



Update . . .

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Chairman's Report

by Richard D. Weisskopf

Last year was a difficult year financially. The U.S. dollar hit its lowest point in my lifetime and gasoline prices skyrocketed to an all-time high. While unemployment went up, real estate values went down. Such international economic hardship also affected non-profit organizations like the Love for Israel Relief Fund.

Yet, somehow 2008 was also a year in which the Love for Israel Relief Fund and our network partners made important accomplishments for Israel's most needy kids. We have helped promote and support a school for seriously handicapped children. This school just opened its new doors near Sha'are Tzedek Hospital in Jerusalem. The help this school provides for seriously handicapped children is so amazing, it caught the attention of Knesset Member Herzog and Jerusalem's newly-

elected mayor; both of whom attended the dedication of the new building.

The Love for Israel Relief Fund plans to establish a joint venture with this school and Sha'are Tzedek Hospital to support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children. One example is the construction of an indoor therapeutic pool primarily for the school's use, but will also be available to handicapped children in the community.

As for projects that help lone soldiers; it can be difficult for many organizations who have no direct contact with IDF headquarters to follow up after donations have been made. We have instituted an infrastructure that allows us to keep track of orphans serving in the IDF. We can accurately follow up and make sure all donations have reached the target lone soldiers as agreed. Furthermore,

we maintain an open-door policy with donors to come and see the projects firsthand.

Towards the end of 2008, some donors offered to sponsor the weddings of “orphans” - meaning kids who grew up in institutional care. What a great idea! Within the past month I have attended three weddings with another one coming up in two weeks. (More coming up after that!) Each wedding has been nothing short of a miracle. All of our newlyweds were real gems. It was such an honor to become part of their extended families. Again, we have the ability to include visiting donors in special events like weddings and bar mitzvahs of fatherless Israelis.

We begin 2009 in a war. You only need to turn on the news and see what wartime life is like in Israel. Of all the suffering and hardship you see on television, our kids suffer the most with no voice of their own to broadcast their needs to the world.

Two years ago the Love for Israel Relief Fund faced a similar wartime crisis in the north. Words cannot express how much your outpouring of love for Israel helped our nation in its darkest hour. Despite economic uncertainties, I have no doubt that we show great love for Israel again - this time in the south. Years from now, most of us will not remember how much

we spent on gas or groceries that we bought today. However, even the least we give in love for these kids will last a lifetime. The light of your love for Israel shines brightest in our darkest hours of war. Together we can make 2009 a year filled with lifetime memories and meaningful help for at-risk kids who live in wartime Israel.

About Our Chairman - available online at: <http://www.love4israel.org/chairman1.html>

Richard Weisskopf will be available in the USA and Canada 26 January 2009 through 18 February 2009 to update you on Israel’s wartime needs. Israeli leaders from several sectors are also available to share about emergency needs within their areas of influence. Please contact us as soon as possible to schedule a date for your community. You can simply press the “Contact” button on our website and send us a message including the best way for us to contact you. We look forward to visiting your community!

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

Send checks to:

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