A HIDDEN HERO
BY KAYLA ELLINGSWORTH

In 1941, when German forces were poised to conquer Kiev in Ukraine, six-year-old Sergei was standing at the door of his house with his young mom. A group of Soviet soldiers came to evacuate them, barking the order, “Take papers for you and the boy, nothing else. You have to leave in 10 minutes, otherwise you will be killed.” Sergei and his mother were loaded into a cattle car along with several other Jewish families and began an unbearable month-long 1800-kilometre journey to Siberia. As Sergei shared his story with our Homecare worker, Corrie Van Maanen, she could feel the weight of his story as he seemed to relive these memories right before her eyes.

From a painful past, Sergei pressed into a hopeful future as he married his beloved wife Alana. After making Aliyah to Israel 25 years ago, Alana suffered a serious brain haemorrhage leaving her bed-ridden. Sergei became a hidden hero as he became full-time caretaker of his wife, and continued as such for the next 20 years with the help of ICEJ’s Homecare team.

The couple moved to a family member’s house, and yet ICEJ Homecare kept in touch through several visits each year. Last November, Alana passed away. Because our Corrie Van Maanen is considered like family, she was invited to the funeral and even to the family’s home afterward. Sergei was heartbroken without his wife, yet was grateful to live in Israel among his Jewish brethren. Even at the age of 82, he is currently learning Hebrew at an Ulpan for the first time.

God is doing mighty works through ICEJ Homecare as these Jewish people open not only their doors but also their hearts. There remain many hidden heroes like Sergei and Alana.

For more stories and an opportunity to give to these hidden heroes, please visit: icej.org/homecare

DONATE ONLINE

ACLI PRESSENTS
ISRAEL SEVENTY & STRONG
MAY 13–15, 2018
GALA & SUMMIT // WASHINGTON D.C.

For more information please visit www.acliforisrael.org
or contact Jaime Fusco at Jaime.Fusco@icejusa.org

ARISE SUMMER TOUR
10–20 JULY 2018
GALILEE
DEAD SEA
JERUSALEM
CAESAREA
HAIFA
CAIFFA"
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
WWW.ARISSEGENERATION.ORG