



7731 Tuckerman Lane
PMB #163
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 983-8867

Helping Injured Victims of Terror in Israel

ISRAEL UPDATE – August 3, 2006

Dear Friend of Operation Embrace,

Although today is Tisha B'av and we are reminded of the destruction of the First and Second Holy Temples in Jerusalem, Tish B'av is also a time when we can appreciate our strength and our ability to prevail and to rebuild. Israel and its people are miracles. It is a magnificent country teeming with a strong and vibrant population. I am in daily contact with social workers and **OE is providing direct assistance for immediate emergency needs. In addition, OE will be funding new programs that will respond to the long term needs of victims of the current crisis.** We must remain committed to the victims of the current crisis and not forget them when this war is over. Too often, we respond to an emergency and then forget the need for continued support.

Bomb Shelters in the North: OE has partnered with Keshet, an Israeli educational tour company, to offer immediate aid to people living in bomb shelters and displaced from their homes. **OE is providing the necessary funds in order to help Keshet coordinate the logistics of purchasing and delivering necessary items to bomb shelters all over the north.** They are in direct contact with municipalities, and community centers all over the north who are sending lists of specific items that are desperately needed in the bomb shelters. There are approximately one million people who are either living in bomb shelters or who have been relocated to other parts of the country. **Please see attached letter from Keshet.**

Haifa: Roni Gagin, Director of Social Services at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa has reported to OE that her hospital has absorbed the more seriously wounded from all areas in the North. On behalf of OE, social workers from Rambam are contacting people in the Haifa area to do an assessment of needs. **OE has sent Rambam Hospital an emergency fund to provide immediate help for victims of Hezbollah terror.** In addition the staff at Rambam is in contact with hospital directors in Nahariya, Tzfat and Kiryat Shemoneh.

Jerusalem: Rita Avramov, the Director of Social Services at Hadassah Hospital, has reported to OE that social workers and psychologists from Hadassah are traveling to Nahariya at least 3 times a week and helping people there. In Nahariya, 90 houses have been completely destroyed, 900 homes have been partially damaged forcing residents to seek shelter elsewhere. **OE has been asked by Hadassah to provide assistance on a case by case basis helping individuals to rebuild their lives from scratch.**

Sderot: I have been in contact with Shmuel Attias, Director of the Social Welfare Department in Sderot. Social workers have requested funding to provide for therapeutic travel excursions to allow victims of Hamas terror to escape the daily rocket barrages that are hitting their city. **OE has organized full day bus excursions for victims of terror in Sderot to visit the Western Tunnel Tours later this month.**

Yigal Ben-Shalom, Director General of Bituach Leumi (Israel's National Insurance Agency): Yigal contacted me yesterday and has reported that he has great concern for the thousands of Israelis who are suffering from the psychological trauma and pronounced anxiety that this recent crisis has evoked. **OE has made a commitment to sustain the ongoing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Empowerment Programs located in Haifa, Netanya and Jerusalem and hope to repeat this model in other cities around the country.**

All the helping professionals have reiterated their concern that significant funds will be needed in the not too distant future to rebuild the lives of thousands of families who live in Northern Israel and Sderot. **Operation Embrace is dedicated to supporting victims of terror for both the immediate and long term needs. In addition, to the immediacy of the needs of this crisis, OE is projecting needs for funds to help with long term assistance.**

Thank you for your immediate response in helping "our" families in Israel begin to rebuild their lives on this Tisha B'av day. Please forward this email to your friends.

With your generous support Operation Embrace can continue to assist terror victims and their families. Please make your checks payable to Operation Embrace and send to the address above or visit us at our website, www.operationembrace.org.

Sincerely,

Aviva Tessler
Operation Embrace, President

Operation Embrace is a tax exempt non profit, 501(c)3 organization.