

## The Year 2014 in Review

### Our mission

Today, amid one of the most deeply-rooted political and cultural conflicts in the Middle East, ***The Road to Recovery*** organization is bridging the divide with an initiative of hope, placing humanity before politics. Ours is a nonprofit organization of volunteers who believe that peace among Israelis and Palestinians should come about through engagement and personal interaction. Motivated to render humanitarian services, our volunteers break down the barriers of conflict by engaging on a personal level, transporting Palestinian patients on round-trips from the West Bank and Gaza to hospitals throughout Israel for treatment, hospitalization and check-ups.

### Who we are and what we do

We are about 600 volunteers donating time and the use of our own vehicles on a regular basis to transport Palestinian patients and their family guardians between the government checkpoints and the Israeli hospitals. Our service is provided mainly for Palestinian children with severe ailments who require medical treatment or procedures that are unavailable in the West Bank or Gaza. For these children and their families, logistics and travel costs to Israeli hospitals are prohibitive, particularly for those patients requiring regular and recurring treatment.



Our nation-wide information, referral and collaboration network includes Palestinian field volunteers, hospitals, and fellow non-profit Israeli and Palestinian organizations such as Doctors for Human Rights, Salametcom, Basmat el Amal, and Rabbis for Human Rights. Our activity involves transportation to Israeli hospitals all over Israel.

In addition to transporting Palestinian patients, we also assist those among them having limited means in the acquisition of specialized outpatient medical equipment. We also organize special rehabilitation and retreat days for Palestinian patients and their families in Israeli recreation destinations.

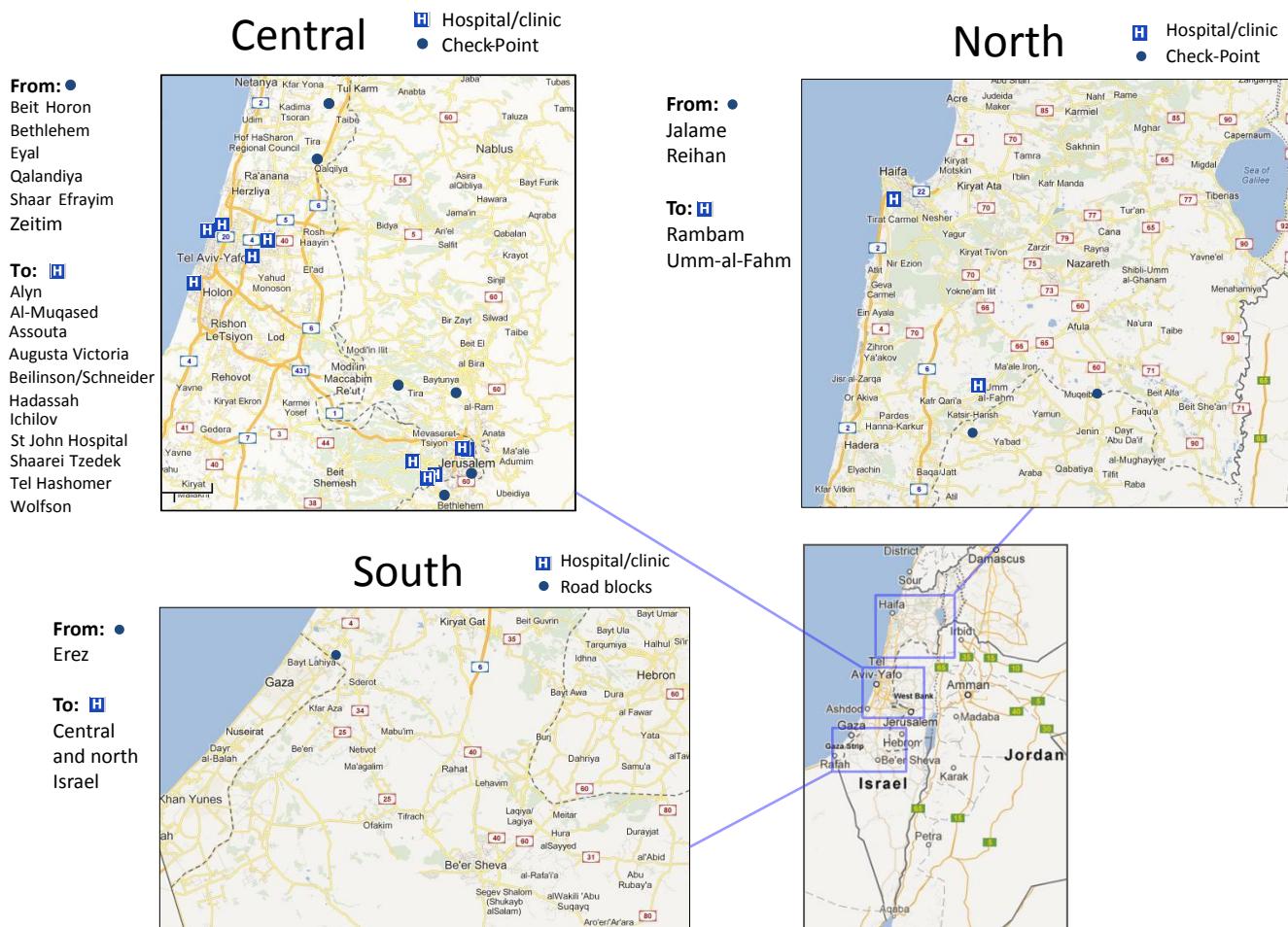
We have received countless thanks and heart-warming gestures of gratitude from the patients and their families. Since our organization's founding over 7 years ago, we have brought about an estimated 38,000 person-hours of interaction between Palestinians and Israelis, thereby forging special and personal bonds at unparalleled scale in the context of every-day life. ***The Road to Recovery*** is as much about the recovery of mutual respect, trust, dialog and friendship among Israelis and Palestinians as it is about individual patients' physical recovery.

