

*Helping Injured
Victims of Terror in Israel*

**Operation
Embrace**

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Welcome to the Operation Embrace inaugural newsletter. We hope that this information will enhance your understanding of the power of your donation; to sustain the life of one person is to sustain the world.

Sanhedrin 37a



Tigist K. with Aviva Tessler. Tigist was injured on a bus in Jerusalem on 2/22/04. She suffers from multiple leg injuries. OE has given her financial support, physical therapy sessions and provided computer classes.



Jessie and Katie Colburn visit on the Nov. OE mission at Hadassah Hospital with Esther E. who was injured on a bus explosion in Jerusalem on 1/29/04.



Dr. Valeri W. injured in a drive by shooting on 11/03/05 receives a visit from Roni Tessler at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. OE helped with supplemental income.

Dear Friends of Operation Embrace,

We want to thank you for what you have made possible through your support of Operation Embrace. The annual Friends of Operation Embrace dinner, graciously hosted by Sherry and Ralph Foxman, was an overwhelming success. We are grateful to our dinner co-chairs, Sandi Hoffman and Michelle Schoenberger and to the many volunteers who worked to make this a magical evening.

We greatly enjoyed our Israeli guests, Neta and Bat Sheva Zaken and Roni Gagin. Neta, age 19, was injured in the Café Hillel bombing in Jerusalem in 2003. While in the Washington, D.C. area, OE volunteers escorted Neta to many surgical consultations and speaking engagements. Roni Gagin, Director of Social Services of Rambam Hospital in Haifa met with various mental health professionals at JSSA, John Hopkins Hospital and the Psychiatric Institute of Washington. At these meetings, there was a shared exchange of ideas related to the treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for victims of terror.

At a Sunday brunch, OE liaisons from area synagogues shared their experiences working with OE. Our Israeli guests reiterated just how meaningful the relationships are for injured victims of terror with people in the US. They emphasized that the love and support they receive from OE efforts plays a crucial role in their rehabilitation and emotional recovery.

Purim is around the corner and OE is continuing its mishloach manot program. Last year we delivered gift baskets to over 100 families and we hope to increase that number this year. Mishloach manot continues the OE connection with many families and is a tangible reminder that we remember and care about those who have been violated by terror. Please support this program.

The healing for survivors of terror requires much time and we must continue our efforts to embrace the people in Israel who need us to hang in there with them. There is much work to do and it is an honor and a privilege to partner with all of our OE friends and supporters in performing this divine work.

On behalf of the thousands of injured victims of terror, we thank you for your deep sensitivity and for your kind hearts in the healing of so many people who have been broken.

With gratitude,

Anne Clemons, Jocelyn Krifcher, Avivah Litan and Aviva Tessler

Co-founders of Operation Embrace

Operation Embrace Sponsors the Only PTSD Follow - Up

Ralph and Sherry Foxman Hospital Program For Victims of Terror in Israel

When a terrorist attack occurs, the injured are taken to hospitals where both physical and emotional care are provided. Once discharged, the survivors of terror face many challenging bureaucratic processes, including the assignment of new mental health professionals. The Rambam Hospital in Haifa recognized this dilemma and created the first post-traumatic stress disorder hospital program for victims of terror in Israel. With the generosity of Ralph and Sherry Foxman, Operation Embrace is proud to sponsor this program under the expert guidance of Roni Gagin, Director of Social Services at Rambam Hospital.

"The experience that the social workers have accumulated at the hospital, working with terror victims and their families, and the strong bond that is formed with them at the time of hospitalization and afterwards, has taught us that they experience a serious emotional crisis once they return home.

The connection the social work department at Rambam has with Operation Embrace, has allowed the development and building of a very important project, with the aim of supporting, and emotionally treating the terror victims and their families. Treatment methods include clinical interactions, group sessions and other alternative therapeutic interventions.

With the help of Operation Embrace the personal and unique needs of each terror victim are answered. They feel supported, and not alone in the coping of their trauma. This has positive implications on every aspect of their lives. In addition, the partnership between the social workers and OE provides tremendous support for the social workers and we are very thankful for this relationship."

Roni Gagin, Director of Social Services, Rambam Hospital, Haifa, Israel



OE Teenagers visit with victims of terror at PTSD Program at Rambam Hospital.



"Miryam told us about her many injuries and hospital stays. She explained in detail what has been involved in her recovery. She continues to undergo painful operations and therapy. But her face lit up when she described the lap top computer and other support Operation Embrace has given her. She showed genuine appreciation of our visit and the gifts we brought to cheer her."

Sheldon and Judy Klein



"Still to this day, my children talk about their OE visit to Nir as one of the highlights of their visit to Israel. More than just our money and donations, Israeli victims of terror need this type of moral support from Jews who visit Israel, now more than ever. It is outrageous and upsetting that the community does not hear more about them and about their stories. As Jews and Zionists, we should never forget, and never let our children forget, the tremendous sacrifice victims of the intifada terror have made for Israel's sake and for our sake."

Margle and Robert Litman

"We knew of the meaningful work of Operation Embrace, yet I was apprehensive about exposing my younger daughter to the pain and suffering of others. Ultimately, I couldn't have given her a more valuable experience. Our hearts opened to the beautiful men and women that we met who embraced the opportunity to tell us their stories. My daughters were unbelievable. Both openly asked questions and engaged in conversations to get a true understanding of how each victim felt and how they are adjusting to life now. We laughed, we cried and when our week ended we cried again saying goodbye to our new friends, and the other participants on the OE mission".

Written by Michele Klein, pictured above with her daughter Jessie and Shai L., who was injured in a bus attack in Haifa.

Words from Israel...

Many many thanks to Operation Embrace!

I would first like to thank Operation Embrace and Aviva personally for the aid you have supplied to me and my family.

