



Update . . .

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Nursery for Orphans of the Holocaust.

Israel at 60 - What About the Orphans?

by Richard D. Weisskopf, chairman

From the ashes of the Holocaust arose the State of Israel. It was 60 years ago this month that Israel overcame impossible odds and won her independence.

Many of the first immigrants to Israel were Holocaust survivors. Native Israelis who had no electricity or indoor plumbing of their own suddenly had to support thousands of widows and orphans from the Holocaust. This should have been a recipe for disaster - it wasn't.

Given such an unimaginable situation, the Israeli solution was ingenious. They significantly expanded the kibbutzes where tight communities banded together and helped each other raise their families.

They created boarding schools that became homes for thousands of homeless children;

while equipping orphans with independent living skills they would need as adults.

Within a generation Israelis transformed a hopelessly overwhelmed and impoverished country into the most thriving nation in the Middle East. This would not have been possible without Divine assistance and international support.

Israeli society has changed dramatically over the last 60 years. Few Israelis live on kibbutzes anymore. Electricity and indoor plumbing are requirements for new construction. In fact, we cannot imagine modern Israel without cell phones, digital televisions and high-speed internet.

Glaring exceptions are the child welfare system; the quality of life for impoverished new immigrants, impoverished Holocaust

survivors and single mothers. Most notably; the child welfare system has not modernized despite the fact that Israel is far better equipped nowadays to handle the most at-risk children.

Simply put, the solutions for at-risk children in the 21st century are not the same as they were in the wake of the Holocaust. While boarding schools are appropriate when they are the most natural and least restrictive environment - most children are better off remaining in community-based settings. When every effort fails to preserve biological families, the best alternative in most cases is placing children with relatives, friends, neighbors, foster homes or adoptive homes.

The Love for Israel Relief Fund cooperates with national, city and community leaders to try finding the most natural and least restrictive solutions for at-risk children. Sometimes we face mindsets that operate on solutions that were effective in the aftermath of the Holocaust. While such obstacles are challenging, it is often a matter of demonstrating more modern solutions to inspire people. After all, child welfare leaders want what is in the best interests of all children.

Even when some programs receive help from the government, we continue to rely upon the compassion and generosity of people around the world, like you, to fund projects. As we strive to help improve

Israel's child welfare system, we want to capture the pioneering spirit of our forefathers who banded together and shared the burden of helping widows and orphans through their crisis. Today's at-risk children can be tomorrow's leaders on the cutting edge. Together, we can play an important role in helping them make history.



David Ben-Gurion Reads Israel's Declaration of Independence

Read more about our 2008 strategy at:
http://www.love4israel.org/admin/pdf/Update_Jan08.pdf

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

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