



Update . . .

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This premature baby girl fights to survive at B'nai Zion

Saving Lives and Birthing Miracles

by Hanit Schwartz & Keren Wind

B'nai Zion Medical Center in Haifa has a long history of service to the people of Israel. In 1922, Hadassah established the hospital with 36 beds. An expansion in 1942 accompanied a change of management. It became known as the Rothschild Hospital. Eventually, with the financial support of The B'nai Zion Foundation in the U.S.A., the hospital was renamed the B'nai Zion Medical Center in 1988.

Today, B'nai Zion Medical Center is dedicated to meeting the needs of a growing and diverse Jewish, Christian, Moslem, Druze and Baha'i population that includes Haifa and neighboring villages throughout the North.

The hospital is working toward building reinforced units for about 250 patients and

staff that will protect against direct rocket attacks. In 2008 construction will begin to convert an underground parking lot into an emergency room with one hundred beds to treat incoming wounded during an attack. While concentrating on the critical need to secure the hospital for the next war, we need to finish construction of the Pediatric Department and add a Pediatric Emergency Room to it.

Major government cutbacks have forced the hospital to turn to alternative sources of support. The hospital needs help from the private sector to acquire up-to-the-minute technologies, building construction, renovations and, of course, developing life-enhancing programs.

Last month, we at the B'nai Zion Medical Center, hosted a group of Americans. The

group came to the maternity ward with wonderful and generous gifts they brought from the USA. This initiative was led by Jamie & Neil Lash, whose television program “Jewish Jewels” has been promoting Israel over 20 years. The party, that included refreshments, gifts and greetings, was arranged with the help of Mr. Richard D. Weisskopf, chairman of Love for Israel Relief Fund and Member of Knesset Elhanan Glazer.

Dr. Amnon Rofe, general director of B’nai Zion Medical Center, welcomed the guests and new mothers and shared what happened to our hospital during the Second Lebanon War. Professor Ohel, head of the maternity & gynecology ward, gave a brief overview of the ward’s accomplishments. The party encouraged the staff to continue focusing on the patients and to keep giving the personal and professional treatment as they always do.

Jewish Jewels contributed \$7,000 for building the new Pediatric Surgery Department. To paraphrase the Talmud, when you help save a life, it's like you've saved the world. When you bring hearing to those who cannot hear, or give promise to the life of a newborn, you have helped bring about a miracle. Thank you so much for your help and we hope for further cooperation in the future.

Hanit Schwatz is the manager of international relations at B’nai Zion Medical Center. She works hard to advocate internationally for the needs of women and children in the hospital’s care.

Keren Wind heads the Friends of B’nai Zion Medical Center. She makes known the hospital’s needs globally while representing its supporters.

Every \$25 we receive sponsors an impoverished schoolchild. Nothing will warm your heart more than a “*todah*” from the child you helped.

Every \$100 we receive sponsors a young soldier with no family in Israel. We would like to take sponsors who are in Israel during one of these distributions along as our guests. Words cannot describe the feeling you will have by this experience.

You can donate online at:
<http://love4israel.org/donate.html>

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