



## The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel 2011

### Background

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel was founded in 1994. Its purpose is to assist disadvantaged Holocaust survivors unable to recover from the horrible experiences of their past. Many of these survivors, having now reached old age, are unable to take care of themselves both physically and economically; many cannot afford even basic health care products.

There are approximately 207,000 Holocaust survivors alive in Israel today.

At this moment in time, many Holocaust Survivors pass away each day and we have a short "window of opportunity" to help them. Just like back then, also today we can't stand on the side. It is our obligation to help them as much as possible. If we don't take care of it now, then we won't be able to forgive ourselves later.

Many Holocaust survivors suffer from extensive health problems as a result of the Holocaust. The percentage of survivors diagnosed with Osteoporosis is higher than that of the general population, due to malnutrition during the Holocaust. A higher percentage also experience dental, gum, hearing and vision problems than the average elderly person. Holocaust survivors endure psychological distress and intense loneliness. They most often lack sufficient support from family and social networks.

The activities run by the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel are unique. No other organization in Israel provides Holocaust survivors with assistance sustaining the scope or support filled by the Foundation's various projects.

In the past few years, the total scope of the Fund's support in all of its different channels came to 400 million shekels, including funding from the Claim's Conference and from the State of Israel. The funding is strictly and closely supervised by sponsoring bodies, as well as by an external accountant and internal auditor.

### Foundation vision:

- To improve the quality of life for needy Holocaust survivors
- To create and lead a joint movement between the various institutions, donor organizations and supporters for Holocaust survivors in Israel: to coordinate and match the different channels of support to the dynamic and shifting needs of the survivors, to consolidate resources and preventing duplication and to collaborate with NGOs and governmental organizations on new initiatives related to Holocaust survivors in Israel.

### Foundation Structure

- Run by an Executive Board, under the leadership of Chairman Major General (Ret.) Mr. Elazar Stern. Board members represent various organizations for Holocaust survivors.
- Staff of 60 employees directed by Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Rony Kalinsky.
- Undergoes regular auditing by the Claims Conference and the Ministry of Finance. The Foundation is supervised by the Registrar of Companies and the Israeli Tax Authorities.
- A Registered Company under the Israeli Corporations Authority; Registration number 580-185-700.

In light of these facts, it must be noted that the overhead costs of the Foundation are unusually modest. This is in relation to both the activities of other non-profit organizations, and in comparison to the norms published by the Israel Corporations Authority. For example, the Israel Corporations Authority allows for a total overhead cost of up to 7.5% of the financial cycle for an organization of this size.

**However, our Foundation has overhead costs that add up to only 2.8% out of the financial cycle.**



## The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel

### Support Programs:

Support Programs for Holocaust survivors run by the Foundation:

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel operates five support programs to assist the needs of Holocaust survivors who meet the Foundation's social and financial criteria.

- **On-going Home Care**

More than 18,000 Holocaust survivors throughout Israel receive nine hours of weekly in-home assistance funded by the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel. Recipients of this support are those entitled to between 150 and 168 percent of nursing benefits by the National Insurance Institute of Israel (Ha'Mossad Le'Bituach Leumi). The supplementary assistance funded by the Foundation, in conjunction with 16 to 18 hours paid for by the National Insurance Institute, enables these survivors to receive daily in-home care. This program is for survivors unable to tend to their personal health care needs with no other network for support.

- **Outpatient assistance**

This program provides 50 hours of in-home care and assistance to needy Holocaust survivors following a discharge from the hospital. Short-term care-givers support these survivors in performing daily activities due to physical limitations and additional needs that arise following hospitalization. Foundation statistics show that this service decreases the probability of further hospitalization and accelerates recovery time. In the past few years, over 7,000 Holocaust survivors received outpatient assistance from The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims each year.

- **Emergency Alert Buttons**

This service is supplied to Holocaust survivors living on their own or experiencing severe health problems. The Emergency Alert System offers a solution that provides immediate assistance during a life-or-death emergency; the button also gives the survivor a vital sense of security. This service is supplemented by subsidized doctors' visits, ambulance fees and home security patrol.