## This year's highlights

### Patient Transportation Services

Thanks to our donors, in 2014 we were able to reimburse our volunteers for most of their gasoline expenses, a fact that enabled more volunteers to join our ranks. As of 2014, our ranks grew to over 600 volunteer drivers. In 2014 alone, our volunteers provided about 8,000 patient-trips (in about 3,650 hospital trips), mostly for children, covering over 329,000 miles.

The demand for our services grew substantially in 2014, especially for trips from Gaza to hospitals in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In 2014, we were able to meet nearly 100 percent of trip demand from the Northern West Bank, but less than 80 percent of the demand from the Southern West Bank and Gaza. Despite our on-going efforts to recruit additional volunteers, we are still having difficulties assigning volunteers to transport patients from Gaza. To meet the growing demand for patient transportation from Gaza after the armed conflict in the summer of 2014, we have started operating weekly chartered minibus trips, which we hope to double in frequency upon securing additional donations.



## Medical Assistance

During this year, we provided support for orthopedic medical equipment to **Mary Samar**, an 8-year-old girl from Gaza, whose lower body is paralyzed by Spina Bifida. In addition, with the charitable support of **Yafora-Tabori, Ltd.**, our organization helped a family from the Palestinian **village of Idna** to obtain bone-marrow for their 14 year-old son's future bone-marrow transplant.

## Recreational Patient Activities

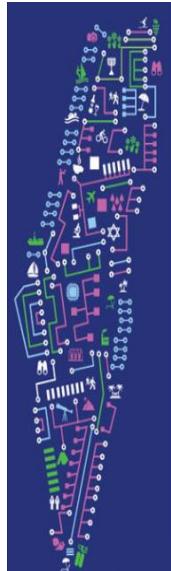
In October, we organized a recreation day for 180 West-Bank Palestinian patients and their families. Activities included time at the Mediterranean beach near Kibutz Maagan Michael, which sponsored the event with contributions from volunteers from Kibutz Gan Shmuel. Participants enjoyed sailing, beach games, workshops, and a group lunch sponsored by Adel Catering from Faradis.

## Annual meeting

Our annual volunteer meeting took place in the community center of Kafr Qara. Two hundred volunteers and spouses participated in the meeting. A welcome speech was delivered by Naim El-Baida, the Palestinian coordinator for the central region. It included a presentation reviewing the organization's activities, reports of regional coordinators, and a presentation about the Jordan River Village camp for children stricken by severe illnesses. A short stand-up comedy show concluded the event.

## Supporting Activities

This year, we have expanded our sources of support and donations in other countries. In the UK, our organization became an affiliate of the charitable organization **Children of Peace**. In the United States, we have set up a web site at [www.roadtorecovery-usa.org](http://www.roadtorecovery-usa.org) and have established a California branch to promote our cause, including by setting up a **booth** at Israel's 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day festival in Palo Alto. Other fundraising activities were initiated in the U.S. and we hope to see results in 2015. In Germany, the organization "Friends of Israel" has made appreciable charitable contributions to our cause, joining other anonymous donor organizations. This year, we continued to provide an Arabic language course in Tel Aviv, instructed by our volunteer Eyal Ofek. We have added a beginner's course in 2014. These courses for our members will improve communications with our patient-passengers and their families.



