

Summer Newsletter



Advancing Together

Introduction

The 2024 Summer Newsletter highlights our commitment to advancing our services and supporting the community in difficult times. Here we provide updates on our work across the West Bank, in East Jerusalem and in Gaza Strip, key developments and future projects. Join us in learning more about our key achievements in the first six months of this year.



It is with great pride that we in this newsletter “Advancing Together” share the significant progress made by the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre in many of its initiatives and activities aimed to support Palestinian children with disabilities. This progress has enabled us to expand our core programs, particularly in responding to urgent needs in the Gaza Strip. As we believe that everyday matters in the life of a child with disability, our multidisciplinary team in Jerusalem and Gaza help overcome obstacles and barriers to offer their services to the children with disabilities and their families. We know that the need to our services in Gaza is huge to that we are aiming to expand our work there.

One of the main pillars of our work is the Outreach Program, which has now expanded to serve 13 additional Palestinian villages in the geographical area surrounding Jerusalem. In addition to the 14 community centers with which we have previously partnered, the program now provides assessment services and clinical support to local teams, in these villages.

Despite the current challenges and circumstances, our comprehensive rehabilitation services alongside the Mother and Family Empowerment Program continue to operate at full capacity, with 210 children enrolled in the comprehensive rehabilitation program Since the begining of the year. Our team has worked diligently to overcome geographical barriers, contributing to the development of a Telemedicine Program. Through this program, the Center offers multidisciplinary online services to over 180 families in the West Bank who are unable to visit us in person.

We are committed to continuing these efforts, standing by our children and their families in all circumstances, to provide the best possible support and care,tackling the future with great optimism for smoother days ahead where every child can live in peace.

General Director, Violette Mubarak



JPBC Response during turbulent times

A beacon in the darkness...

**The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) continues its important initiative in the Gaza Strip
Heart to heart, from Jerusalem to Gaza**

JPBC continues to provide rehabilitation services to children with disabilities in the Gaza Strip as part of its initiative “Heart to Heart, from Jerusalem to Gaza.” As part of this initiative, a rehabilitation unit for the Basma Centre has been set up at Al-Ahli Hospital where 4 employees have been hired. Although the recent conflict has disrupted our work, we quickly resumed operations, keeping two important things in mind: preserving the safety of our staff and finding mechanisms that allow us to continue providing our services despite the challenges.

Despite the conflict, we have maintained continuous communication with our staff in the Gaza Strip while also launching a mobile treatment service for children with disabilities with an additional two of our therapists working in shelters to provide free psychosocial support and rehabilitation services.



We have found solutions to overcome the difficulties and obstacles of our Jerusalem team ensuring communication with our Gaza team. Through an online communication platform, we were able to study the cases presenting to our employees in Gaza Strip and observe their needs by preparing

questionnaires/surveys through which the largest amount of information was collected, which contributed to an accurate study of the situation and thus helped us to develop inspiring and effective plans.

To overcome the problems of difficult physical and virtual communication due to the lack of constant availability of internet services in the Gaza Strip, our multidisciplinary team in Jerusalem prepared a series of instructive clinical videos to ensure appropriate and quality services in the Gaza Strip.

On the other hand, the Gaza staff has focused their basic services on meeting urgent needs, and working with acute injuries such as amputations and fractures. Our services were considered an essential part of emergency care, and although we were unable to open our rehabilitation unit at Al-Ahli Hospital as we had planned, until June, it is now working effectively, receiving many vulnerable children and families every week. Because of the unstable situation, especially in northern Gaza, there were some temporary security closures.



"Heart to Heart" Through the Eyes of Our Staff

"My motivation to continue working under these difficult circumstances is driven by love: Love for the work, love for the city and love in standing by the people and sharing their pain. Despite the challenges, my presence on the ground, representing the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, is a ray of hope for the children and their families."

Al Zahra'a, Occupational Therapist at The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre - Gaza



"Sometimes we have had to reduce working hours to ensure the safety of our staff. Despite these difficult conditions, our presence on the field is crucial for the families, especially for the mothers who urgently need continuous medical care for themselves and their children. Being able to provide our services on the field, despite the challenges and difficulties fills me with pride both personally and professionally."

Dr. Saeed, General Doctor at The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre - Gaza

"Since the beginning of the conflict in Gaza, we have spent many hours on follow-up, especially with the support of our colleagues in Jerusalem, who communicate with us daily and provide us with professional and psychological support. Additionally, we hold weekly meetings to share experiences between the teams in Gaza and Jerusalem. One of the biggest challenges we face is the difficulty of transporting materials and equipment from Jerusalem to Gaza, which is why we are currently working with very limited resources."

