



# Update . . .

June 2009

5769 Tammuz



*Purim photo of Va'aknin children. The two oldest boys in the middle died on May 12<sup>th</sup>.*

## 2009 - A Busy Year Helping Orphans

*by Richard D. Weisskopf, chairman*

The first half of 2009 proves to be the busiest for us since the Second Lebanon War in 2006. In January and February we helped sponsor three weddings for orphans. It was touching to see how the downtrodden could be so dignified as “kings and queens” on their wedding days. We are excited about an upcoming fourth orphan wedding this month.

During the Purim season, the Love for Israel Relief Fund targeted one of the poorest neighborhoods in Jerusalem and cooperated with community leaders to identify the poorest of the poor. We joined the local effort to bring toys and gifts to children of families who lacked proper

kitchens and bathroom facilities. This project opened our eyes to the degree of poverty that exists in the middle of the Holy City for three major religions.

Coming out of the Purim season, we expanded a network of community leaders who maintain contact with some of Jerusalem’s families and help improve their quality of life. Our role within the network is to target needy children. A long-term project developing from this will be to build a community center for at-risk kids.

Before we knew it, Passover was upon us and so was our Passover project for orphans serving in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Though donations were down this year for

this project, we still touched many of the orphans serving in the IDF – each of whom is a hero.

About a month later we received word that a respected Torah scribe and two of his sons died suddenly in an accident. Top Chassidic rabbis asked us to help the pregnant widow and her four little orphans. Since the husband was in the middle of renovating the apartment when he died, the widow and orphans had no working kitchen or appliances when we first arrived. Instead, she and her children are left with far too much debt and grief to handle alone.

As tragic as this request is, it is the fourth such need we had to tearfully evaluate recently. We plan to develop a designated fund for such emergencies during the second half of 2009.

We kick off the month of June with a heart-warming bar mitzvah project for boys and girls living in a children's home. Each of the 250 children at this home is special to us and we are excited to encourage them with a bar mitzvah celebration for those coming of age.

Another project in June is a celebration for approximately 600 recruits training to be elite combat soldiers in the IDF. This IDF training base has the highest number of lone soldiers in Israel. The Love for Israel Relief Fund and our partners will

leave special funds and gifts to help lone and needy soldiers on that base not only during June, but for the rest of the year as well.

The Love for Israel Relief Fund deeply appreciates how much you have stood with us in the midst of the current global economic hardships. We gratefully understand how it continues to show your strong love for Israel.

**This summer** the Love for Israel Relief Fund will welcome our new Knesset liaison who will strengthen the voice of voiceless orphans with top leaders in Israel. Read upcoming updates for further details.

**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**  
2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 445  
Washington, DC 20006