

Christadelphian Israeli Children's Fund

And I will bless them that bless thee... Genesis 12:3

June 11, 2020

\$650,000 for the Jerusalem Children's Home in 50 years of CICF

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Signs of the Messiah's imminent return keep our eyes on Israel, awaiting Jesus' reign from Jerusalem over the Kingdom of God on Earth. We long for fulfillment of its promise – *truth, peace and justice for all peoples.*

COVID-19 Special Challenges for the Jerusalem Children's Home

Social distancing, lockdown and sanitizing protocols have been challenging for all of us in recent months. These have led to higher rates of mental health issues broadly. The Home has faced exceptional challenges described in reports on page 2 by Shira Skolnik, the Home's *Director of Resource Development & Community Relations*. Please consider support for the Home if you are able.

Good Mental Health Builds Society

The Christadelphian Israeli Children's Fund (CICF) was founded to support the Children's Home, now known as *The Jerusalem Hills Therapeutic Centers*. The Home was established to treat severely emotionally disturbed children emigrating from Europe following the Holocaust. Though arising from different causes, similar needs continue today. The methods pioneered by the Home for treatment of the effects of severe emotional trauma have become models worldwide.

What does CICF do?

Since 1970, Christadelphians have generously supported the Home through CICF. All funds donated (100%) are transferred by CICF to Jewish registered charities in the USA and Canada, which issue tax receipts and transfer the funds to the Home in support of its significant ongoing contributions to the mental and physical health of Israeli children. By the end of 2019, CICF had collected \$648,969 for the Home.

How to Donate?

Donations must be received by December 15th to permit bank processing and transfer to the Home's USA and Canadian charity partners in time for issuing of 2020 tax receipts. Please make contributions and *in memory* gifts payable to **CICF** and mail to our treasurer:

Barbara Leachman
20-1550 Gordon Street
Guelph, ON N1L 1C7, Canada

Yours in the Hope of Israel,



K. Ian McPhee, Chairman



CICF Committee: Judy Farrar, Barbara Leachman, Ian McPhee, Mary Pike

www.cicfund.org

In the name of Jesus for the Hope of Israel

Reports from Jerusalem Hills Children's Home during the COVID-19 crisis

March 17: These are trying and difficult times for many of us all over the world. As we are all in this together we felt the need to reach out to you our friends and supporters and send you strength to weather this crisis. For the children of Jerusalem Hills these uncertain days are even more difficult as stability is a crucial factor in their rehabilitation. Many of our children do not have viable families to support them, as they are placed in our care due to court order, and all of our children are not allowed to leave the campus or attend extra curricular activities (which have been cancelled by government order). It is our job, now more than ever, to maintain daily routines (in accordance with government guidelines), to facilitate our children during these hard times, to minimize the unknown and to reassure them that everything is going to be OK. Now, more than ever, your concern and support are essential to our children's futures.

April 19: Jerusalem Hills responds to the needs of the at-risk children that arrive at our facilities, with our unique long-term relationship based treatment program. This program, Therapy in Life Space, is centered upon the development of a one-on-one relationship between the child and the care-giver, and the careful integration of the child's family into the healing process.

Through our psychological and social therapy programs, we help the children in our care by fostering a sense of constancy, stability, personal connection and the restoration of each child's belief in himself. These therapeutic programs are very important to ensure the rehabilitation of these children so that they can integrate into normative society and lead productive adult lives.

In the current situation, the fact that parents' visits have been cancelled as well as the children not being able to go home as often, directly affects the mental state of the children and parents in the short term, and more so in the long term. In addition to being disconnected from their families, the children's anxiety level raises for many of them, scared of being infected and worrying about the safety of their families whom they no longer see on a weekly basis as before. The parents' anxiety level is also directly affected by the situation, worrying about their children who they cannot see. The goal of our child and family support program in light of this crisis is to address the dire state of mind that the children and parents are in, to prevent deterioration and regression and to maintain contact between the children and their families, despite their lack of contact, as well as to provide individual treatment to the child and family according to their specific needs.

Later, once we reach a new equilibrium, we will require additional work hours for psychologists and social workers, as they will need to have a more intensive treatment program for both the children and their families to help them cope with the disengagement created during the corona virus and hopefully bring them back to the rehabilitation point they had been at before the breakout.

May 5: At Jerusalem Hills, the new covid-19 reality forces us to face new difficulties and resolve conflicts that arise between the children's health needs and their emotional needs. Our unique therapeutic program, "Therapy in Life Space", is centered upon the development of a one-on-one relationship between the child and the care-giver, through consistency, continuity and hard work, along with the integration of the child's family into the healing process. How can we act upon these principles while keeping to health ministry directives? How can you hug a child in crisis when you need to keep a social distance of 2 meters? How can you provide a child with the sense of security when everyone around him is wearing masks and gloves? How can you sustain the child's feeling of stability and consistency when crucial anchors like weekly family visits, extracurricular activities and special therapies are taken away?

Latest information on the Home and CICF

See current information about the Home at:

<http://www.childrenshome.org.il/en>.

Find current CICF information at:

<https://www.cicfund.org/>

