



International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

השגרירות הנוצרית הבינלאומית בירושלים

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Psalm 92:2 "....To show forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night"

FROM THE DESK OF SAP

Greetings to our much-appreciated supporters as we near the end of the calendar year. We wish you the blessings of this season.



SAP TEAM.

Left to right: **Cheryl** is the office manager and administrative secretary, keeping the office routine running smoothly. **Claudia** is our family Social Worker and interacts with Israeli Social Workers to assess the many requests that come to us for help for needy families and individuals. **Maxine** is the administrative assistant to Yudit and also provides information about our work. **Yudit** is SAP Director, shouldering the many responsibilities of this demanding job. **Nicole** is the SAP Project Manager and travels extensively to meet with organizations that contact us for help.

The Hanukkah lights that have been shining from every window or from the tops of buildings, or outside doorways, have been a reminder of God's faithfulness to His people. The Jewish people have recalled the miracle of the one-day's supply of oil that rekindled the menorah in the rededicated temple, lasting eight days. At this time of the year we also rejoice in God's faithfulness to His promises of deliverance and thank Him for sending the Light of the World.

SHOCKING STATISTICS!

- Over 22% of Israelis now live below the poverty line!
- Jerusalem is Israel's poorest city with over 41% living in poverty!
- It is predicted that the situation will worsen!
- SAP is receiving a 50% increase of requests for help.

Pray with us that giving will match the opportunities that we have to stand with the nation of Israel.

SAP CONTINUES TO REACH OUT TO VICTIMS OF TERROR

- O is a single mother with an 11 year old son. She and her son were present at a terror attack in Herzliya and witnessed at close range the full horror of that event. Because of that, both suffer with posttraumatic syndrome. However because they were not actually in it, they do not receive extra funding from the National Insurance. O. has been referred for psychological treatment by a specialist organization in treating victims of terror and she has to pay for these sessions. In her present state of mind she is unable to work, and they live off social welfare payments. They do not have any sources of support, either emotional or economic.
- In January this year, R. was on a bus when the bus in front of hers blew up. With her army background and as a police volunteer, she took it upon herself to immediately help evacuate the wounded from the bus. However, later that same evening she collapsed and went into shock. She not only suffered severe post-traumatic syndrome, but unknown to the hospital at the time, she had had a stroke. Today, R. is severely depressed, homebound and needs help with daily life. She was forced to return to her parents' home – the home she was removed from at the age of 12 due to abuse and neglect. She had graduated from an Orr Shalom home for children at risk at 18, joined the army, studied, had a successful employment record, a good social life, and a steady boy friend. Now she faces more terrible challenges in her life.

- We recently revisited the family who lost their two young sons in the bombing in Kenya, 2 years ago. The terrible pain of loss remains, of course, but we were received very warmly and gratefully by this lovely couple. The mother continues to receive treatment several times a week and still suffers from very bad pain in one of her legs. Their daughter's burns and wounds have healed well, although she requires another operation on one of her hands soon.

Over 1000 people have been killed in terror attacks, and approximately 7,000 injured since September 2000, the outbreak of the 'Intifada'.

The effects of a terror attack go on and on for many victims. Knowing people care is a wonderful encouragement to them.

ON THE ROAD WITH SAP

With the help of SAP funding, a healthy sandwich is supplied each day to youth who have dropped out of, are on the point of leaving or being thrown out of school. They are being catered at two Centres that have been established in poor neighbourhoods of Kiryat Gat.



Young people receiving a sandwich.

We visited the day after the 'sandwich project' began. The Director of one of

the centres shared how, at first, they did not realize the young people were so hungry until there were constant requests for something to eat. Finally they realised that some had not eaten all day. This was probably one of the factors in their poor performance at a regular school.

We watched some young people playing table tennis and observed the friendly family atmosphere between them. Some were being tutored in small groups or one on one by volunteer teachers. Two girls enthusiastically told us how their lives had changed since coming there and how they were now studying hard and enjoying it. One of those girls came from a family where the father had been in prison most of her life. By the age of 14 she was so violent at school that one teacher threatened to resign if this girl did not leave. Since being at the Centre for 3 years, she has settled down to become a serious student and plans to study economics.

We watched the sandwiches being prepared by a volunteer in the small kitchen and later being given to the young people.



In the evenings other needy young people come for friendship and to enjoy the various activities. The children all come from

dysfunctional families and some do not want to leave the centre to go home because of what waits for them there. The program has been going for 3 1/2 years and has seen some wonderful successes. The director told us that the differences they see are amazing.

At the other centre, the Director acts as janitor, cleaner, and maintenance person. But because he also grew up in a poor neighbourhood, he is aware that he could have been one of those kids. He shared, *“the State cannot solve all these problems, but if everyone does their bit, we can make the world a brighter place.”*

Some of our funding came from a Youth Group in Holland who raised money for this project. Write for details if your church or support group for Israel would like to raise funds for a particular project. We want to touch hurting youth or children, a lonely elderly person, a soldier defending his country without family support, or the growing ranks of the disabled. Many requests for help from around the country are waiting for an answer.

Please also remember our current appeals:

- **Winter needs for needy families.**
- **Christmas gifts for needy Arab Christians**

For further information, please write to: sapdept@icej.org.il