



הקרן לירושלים
THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION
مؤسسة صندوق القدس

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Helmsley Charitable Trust Awards \$2,860,000 Grant to Establish Jerusalem International Press Club

Jerusalem, Israel – April 3, 2012: The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust gifted \$2,860,000 to the Jerusalem Foundation to establish the Jerusalem International Press Club, the first of its kind in Israel.

The Jerusalem International Press Club will be a crucial resource for foreign journalists, the 250 who are currently stationed in Israel and the thousands more who arrive to cover breaking stories. The facility, located within the Mishkenot Sha'ananim complex, will be equipped with all the modern day tools journalists need to cover their stories – from print to television to much needed social media tools, is currently being “retrofitted and renovated”, and is expected to be completed in March/April 2013, at which time the Jerusalem International Press Club will “officially” open its doors.

The Jerusalem International Press Club will pave the way for journalists to secure meetings with high ranking politicians, diplomats and decision-makers, giving them an in depth understanding of life in Israel, beyond their daily ‘beat.’

“Thanks to generous support from the Helmsley Charitable Trust, The Press Club will contribute to the depth and richness of coverage of the complex situation in Israel and in the Middle East,” said Mark Sofer, President of the Jerusalem Foundation.

“It will be a hub of journalistic activity where domestic and foreign press have a chance to mingle with Israeli, Palestinian and international sources, in a setting fitting for them while giving them exposure to a wide spectrum of opinions in Israeli society,” said Uri Dromi, the Press Club’s Director, who is also the Director General of Mishkenot Sha’ananim.

Mishkenot Sha’ananim, a more than 150 year old neighborhood outside the Old City Walls, was built by Sir Moses Montefiore of Britain as the first Jewish neighborhood in modern day Jerusalem. The Jerusalem Foundation renovated the facility and it is now a vibrant conference center and guest house for world-leading artists, writers and scholars and hosts hundreds of events every year.

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust aspires to improve lives by supporting effective nonprofits in health and medical research, social services, education, conservation, and the security and development of Israel. The Trust, established in 1999, is administered by four trustees selected by Leona Helmsley. As a continuation of Mr. and Mrs. Helmsley’s generous giving throughout their lifetimes, the Trust supports a diverse range of organizations and has committed more than \$560 million in grants to charitable organizations since 2008.

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