



# Update . . .

December 2009

5770 Tevet



*New Construction in Jerusalem.*

## **Exciting Development for Orphans in Jerusalem**

*by Richard D. Weisskopf, chairman*

The 2009 year comes to a close with exciting news. A Jerusalem non-profit has recently offered the Love for Israel Relief Fund over 3,000 square feet in a new building that they want to set aside to help orphans and at-risk kids. The space can be ours to use free of charge for up to five years. Afterwards, we may be able to continue using the space at a huge discount for up to 20 years.

This property is located in a neighborhood of Jerusalem with a lot of new construction. Contractors in this area designate certain parcels for public use. This landlord has decided to set aside this building for use by a synagogue and plenty

of space to help orphans and at-risk kids.

The synagogue is already completed and functional on the top floor.

The two bottom floors remain unfinished. It will be our responsibility to renovate these bottom floors, properly furnish them and create a viable infrastructure for our vision. We want to create a community center that can become self-sufficient long-term.

During the morning and afternoon hours, the space will serve as a community center where at-risk kids and orphans can come for enriching therapeutic, educational and extra-curricular activities. Our current network partners who provide similar services, do so

with a level of excellence we would want model for this center.

During the late afternoon and evening hours, we envision using the space as a full-service hall for celebrations such as weddings, bar mitzvahs, anniversaries, etc. Orphans and people below the poverty level could use the hall on a sliding-scale basis. The hall would also be open to the general public at competitive rates. Proceeds from the general public would subsidize events for orphans and the needy and cover some of the costs to operate the community center.

Not only would the hall defer operational costs substantially, it would also help restore a sense of dignity to those who would need the center's help. For example, no impoverished orphan-bride would want her wedding ceremony in a soup kitchen. Words inadequately describe the impact on this impoverished orphan-bride when a full-service wedding hall used by everyone else in the community opens to her at a price she could afford.

Construction bids we received so far are \$60,000 to \$75,000. Between discounts, subsidies and matching grants, we may bring construction costs down to \$50,000. Once the space is ready, we project the start-up costs to be an additional \$50,000. This includes furniture, a delivery van and

equipment. Our vision is to create an infrastructure at the beginning that allows the center to be self-sufficient indefinitely.

The Love for Israel Relief Fund invites you to partner with us to create this important center. Whether you can afford \$25, \$100 or more; every donation means a lot. Once completed, we would like to also make the hall available to our partners visiting Jerusalem for their special occasions. Please contact us for details. On behalf of needy Israelis, thank you for loving Israel.

**Support Our Soldiers** is our project providing care packages for lone soldiers. Our first priority is to help over 150 orphans serving in the IDF and also approximately 6,000 lone new immigrants in the IDF. The number of lone soldiers we help depends upon the amount of designated funds we receive.

**Special events**, like weddings and bar mitzvahs, happen year round for hundreds of at-risk kids and needy young adults in Israel. Donations designated "special events" will be set aside for such use.

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

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Send checks to:  
**Love for Israel Relief Fund**  
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Suite 445  
Washington, DC 20006