The Foundation funds Emergency Life Buttons for approximately 10,000 Holocaust survivors and their spouses every year.

- **Individual health-care grants**

The Foundation grants partial refunds to individuals for the purchase of crucial health-care products and services. This includes dental care, hearing aids, eye glasses, walkers and drugs not covered through the National Insurance. During each of the past few years, the Foundation assisted around 36,000 Holocaust survivors in-need with individual health-care grants

- **Volunteer Activity**

The Foundation operates various volunteer programs that bring youth and IDF soldiers to visit Holocaust survivors. This program fulfills a dual objective. First, these visits expand the social network of Holocaust survivors living alone. Volunteer visits also offer an important educational component to Holocaust Remembrance in Israel.

### Projects in need of funding:

- **Flowers for Survivors**

The purpose of this project is to help Holocaust survivors cope with loneliness with weekly visits and special events. High school students, soldiers and other interested volunteers received special training before beginning weekly visits to individual survivors, organizing and attending large group Shabbat dinners in either a nearby hotel, synagogue or home for the elderly.

The Foundation's goal is to have 10,000 weekly visits throughout Israel.

- **Sheltered home at Home**

Elderly people, and particularly elderly Holocaust survivors, prefer living in their own homes and not being placed in an assisted living



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institution. However, they are unable to fulfill certain needs on their own, such as home repairs, grocery shopping, etc. The Foundation aims to create a structure enabling Holocaust survivors in need to receive these services within their own home.

- **Apartment Face-lifts and improvements in the Personal Safety**

Many of the poorest Holocaust survivors subsist in dire living conditions. Some apartments are in need of a basic "facelift" with paintjob and intensive cleaning, while others require massive electrical or plumbing repairs.

The Foundation's vision is to fund a team of repair vans equipped with professionals able to make the necessary repairs in a survivor's home within one work day. The recipient of this service will return from a day out of their home and under the Foundation's care, to a renovated apartment with dignified living conditions.

- **Furniture for Survivors**

Many survivors lack basic household items, including bed, table or cupboard.

The Foundation is interested in creating a new fund that will provide these essential pieces of furniture to Holocaust survivors in need.

The Chairman's Fund

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel funds programming and support to meet the needs of many Holocaust survivors, as financed by the Treasury and Claims Conference. However, many other needs go unmet. Most programs adhere to strict guidelines determining which survivors are eligible to receive care. Many survivors do not meet these needs or are in need of aid not supported by these programs.

On a daily basis, Holocaust survivors turn to the Foundation as a last resort and for emergency aid: a fire destroyed the survivor's apartment, or family members were injured in a car accident and have nowhere to go but the street. These cases require immediate action and special assistance that cannot be covered by a specific program. The Chairman's Fund will take these individual cases under consideration and grant support with the approval of the Foundation's CEO or Chairman. This fund will enable the Foundation to help many unforeseen survivors' needs.

- **Increased access to survivors**

This includes visits to the survivors in their homes and alleviating survivor difficulty in visiting the Fund offices.

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel currently operates out of its headquarters in Tel Aviv, and two satellite offices in Haifa and Beersheva. Each office provides local Holocaust survivors with the important information and documentation necessary to receive their benefits as Holocaust survivors. Foundation staff is responsible for administration and the operation of all regional programs. Our vision is to open additional offices in Ashdod and Jerusalem. We are in need of special donors interested in sponsoring the creation and operation of these two new offices.

- **Department of Fundraising and Development**

As previously outlined, there is an immense need for the expansion of programs run by the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel. In order to increase the scope of our programming, additional funding sources must be generated; to do this, a professional Development Department must be established to locate and work with potential donors.

- **Activities to strengthen cooperative work between relevant organizations treating Holocaust Survivors.**

The Fund intends to increase cooperation between different organizations that fund and assist Holocaust survivors, using activities such as: round table discussion, conferences, newsletters and more.

**We understand that there is a lot to do in a very short amount of time. Unfortunately, the window of opportunity to help the first generation of holocaust survivors is closing. Our wish is to assist the remaining survivors in hopes that it will benefit them as well as future generations.**