



**AMERICAN
FRIENDS OF DVI**

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Mr. Bernard Seiler

**IN SUPPORT OF
THE TRUDI BIRGER DENTAL CLINIC**
29 Mekor Chaim St. Jerusalem 93465 Israel

Dear American Friends of DVI,

DVI has had a dynamic year!

The biggest news is that DVI is evaluating a new space to create a larger, modern clinic facility. The location being considered is in the industrial section of Talpiot, close to the current clinic, and more convenient to public transportation.

DVI has expanded its patient population by including children from organizations representing neglected children, abused children, children with special needs, and children of Jerusalem's gypsy community (the Domai). In response to increasing demand, the clinic is now open 5 days a week, has another dental assistant and has a fourth apartment available for volunteers. Thus, the average waiting time for an appointment has been significantly reduced.

Twice this year dentists associated with DVI have been honored by the municipality of Jerusalem. On March 24th, Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupoliansky presented an award to Dr. John Bengston, who has volunteered 15 times! On May 20th, 2008 the Jerusalem municipality's youth program gave an award to Dr. Moti Moskowitz for the DVI commitment to improving the oral health care of Jerusalem's "at risk" children.

In the U.S.A., we are developing and have begun rolling out a fantastic website about to be launched under the domain name of American Friends of DVI. This website is designed to inform with pictures, script and a video of the clinic. Trudi Birger is honored with her own page which gives the background of her life and memorializes her, which is especially informative for those who may not have had the honor of meeting this devoted and unusual woman. The website will allow for direct credit card donations and has been designed to support our organization by providing forms and brochures for our decentralized leaders.

We are also proud to announce that we have been listed on the American Dental Association International Volunteer Website.

All of these accomplishments could never have been achieved without two things—the wonderful dental volunteers, and the special friends who donate to give the facility the operating funds it needs to continue this important charitable work.

We are proud of our progress and at this time of the year reach out to you for your support. Let us all set aside a generous contribution to help make the new Trudi Birger Clinic a reality and continue our strong commitment toward program funding.

Sincerely,

Deborah Weisfuse DMD
Secretary



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DVI History

Since it's founding in 1980, Dental Volunteers for Israel has been providing free dental care to Jerusalem's most underprivileged children. At the state-of-the-art Trudi Birger Dental Clinic, children of all faiths referred by the Department of Social Welfare are treated by dentists from around the world. Volunteering services range from routine to complex dental procedures. DVI also runs a comprehensive preventative dental care program to help young patients develop good, long-term oral health habits. This worldwide work is made possible not only by the dentists who come to Israel and donate their time and expertise but also by businesses and individuals who donate supplies, equipment, and financial resources for our operating budget.

Although oral care is a key contributor to overall health, it is often considered an unaffordable luxury to underserved people who have little choice but to do without it. The situation is dire in Israel. Right now there are over 50,000 children living in poverty in Jerusalem and the numbers are continuing to rise. Dental Volunteers for Israel treats thousands of these children each month at the clinic, yet there are still thousands more who need our help.

There is no other organization that provides comprehensive, free dental care and education to disadvantaged children in Israel. DVI has won awards from the Mayor of Jerusalem, the Israel Ministry of Health, and the Movement for a Better Israel, which notably lauded DVI for encouraging brotherhood and tolerance between Jews and Arabs.

For more information please visit us on our website:

www.americanfriendsofdvi.org

Password: israel



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Volunteering

Volunteering can be a rewarding experience. By being a dental volunteer, you will be delivering dental care to children ages five through eighteen who come from underprivileged families in Jerusalem. The clinic has six fully equipped dental chairs and an English speaking Israeli resident staff of dental assistants and hygienists.

D.V.I. Offers:

- The dental clinic provides children with a full range of restorative dentistry and treatment.
- DVI promotes health education and provides children and their families with a comprehensive oral hygiene education program prior to receiving any clinical care. All of these services are provided free of charge.

The clinic performs one hundred treatments for children from underprivileged families every day. There have been 4,500 dentists from around the world that have volunteered at the clinic and many of them have returned several times to lend their knowledge and expertise to improving the lives of these children.

In response to increasing demand for DVI's services, the clinic hours have been expanded. The clinic is now open from Sunday through Thursday from eight a.m. to two p.m.

The clinic will provide their volunteers with a centrally located cost-free apartment in Jerusalem stocked with dishes and linens. Families of the volunteers are invited as well.

Every apartment is available from Friday around noon to the following Friday until nine a.m. Both of these times can be flexible, but details must be arranged ahead of time with Debbie debbie@dental-dvi.org.il.

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**Dental Volunteers for Israel
The Trudi Birger Dental Clinic**

The late Mrs. Trudi Birger, a Holocaust survivor saw children's care as her will in life, making a personal vow while in the concentration camps, to help needy children in Jerusalem. Realizing that children from poor families in Israel would never have the privilege to see the inside of a dental clinic, she decided she would somehow find a way to provide them with state of the art dentistry, free of charge. Without any resources, except for her powerful and influential personality and assistance from her personal friends, she set out to fulfill her vow.

