There is much reason to celebrate! Twenty-five years ago, the ICEJ’s Homecare program for Russian Jewish immigrants was launched when nurse Corrie Van Maanen joined the staff. Homecare is still going strong as many elderly and disabled Israelis receive weekly visits, nursing care and a dose of encouragement from Corrie and her team. Your faithful support throughout the years have made this possible.

For the past 18 years, Homecare has built a precious relationship with a Jewish family whose daughter is dependent on full-time care. The parents suffered during World War II and have cared for their disabled daughter since coming to Israel, but both are now 80 years old. Corrie has respectfully come alongside this family over the years to help care for the daughter in practical, loving ways. The mother says the weekly nursing visits are so uplifting. At the end of one recent visit, she sighed: “Oy, if I didn’t have you!”

Another lady has known Corrie for 25 years, ever since she made Aliyah from Ukraine with her husband and two sick and fragile parents in the 1990s. Homecare visited the parents until they passed and then came to care for her husband when he fell ill. She is now a widow and living alone, and the Homecare team recently helped pack and move her to a new apartment. She told Corrie: “I have no words to thank you... when my need is biggest, you have always been there for me.”

Homecare also has developed a warm bond with an elderly, blind gentleman in his 90s. On a visit not long ago, he told Corrie: “I look forward to your coming every week because you are willing to listen when I tell you my stories.” After hearing a recent TV broadcast on the Holocaust, he also related that “no television can ever tell or show what I saw as an eyewitness in the darkness of the war.” He often talks about suffering severely during the Shoah, more than seventy-five years later. Every week Homecare buys him groceries, as his pension is small. He is so thankful for the help and to have made it to Israel, saying “it gave me life”.

These are a few examples of the work Homecare does to bring hope and joy to those under their care. For many, Homecare’s visits are the highlight of their week, especially during this time of isolation due to coronavirus. We are here to comfort and serve them with thankfulness.

Thank you for the past twenty-five years.

Please continue to support ICEJ Homecare.
Find out how at: icej.org/homecare