Musa, Psychosocial Worker at The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre - Gaza



"The main challenges include the lack of resources and medical equipment, the difficult access to the displaced people in some areas due to the security situation and the psychological pressure on the children and their families, which affects their effectiveness in the therapy sessions. However, these difficult circumstances also motivate me to work even harder to achieve tangible improvements in the lives of the children. It is a humanitarian and ethical commitment that reflects my dedication to my community and the children and gives me a sense of pride, challenge and determination to make a real difference in the lives of the displaced families and their children."

Ismail, Physiotherapist at The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre -Gaza



"For me, there is always a deep human connection between me and the therapists in Gaza, where we share cases and I offer them support. I strive to reassure them and their families in a deep and human way, creating a sense of belonging and bridging the distance, which in turn strengthens the professional relationship. In addition, I have made available all my practical and clinical expertise in this field. In weekly meetings, which last an hour or as needed, all matters are discussed, especially at the beginning of the program when my colleagues in Gaza need psychological support and encouragement."

Ghadeer, Occupational Therapist at The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre – Jerusalem

Heart to Heart - From Jerusalem to Gaza

Psychological Support Services

Despite the complicated conditions, our team in Gaza is committed to providing the highest level of services with all available resources. To ensure the psychological stability of staff and volunteers, Musa, the social worker in our therapeutic Unit in Gaza, provided psychological support. At the time, the team was also providing therapeutic care for 40 individuals with disabilities, including children with disabilities, who had sought refuge in their displaced area. Musa expressed his pride, saying: "I was very proud of this work, which focused on meeting basic needs regardless of differences, especially in circumstances where people had lost their homes and places of residence."

Moreover, a workshop was held on working with children with trauma for those staff in our Princess Basma Rehabilitation Centre who are mentoring colleagues in Gaza. A consultant Psychologist led the training and we were delighted to have our small Princess Basma team in Gaza join online. In spite of the challenges in communication with intermittent Wi-Fi, both our Jerusalem and our Gazan staff learned and shared together, united as one team, taking strength from one another to face the challenges ahead.



In the presence of His Grace Archbishop Hosam Naoum and Chairman of the Board, the Members of the Board of Directors of JPBC in Jerusalem are briefed on the most important achievements and developments in the Centre

The Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum – Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, and the members of the Board of Directors, visited the facilities of the institution, including the Rehabilitation center and the Inclusive school. During the visit they were closely briefed on the latest achievements, the most important of which were the new Audiology unit, which provides hearing screening and assessment services for children, and the two playgrounds that have been newly renovated, to the delight of all students and staff.

Archbishop Naoum and the members of the Board of Directors expressed their pride in the quality services provided at the center and praised the efforts of the management and all the staff who work there.

It is worthy of mentioning that The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) located on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives, operates under the umbrella of the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East and under the supervision of the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem in the fields of Health, Disability and Inclusive Education.



Special thanks to all of our visitors during the turbulent times



The Rt. Revd. Gregory H. Rickel, then
Chair of the American friends of
Diocese of Jerusalem
10/1/2024



The Rt. Revd. Christopher Chessun,
Bishop of Southwark, UK supported by
the Very Revd. Canon Richard Sewell,
Dean of St George's College,
Jerusalem
17/1/2024



Embrace the Middle East, Jamie Eyre,
then Director of Programmes, Engagement
and Advocacy, now Chief Executive
Officer and David McColl, Programmes
and Partnerships Manager
19/3/2024



The Revd Canon Rachel Carnegie,
Anglican Alliance Executive Director
21/3/2024



The Ecumenical Accompaniment
Programme in Palestine and Israel team
(EAPPI)
26/2/2024



Roxanne Jones, Director of Global
Programs and the Global Careforce
team
27/2/2024



The Rt. Revd. Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani,
Bishop of Chelmsford supported by Dr
Charles Reed, the Church of England's
International Affairs Adviser, and the
Very Revd. Canon Richard Sewell,
Dean of St George's College,
6/5/2024



The Revd. David Umphlett, Holy
Trinity Episcopal Church Greensboro
NC. USA
22/5/2024



The Rt. Revd. Anthony Poggo,
Secretary General of the Anglican
Communion and the Rt. Revd.
Humphrey Southern, Principal of
Ripon College Cuddesdon, UK.
5/6/2024



Embrace the Middle East, Tim Livesey
then Chief Executive Officer and Jamie
Eyre, then Director of Programmes,
Engagement and Advocacy
5/6/2024



The Revd. Matthew Dayton-Welch,
Rector of Church of the Epiphany, New
York, USA
10/6/2024



The Revd Jude Levermore, Head of
Mission and Jillian Moody, Director of
Communications, the Methodist
Church UK
12/6/2024



Photo of The Rt. Revd. Anthony Poggo's visit 5/6/2024

"It's been uplifting to learn about the work of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre , which operates under the patronage of Archbishop Hosam Naoum in Jerusalem... It was a pleasure to meet some of the staff and witness their dedication to serving these children.... Providing services to those in need is central to the Church's mission in Jerusalem. Let's remember them in our prayers. They deserve all the encouragement and support we can offer, especially in times like these."