In 1980 Mrs. Birger founded the Dental Volunteers for Israel D.V.I., a non-profit organization, to provide free dental care for Jerusalem's underprivileged children. Since then, D.V.I. has provided a full range of dental services, including oral hygiene, to children in need.

The clinic is operated by professional dentists who come from all corners of the world to volunteer at the clinic for periods ranging from 1 to 4 weeks. These dentists, together with their Israeli colleagues, provide state-of-the-art dental care to the underprivileged children of Jerusalem. Over the past 25 years, over 4,500 dentists from more than 20 countries have volunteered their professional services with D.V.I.

The clinic contains six dental workstations, X-ray unit, and a preventive care dispensary. The services reach a large population of approximately 130,000 children in Jerusalem who according to Israeli government statistics, live below the "poverty line". The children are referred to our program by Jerusalem's Department of Social Welfare Services.

Israel has no dental insurance or preventive educational program provided in school or any other educational program, not even in the media. D.V.I. treats, free of charge,

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between 100 and 150 children per day. Children treated at the clinic range from 5 to 18 years old. Most of these children are seeing a dentist for the first time in their life, and for many it is the first they have heard about oral hygiene. They receive their first toothbrush and are taught how to keep their teeth healthy for a lifetime. Dental Volunteers for Israel is proud to be able provide more than 1,000 free treatments each month to children who would otherwise not receive care.

The 'At-Risk Youth Division' of the Municipality of Jerusalem recognizes the D.V.I. clinic in Jerusalem as a Youth at Risk clinic, providing care for teenagers at risk up to 18 years old. The Municipality refers the teenagers to the clinic, to be cared for by our volunteer dentists. They also receive educational guidance in dental care in our preventive unit, learning how to take proper care of their teeth.

Recently, the Dental Volunteers for Israel clinic in Jerusalem has been awarded the title of a recognized facility for internships from the Pediatric Dentistry Specialty Program at the Hadassah Dental School.

In 2007 DVI welcomed 96 volunteer dentists who provided a total of close to 4,000 professional work hours, at a value of NIS1,507,200 (\$US386,460), and received donations of dental equipment to the value of NIS150,000 (\$US36,000). DVI is able to continue its activities all year round thanks to the support received from faithful volunteers and contributors of dental equipment.

The wish of D.V.I. is to see an expansion of friends and supporters to allow the continuation of this important mandate - offering state-of-the-art free dental care to the maximum number of needy children in Jerusalem.



Dental Volunteers for Israel

ארגון רופאי שיניים מתנדבים לישראל

The Trudi Birger Dental Clinic

FACT SHEET

2008

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Established in 1980 by the late Trudi Birger, the DVI Clinic provides state-of-the-art dental care at no cost to Jerusalem's underprivileged children & at-risk youth between the ages of 5 to 18 years.

The only free dental clinic in all of Israel for children in need.

- ❖ Volunteer dentists from all over the world, together with their Israeli colleagues, perform between 1,000 to 1,200 treatments each month. During the past 28 years, over 4,500 dentists have volunteered at DVI.
- ❖ The clinic treats children referred to DVI by Jerusalem's Social Welfare Service and at-risk youth centers. Over 200,000 children in Jerusalem – according to Israeli government statistics – live under “the poverty line.” These are DVI's patients.
- ❖ Before treatment, children and parents **must** participate in the Preventative Health Care Program provided on-site by the dental hygienists, to learn about oral health and how to properly take care of their teeth. The PHCP has a monthly intake of 600 children and parents.
- ❖ Since its inception, over 20,000 children have been treated at the clinic.
- ❖ Because dental health care costs are not covered by the Israeli government's health services, the DVI non-profit clinic is the **only** means by which Jerusalem's underprivileged children and at-risk youth can receive oral health care – including a *six-month recall program free of charge.*
- ❖ DVI *receives less than 5%* of its funding from two Israeli government grants. The clinic's operating budget is, therefore, almost totally dependent upon contributions from individuals, foundations and organizations.
- ❖ During the last year, 121 volunteers from around the world provided more than 12,000 treatments.
- ❖ DVI is an authorized training facility for Pediatric Dentistry interns.

You can help DVI's Trudi Birger Dental Clinic continue its vital service to Jerusalem's children in need by making a donation:

Tax-deductible donations in the US:
American Friends of DVI
c/o Dr. Deborah Weisfuse Lipner
45 East End Ave. #14A
New York, NY 10028, USA

Tax deductible donations in Israel:
Dental Volunteers for Israel
29 Mekor Chaim St.
Jerusalem 93465
ISRAEL

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E-mail: dvi@zahav.net.il www.dental-dvi.org.il

WE NEED TALENT AND WE KNOW
DENTISTS HAVE WHAT IT TAKES!!!

YES! MY INTEREST IN THE TRUDI BIRGER
DENTAL CLINIC HAS BECOME GREATER

_____ I WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED
REGARDING SPENDING SOME TIME IN
JERUSALEM VOLUNTEERING.

_____ I WOULD LIKE TO SEE HOW I COULD BE A
MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE GREATER
NEW YORK REGION OF DVI.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

SEND TO:
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