



Humans Without Borders

Support for Palestinians

- Medical transportation
- Agricultural support
- Children's needs

Humans Without Borders - Annual Report 2014

Mission

Humans without Borders (HWB) is a volunteer organization devoted to helping West Bank Palestinian families whose children require advanced medical treatment only available in Israeli hospitals. It occupies a unique niche in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in fostering close relations between Palestinians and Israelis. Volunteers bring the children and their families to the hospitals and provide any additional necessary assistance. Details about these and other HWB activities can be found on the HWB website <http://www.humans-without-borders.org/>. A brochure entitled *Humans Without Borders, Activities 2009-2013* can also be viewed at the website.

HWB believes that it is every child's right to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment, and is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of Palestinian children and Palestinian communities. By promoting direct, friendly, contact between Palestinians and Israelis, HWB hopes to contribute significantly to greater mutual respect in this troubled area

Highlights of our work in 2014

Transport of sick children

In 2014 some 45 dedicated volunteer drivers and another 25 occasional drivers made more than 1,700 trips (up to 50 trips each week) to and from border checkpoints to hospitals mainly in Jerusalem but also to the greater Tel Aviv area (Schneider, Tel Hashomer and others) without receiving any compensation for their time or vehicle use. Palestinian families must first receive permits from the Israeli Civil Administration and the Palestinian Authority before they can enter Israel for medical treatment. Once the parents of the sick children are informed of a hospital appointment, they contact HWB for assistance and volunteers pick them up from an Israeli Army checkpoint to take them to and from the hospital. At the hospital

volunteers assist the families in communicating with the staff and in taking care of their needs

During the second half of 2014, HWB volunteers worked under extraordinarily difficult conditions due to the outbreak of the Gaza war. For HWB, as well as for anyone living in Israel or Palestine, no matter what their political inclinations, this was a bleak time. Despite the closure of checkpoints by the army, and violent demonstrations on the part of Palestinians and the Israeli right, HWB managed to maneuver and successfully bring *our* children to and from the hospitals. Sometimes exceptional measures were needed. For example, several fathers had to carry their children, early in the morning, several kilometers to meeting points because access to the checkpoints was closed. When Palestinian families have to cope on their own the situation is simply dreadful. Several families were cursed and physically accosted on the Jerusalem light rail and one of the fathers, during the war in Gaza, travelling by bus to Tel Hashomer, was beaten by a bunch of hooligans. After that the father related he would prefer foregoing treatment for his child rather than having to go through such an onslaught again. These were very dark days. Nevertheless, despite these and other obstacles, the children were happy to make these arduous trips and without exception all reached the hospitals for treatment on time and in good spirits. While most of the trips take place in the Jerusalem area, to the Sharei Zedek and Hadassah hospitals, every effort was made to ensure that a volunteer was available, especially for the longer inter-city trips, to the Tel Aviv and Haifa hospitals even when there was very short notice for such trips. In this we have been helped by a generous anonymous donation specifically earmarked for this purpose which enables the use of a taxi service when volunteer drivers are not available. Some 35 trips to hospitals outside the Jerusalem area were made in 2014 using these funds. HWB applauds the volunteer drivers for their unflagging humanitarian contribution to Palestinian society.

Regrettably, because of the tension in the country and the war in Gaza, HWB was not able to promote its other popular activities, that of organizing each year two outings for the Palestinian children and their families. In 2014 we had planned a picnic in Beth Jalla, just outside Bethlehem, and a trip to the Sea. Both events had received funding from charities and were to have taken place in the summer but were postponed until a time when the violence and agitation in the country lessened. HWB

is glad to announce that a festive party will be held early in February 2015 in Beth Jalla at the request of the many children and parents who look forward to this event with enormous expectation. Humans Without Borders is proud to sponsor and organize these activities. They help alleviate, if only for a short while, the pain and hardships that the children and parents experience in their daily lives.

Financial report

The Financial Report for the year ending December 31 2014 is presented in Hebrew on the HWB website

Grants awarded

Grants received in 2014 were from The Prelude Foundation for Eur 1050 for a festive event in Beth Jalla; Children of Peace authorised £1000 sterling to cover the costs of the Seaside Project. A crowd funding event resulted in a sum of approximately NIS 5000.

HWB website, newsletter and publicity

The new HWB website created in 2012 now appears in English, Hebrew, Arabic and French. HWB posts a newsletter on its website which is circulated among members, volunteers and donors and all interested parties. It provides news and updates on current events and people involved in HWB activities.

The role of HWB and its volunteers in bridging the conflict in Palestinian-Israel relations was recently documented in Channel NewsAsia (31 January 2015).

<http://goo.gl/ZB6WTp>



Daniella Talmon-Heller (R), a volunteer with Humans Without Borders, picks up Sabach (L) and her one-year-old son Abdallah, from the border with Palestine before taking them to the Sharei Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

Support

Humans Without Borders wishes to thank all its members for their support and especially the volunteers who have generously given their time and their vehicles to support the HWB mission. It also thanks the generous contributions from donors and institutions in Israel and abroad for making it possible to promote its various activities. In these very difficult times we need all the help we can get, more than ever.