## Communication and scheduling system

Our scheduling, routing and communication "cloud-based" online portal is currently used by virtually all our volunteers. This indispensable system captures trip schedules by regions and contains member contact information database to facilitate coordination.

The screenshot shows a Google Sheets spreadsheet with the following structure:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	אנדרו גולד	12.1.13	13.1.13	13.1.13	13.1.13	13.1.13	14.1.13	14.1.13	15.1.13
2	050-5281899.טל	שבת	יום	יום	יום	יום	יום	יום	שבת
3	שנה	9:00:00	7:00:00	7:00:00	7:00:00	8:00:00	7:00:00	7:00:00	7:00:00
4	טבר	רין	רין	ג'ליה	אל	מיר	ירישם	ג'ליה	רמב
5	בית חולים	הדסה	רמב	רמב	שבא	להב	תיל-טהורה	רמב	רמב
6	אומ-א-פואטם	אנט	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
7	מנוגוטים	סאדי	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
8	ויד'ם	עליכם	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
9	הלוֹן	הלוֹן	הלוֹן	הלוֹן	הלוֹן	הלוֹן	הלוֹן	הלוֹן	הלוֹן
10	שם הסטודנטה	יגי אטדרור	יעוד פאולין	פיעיטה תואר	דנין של	ימקבן	רב שפר	יעל ארמן	
11	סופר תחומיות	4	-	-	4	4			
12	שם הסטודנטה								
13	סופר תחומיות								
14	חוּר	חוּר	חוּר	חוּר	חוּר	חוּר	חוּר	חולמי בלען	
15	שם המסייעה	יגי אטדרור	יגי בבר	-	-	יגי גאל	רב שפר	חולמי בלען	
16	סופר תחומיות	4	3	-	-	-	4		
	שם המסייעה								

## Special Thanks and Acknowledgement

This year we received substantial support and members' voluntary contributions from the Kibbutzim **Yisre'el Tsuba** and **Be'eri**. This support augmented the extensive support we received from our existing kibbutzim supporters **Hatzerim**, **Ein Shemer**, **Gan Shmuel**, **Mishmar Haemek**, and **Ma'agan Michael**.

**Sally Becker**, known as the 'Angel of Mostar' for her rescue work in the Bosnian war, paid us a visit in September and was deeply impressed by our organization's activities. Sally is connected to several international peace organizations, and she expressed her willingness to support our work.

We also wish to thank and acknowledge the invaluable cooperation of the following organizations: **El Shafaa el Rahma** for loaning medical equipment; **Basmat el Amal** for referring Gaza patients and coordinating their trips; **Salametcom** of Abu Gosh for their in-hospital patient support; **Jamal Knaani** for maintaining communications with donors in the Wadi Ara region; and to the women of **Machsomwatch** for their dedicated support and availability to patient families.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our regional coordinators who make our mission possible: **Shagi Galili** and **Nurit Shelef** (Northern region), **Chico Inbar** and **Ali Blatman** (Central region), **Amalia Weisel** (Southern region), and our Palestinian coordinator **Naim El Baida** (Central region).

Special thanks are due **Ohad Richmond, Esq.**, accountants **Meir Mohaven** and **Ofer Davidovich** for contributing their professional services. We thank **Kulu Orr** for maintaining our web site and managing our email communications, and **Rotem Gur** for her general assistance. We wish to thank **Eyal Ofek** for his voluntary instruction of the Arabic language courses for our members, and to **Eli Sahar** for hosting the course at his home. We are also grateful for the communication and fundraising work done this year in the United States on our behalf by **Smadar Schiffman**, **Revital Katznelson**, and **Ron Katznelson**. Our U.S. volunteers are working diligently to qualify our organization for inclusion on the Global Giving web site in 2015. We recognize and thank **Axel Ewald** for editing, translating, subtitling, and posting the heart-warming [video about a day in the life of Afnan](#), a Gazan patient. Finally, we wish to thank our founder **Yuval Roth** for his hard work, leadership, dedication and inspiration. We also thank his wife **Yael Roth Barkai** for her tireless efforts in national coordination, communications and in helping bringing us all together.