



Update . . .

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A hospital visit to this boy receiving life-saving treatment for Leukemia.

Helping a Sick Child Helps the Whole World

by Dov Alter, senior advisor to KM Sharoni

A few years ago, a good friend of mine lost his son who died from cancer at the age of seven. The terrible news about the child's sickness and frequent visits to the oncology ward at the hospital touched me deeply.

It was the Purim season; which is a Spring holiday honoring Queen Esther. In Israel children dress in costumes, eat pastries, and perform skits based on the Book of Esther. Purim is the most fun time in Israel for children.

I decided to do something to help children stuck in the hospital with my friend during all the celebrations. I collected money from family and friends and bought costumes, masks and traditional Purim pastries.

I then called a rabbi and asked him to meet me the next day at the hospital so we could do a big "mitzva" (good deed). Without asking questions, he agreed immediately. When we met on the way to the hospital I told him what we were going to do and I could see how excited and willing he was. I then told him that we would meet sick children from three religions; Christians, Muslims and Jews in the oncology ward and that he would bless them and to make them happy. The rabbi agreed without any hesitation.

No words could describe how I felt walking side by side with the rabbi, entering room after room and watching him bless the kids and their families. Imagine a scene where a Jewish rabbi blesses an Arab kid -

the father and child kisses the rabbi.
Sounds like the opening of a joke, right?
Well, we were all shedding tears together.

At the end of the day, standing outside the hospital, I felt so tired but full of satisfaction and hope. Unfortunately we know the bitter end for my friend: his child died of cancer. But that experience set my destiny in life to help people.

Today, I get many letters on a daily basis from people seeking help to get life-saving medical treatment that they cannot afford. For example, a two year-old child needed \$400,000 for life-saving treatment and his parents obviously could not afford it. With help from my boss we managed to raise the money needed to save that child's life. What about other children who have no access to that kind of help? My heart goes out to each one.

When Mr. Weisskopf told me about you good people and that are doing your best to help other people; I grabbed the opportunity to share my experience with you. I wanted to bring to your awareness a few of the many problems we face here in Israel, which we can try to solve with your help. Whether it is a Purim party in a hospital or raising funds to save a child's life - every smile we put on the face of a needy child is an eternal blessing. Again, thank you for helping Israeli children.

Dov Alter is the senior advisor to Knesset Member Moshe Sharoni. He plays a vital role in his party's efforts to help poor and needy Holocaust Survivors. Mr. Alter networks with a variety of Knesset leaders and city mayors - especially across the Galilee to help Israel's poor. He served as senior advisor to the Minister of Health until this year. Dov and his wife, Ana, have four children. Their oldest child current serves in the IDF.

Richard Weisskopf is visiting the United States and will be available from June 15th through September 21st.

Dov Alter is available to speak at larger events in the United States about the latest events and needs in Israel.

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