen, visited her each week to assist her during her two years of illness. After Sofia passed away, Faina could not bear Homecare's visits to cease, so Corrie continued her friendship with her. Corrie was a special person for Faina and someone with whom she could share her heart. Above all, Corrie was a faithful friend who had helped care for Faina's beloved sister. 🌍

**The faithful service of Homecare provides not only practical assistance, but also deep friendship that powerfully displays the love of God! To be a part of this great work, please visit: [int.icej.org/homecare](http://int.icej.org/homecare)**