



הקרן לירושלים
THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION
مؤسسة صندوق القدس

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The Sukkot Holiday Brings A New Home To the Children of Aleh

Manchester England families come to dedicate a new wing, transforming a dreary space into a welcoming home for more than 70 children with special needs

Jerusalem, Israel – October 12, 2011 - The Sukkot holiday always brings special guests to Jerusalem. But this year, the children of Aleh, who suffer from varying degrees of disabilities, including cerebral palsy and genetically debilitating diseases, will be celebrating in a new home, with a group of Manchester, England families who made their new home possible.

Located in the Romema neighborhood, Aleh is home to 71 children, ranging from 2 months to 30 years old. Most children suffer from disabilities that rendered it impossible for them to function in normative environments.

Jack and Janis Livingstone and Johnny and Avril Manson from Manchester, both long time supporters of the Jerusalem Foundation, spearheaded the effort after a recent visit to Aleh. Moved by the staff and its dedication, they garnered the support of 30 of their friends and raised the funds to renovate space which will be named in memory of their daughters, Katie and Joanna.

A neglected space was transformed it into airy and sunlit living units, with bathroom and shower facilities, wide entrances to accommodate wheelchairs, a playroom, and an inviting sitting area for residents to visit with their families.

Run by the Ministry of Welfare, the renovation was also made possible by support from Israel's National Insurance (Bituach Leumi).

"Our work here is not easy and when we see that there are others who believe in these children, it gives us the strength to continue our work," said Shlomit Greevsky, general manager of the facility, whose staff is dedicated to providing every resident a dignified quality of life.

"This new wing gives these children a place where they can feel at home," said Jerusalem Foundation president Ruth Cheshin. "When Jerusalem residents need us, we are there to help," said Cheshin.

This partnership between Manchester and the Jerusalem Foundation is a "repeat performance." About 5 years ago, the Manson family dedicated the Sensory Garden in memory of their daughter Katie. The garden, which is adjacent to the Elwyn facility, is filled with playground equipment that requires the use of all the senses, heightening the play experience for those with varying degrees of disabilities.

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