Bishop Anthony Poggo

Adam's Journey: Overcoming Challenges and Embracing Possibilities

Adam recently completed his fourth admission at the JPBC; his journey began with a diagnosis at eight months old. A lack of oxygen during birth caused physical disability, because of which he was referred for rehabilitation and treatment. His family began visiting local clinics in their area, until they were introduced to the Basma Centre, during a visit to our partner in Nablus Farah Centre. At this time, Adam was three years and eight months old.

Adam's mother says: "When we received the diagnosis, my psychological condition worsened and I felt like I was broken, but thanks to the support of my children, my husband and the entire family, I was able to overcome this crisis and began the journey of treating my child, seeking the best services and facilities so that I could provide the best for my child. Our journey took us to the Basma Centre, where my child is currently being treated".

In Adam's first admission, his mother had simple dreams, such as being able to dress him easily as he had great difficulty moving his right hand, and she also wished that he could express himself, but his voice was very weak and he tried to express himself with sign language. His social skills were limited as he was very reserved and closed to himself and his mother.



However, at the Basma Centre, Adam received comprehensive rehabilitation services that enabled him to benefit from the different types of treatments offered at the Centre.

This helped his development, as Adam can now move his right hand. He uses it effectively during therapy sessions as he became social and enjoyed "playing with the therapists" as he put it. His communication skills have developed hugely; he listens well and interacts with adults and children.

Our professional staff are currently working to prepare Adam academically so that he can start school soon. His mother now dreams of Adam becoming independent and being able to rely on himself, especially for everyday tasks such as going to the toilet or putting on his shoes. As for himself, he tries to help his mother at home and with any household chores as he can, although he is aware of the challenges. On a social level, he is very active and now aged 6 years old, told us that he is happy about this interview, as he will become famous if many people read it.

Measuring success and quality through the of our children

In an interview, we spoke with Lucy Gharyeb, the Clinical Services Coordinator at our Child Rehabilitation Centre, who has been working to rehabilitate Palestinian children with disabilities for more than two decades. Her journey, marked by significant milestones and inspiring success stories, reflects her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of children and their families in Jerusalem, Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

From Physiotherapy to Coordination: a Long-Term Commitment

Lucy began her journey into the field of rehabilitation at a young age, driven by a personal interest that led her to pursue a bachelor's degree in Physiotherapy. In 2002, she joined the team at the Princess Basma Centre, and continued working in this field until 2020, when she became the Coordinator of Clinical Services at the Child Rehabilitation Centre. In her current role, she ensures smooth communication between staff, patients and their families. Lucy emphasized that her work is not only about coordinating services, but also about empowering children and their families through active participation in the rehabilitation program - a mission she considers essential to her career.

Evolution of Services: A Commitment to Excellence

Lucy said, "When I reflect on the 22 years I have spent at the Centre, I remember the significant progress that has been made in the services offered, while maintaining a high level of quality. The Centre has always placed great emphasis on the continuous training of its staff to develop their skills and improve their expertise, in addition to ongoing renovations and the introduction of important tools and equipment. This has transformed the Centre into a National Resource Centre known for following best practices."



Lucy also highlighted the importance of the Mother and Family Empowerment Program, which was launched in 1997 as one of its most impactful programs, pointing out that it has redefined the role of families in the rehabilitation process. She also mentioned the Centre's efforts to expand partnerships with rehabilitation centers in the West Bank through the Outreach Program, which serves no less than 1,200 children annually.

A Memorable Success Story: The Power of Rehabilitation

Among the many success stories, Lucy has one in particular that sticks in her memory. She recalled working with a child who had lost a limb. The journey of helping him adapt to a new prosthetic limb and regain his independence was full of challenges, but the joy of seeing him walk again was a great reward. Lucy believes this experience has fueled her passion for her work and reminded her what a huge impact rehabilitation can have on a child's life.

Measuring Success: The Smiles of Children and Families

Lucy explained that the success of the Centre's programs is evident in the increasing number of patients and the expansion of services throughout the region. She pointed out that the continued involvement of mothers and fathers in the rehabilitation of their children and the tangible progress in children's development are key indicators of the effectiveness of our services. Lucy emphasized that the most important measure of success is the smiles on the children's faces and the new hope in their mothers' eyes.