The words "thank you" are small and meaningless in comparison to what my family and I feel.

It is essential to know and feel that some people do care and think of you and that you do matter to them.

I truly hope that Operation Embrace will find a way to continue embracing us so I can lift my head above this troubled water, because currently I feel I am sinking. I want to put my mental stress behind me so I can help my family to regain its place in society. You were the only ones who offered real help at the most critical times. There are no words that can describe the feeling it gave us. We are grateful forever. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! Your work is priceless, it helps us much more than its financial value although, for us, this financial value is enormous by itself.

Truly yours, Dov Deutsch

To Our Friends at Operation Embrace,

You should be proud! For us, the social workers in Hadassah - working with you is a great privilege. We feel that we have real partners in our goals for our patients. Your work is exceptional. In many others areas of our work we do not have partners such as you! Knowing that makes our work with the nifgaim (terror victims) and their families much easier.

The respect, dedication, constancy and your warm hearts enable us all to continue.

Noa Shemesh, Director of Social Services, Hadassah Hospital, Mt. Scopus— Jerusalem



Dov Deutsch (injured in drive by shooting on 10/28/01) with his friend, Zev Jabotinsky

"Operation Embrace makes all the difference in the world. It re-ignites the spark of hope in people who's human dignity was shuttered by the murderous terrorists. I urge you to give hand to the blessed activity of Operation Embrace because there is no substitute to its added values of restoring the victims' faith in Jewish solidarity at times they lack it the most.."

Zev Jabotinsky

To our wonderful friends at OPERATION EMBRACE:

The Operation Embrace team serves as a true caring partner, which from thousands of miles away, gives Jewish terror victims the strength to continue and cope with their daily trials.

Limor Har-melach, while traveling home with her husband, Shuli, in June 2003 were attacked by five terrorists. Shuli protected Limor with his body and was immediately killed. Limor suffered severe bullet wounds to her hand and face. She was seven months pregnant. She prematurely gave birth that day by an emergency C-section. Thus, a 24 year old young woman, happily married, mother of a small child and pregnant with a healthy fetus, found herself within seconds: widowed, badly wounded, and needing frequent long hospitalizations and painful treatments.

*She fought for her life and her other child, Ahuvya, suddenly found himself without either parent. Her young son, for a whole year, had a mother who could not even lift him or his sister in her arms because of her wounds. Enter the OE team. Needless to say, Limor never asked for your help. You came directly to her on your own initiative, with true Jewish compassion. You found a young widow dealing with great difficulties and embraced her. A person who falls needs a helping hand to rise up again. For Limor and other terror victims, you are that helping hand. Without running a complicated organization and without dozens of agents, you have succeeded in **directly** reaching victims and in truly changing their lives.*

*I simply cannot find sufficient words to express our thanks you deserve for your wonderful generous help. I also don't believe that Limor is able to describe its meaning for her. May Hashem **embrace** you all with his love and blessings.*



Rabbi Yona Goodman,

Former teacher of Limor Har-Melech

Limor H. with her son Ahuvya and Sarah Benin, a representative from Anshei Sefard, Memphis, TN, who have embraced Limor and her family.



With feelings of respect and appreciation for your generosity, and for the blessed support that we have been fortunate to receive from you; may G-d bless your wonderful mission and light your pathway with light, and abundance love. In the Torah it says: "he who saves one life in Israel; it is as if he has saved the entire world." In the merit of this big mitzvah of yours of saving lives in Israel, may G-d bless you and your wonderful families and may He bring peace on us and on all of the nation of Israel.

(Ronit was injured in a bus bombing in Jerusalem on 6/18/02)

Ronit and Benjamin E.

The Power of an Embrace...



OE provided Baruch with a new leg prosthesis. He was ambushed by terrorists on 11/15/02 in Hebron.



OE mission group visits with Elham M., whose husband was killed and son injured in the Café Maxim bombing on 10/04/03 in Haifa.



OE purchased specialized hearing aids for Yael after she lost her hearing in a bus explosion in Jerusalem on 1/29/04.



Gail Nadel (on left) visits with the Reut S. and her family. Reut (13) was injured in a bus bombing on 1/29/04.



Michal G. lost both legs in a car bombing on 11/22/2000 in Hadera. OE helps Michal on an ongoing basis.



Leah Y. was injured in a bus explosion in Be'er Sheva on 8/31/04.



Rabbi Joel Tessier visits with Steve A., a quadriplegic from a bus bombing in Jerusalem on 5/18/2003.

Upcoming OE Events:

NOW! Mishloach Manot - send Purim baskets to victims of terror \$36 - regular basket; \$50 - deluxe

April 10: Build a Bear Project at Mont. Mall

May 16 - 23: OE Mission to Israel



Gil C. lost all his teeth in Café Maxim bombing in Haifa on 10/04/03. OE paid for new implants and Gil is now able to smile again.

Thank you for another successful Operation Embrace Annual Dinner!!!



Avivah Litan, Neta Zaken, Steve Emerson, Anne Clemons and Jocelyn Krifcher



Jocelyn Krifcher, Bat-Sheva Zaken, Neta Zaken, Avivah Litan, Anne Clemons, Roni Gagin and Aviva Tessler



Sherry and Ralph Foxman, Roni Gagin and Neta Zaken

Many thanks to our OE advisory board:

Pennie Abramson, Anne Ayalon, Erica Brown, Diana Ely-Epstein, Ralph Foxman, Martin and Golda Jacobs, Fred and Jill Klein, Susan Levin, Ilene Leventhal, Debra Luks, Aviva Raz-Schechter, Benita Sandler, Michelle Schoenberger, and Rochelle Wiener.

Operation Embrace is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization that facilitates outreach to support injured victims of terror and their families in Israel.