Special Occasions

The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre celebrates Mother's Day and World Autism Awareness Day 2024

As part of its efforts to promote community awareness and support, JPBC organized a celebration for Mother's Day and World Autism Awareness Day. On each of these days, the Centre organized a number of important interactive activities aimed at connecting children with their families and with other children benefiting from these activities to achieve therapeutic goals. The Centre believes in the importance of integration and participation for the children's progress, especially when the parents, particularly the mother, are part of the therapeutic process.

It is worth mentioning that the Centre organizes and benefits from celebrations every year on these very important days to raise awareness about autism and the needs of autistic children, in addition to strengthening the child's relationship with his mother, his family and his community.



Updates on Growth and Sustainability

Completion of the renovation of the inclusive playground at the Jerusalem Princess Basma Inclusive School

We are excited to announce the completion of our newly renovated inclusive playground. The playground has been designed to be a vibrant hub for the students, providing space for relaxation and sporting activities. This area has been designed to be safe and accessible for all students, with a focus on fostering an inclusive environment that meets the needs of all.



The final phase of the project involves the installation of a new elevator, an important addition that will allow students with physical disabilities to better play and interact with their friends. This elevator will connect all four floors of the facility, contributing to the principle of inclusion and providing equal opportunities for all students to participate and enjoy their time at school.

Seventh grader Noursan expressed her excitement, saying, "The playground is now brighter, more spacious and safer. I'm really excited when we will all be together with our friends, regardless of ability. As it's covered, we can enjoy our breaks whatever the weather."

The Jerusalem Princess Basma Inclusive School finishes the renovation of an outdoor activity hall and plans to renovate the kindergarten playground

The Jerusalem Princess Basma Inclusive School has recently completed the renovation of an outdoor activity hall at its inclusive school. This space has been transformed into an active and safe interactive area where school activities, workshops, educational gatherings, and interactive sessions are held. It is designed to enhance collaboration and integration between students, parents and teachers. The graduation ceremony for the 2023/2024 academic year was held in this space.

It is worth mentioning that we plan to renovate the kindergarten playground to create a clean, vibrant and attractive space where our young children can play and recreate in a safe and stimulating environment. This improvement is part of our ongoing commitment to foster the physical and social development of our children and provide them with a fun and healthy learning experience.



Inclusive School

Graduation of Fifteenth Cohort

On Sunday, May 19, 2024, The Jerusalem Princess Basma Inclusive School celebrated the graduation of its fifteenth Cohort of high school students in a special ceremony in the presence of Rev. Wadie Al-Far, member of the Board of Directors of the JPBC and Pastor of the Arab Parish



of St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, and Mrs. Violette Mubarak, General Director of JPBC. Rev. Wadih offered his blessings to the graduates and wished them a bright future full of success and achievement.

In her speech during the ceremony, the school's principal, Mrs. Shereen Saeed, emphasized that the school's mission revolves around human values and puts people first. She said, "Our educational vision and mission is based on a firm commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive school environment for all students, without exception." Mrs. Saeed praised the school's achievements during the academic year and highlighted the opening of the new playground, which represented the realization of the dreams and aspirations of many students, especially those with special needs. She added that the school has also opened an additional outdoor hall that is used as an additional playground and waiting room for special needs students, and also a new wing that includes three kindergartens, a computer lab and treatment rooms for special needs students. She concluded her speech by emphasizing that this growth and expansion is a living testimony to the collective efforts and commitment of JPBC to provide a comprehensive and excellent education to an increasing number of students. She also expressed her deep gratitude to the JPBC's Board of Directors, represented by His Beatitude Archbishop Hosam Naoum, for their unwavering support to the Centre and School, as well as to Mrs. Violette Mubarak for her dedication and continuous support to the school's administration.

Looking Ahead

The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre is committed to sustaining its services for children with disabilities from the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem, with a focus on expanding and enhancing these services. Our goal is to elevate our Gaza Centre to the same standards as our Jerusalem Centre, making it a leading National Centre for treatment and rehabilitation of children in the Gaza Strip.



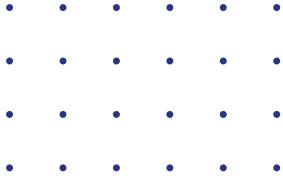
Thank you for your continuous support



We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support and commitment to our Centre. Your dedication helps us to overcome the challenges we face and make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. As we move forward, your involvement remains crucial to our success.

Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome, and we encourage you to reach out with any thoughts or ideas. Together, we can continue to drive positive change and achieve our shared goals.

Thank you once again for being an essential part of our journey. Your generosity and support inspire us every day.



We will continue to envision that all Palestinian children with disabilities have access to quality health services and inclusive education, can participate and influence, have hope and opportunities. This vision is being enhanced through our different programs that

you can learn more about by visiting our website www.basma-centre.org

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