



July 2021

Half Year Report

## **Half Year Activity Report: January-July 2021**

### **Latet's 'Aid for Life' Program**

**Dear friends from Germany, dear members of the Mitzva e.V community,**

We hope this first half of 2021 has been quiet and joyful for you and your beloved ones despite the -still- difficult situation. Again, Latet and its Aid for Life recipients would like to personally thank you for your gracious donations since last year. Since 2007, Aid for Life has helped ease the medical, physical, and emotional needs of Israel's Holocaust survivors living in poverty. We aim to convey a message of solidarity, respect, care, and concern for our survivors. Our holistic efforts towards providing physical and social assistance to impoverished Holocaust survivors in Israel would not be possible without the contribution of your amazing community.

As you know, due to COVID-19, this past year has been one of the most strenuous and unprecedented years for the Holocaust survivors in our program, and the need for our aid has been larger than ever before. The most terrible repercussion is the sense of loneliness and isolation the elderly felt.

That is why we decided to expand our program and add new recipients to our Aid for Life program. The goal is to add 300 new monthly beneficiaries until the end of 2021 (1300 in total). All survivors in the program received in addition to the regular food package a large basket of fruits, vegetables, eggs, and dairy products every month.

Also, from January to July, we were able to complete 195 home renovations, provide dental care for 21 survivors, monthly adult diapers to 82, and glasses to 53 survivors to name a few successes.

With your contribution, we were not only able to adapt to this increase in need, but we are also furthering our mission of raising awareness and support for impoverished Holocaust survivors. The pandemic has shown us how important our program is to these survivors and has motivated us to continue taking mutual responsibility to help impoverished Holocaust survivors live the rest of their lives in peace.



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Your partnership with Latet is highly valued, and your renewed support is essential to the success of our common and larger mission of giving Holocaust survivors a chance to live their lives with honor and dignity.

***Kindly find below some highlights on our projects.***

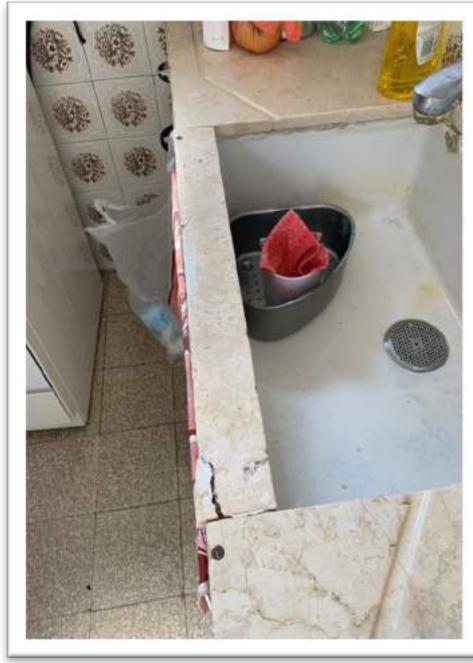
### **Home Renovations**

During the first half of the year, the apartments of 195 Holocaust survivors were renovated. We continue to witness the importance of this form of assistance for the survivors who are supported by us, and who are personally unable to address the many problems in their homes. Referrals are passed on by the program volunteers or even the survivors themselves, and receive an efficient and prompt response by the staff, as shown in the cases of Susan and Yosef:

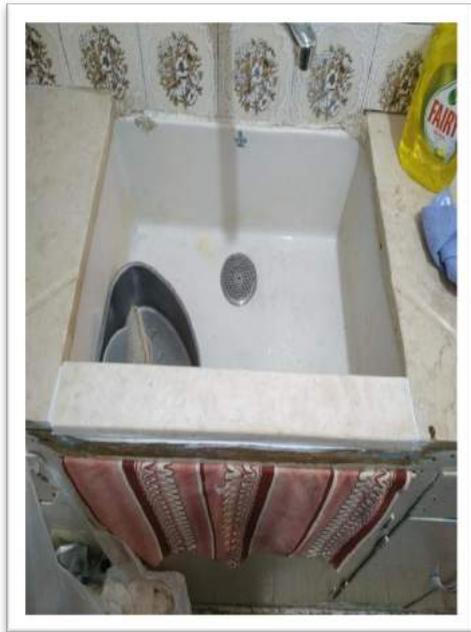
#### ***Susan's story***

Susan is a childless Holocaust survivor from Bet Shemesh, with her only family being her younger sister. We were called to help and visit the house after Susan lost consciousness in her home, and Magen David Adom together with the fire brigade had to break into her house to rescue her. As a result, her window was damaged and her sister contacted the social worker, who in turn asked us for help. We also addressed additional needs, such as replacing the faucet in the bathroom and making repairs to the kitchen countertop.

**Before**



**After**



### ***Yosef's story***

Yosef is a Holocaust survivor from Holon who lives in an apartment on the third floor without an elevator. Yosef cannot move around on his own – not even inside his house – and therefore is assisted by a caregiver 24 hours a day. He has one daughter who takes care of him but is unable to help him financially with the cost of the needed renovations at home. We removed the bathtub in his bathroom and paved to install a shower so that he could wash safely and replaced the dilapidated sink. We also repaired the uneven tiles in his room, which had been making it difficult for the caregiver to move the wheelchair outside the room, and we repaired the wall in the bathroom following moisture damage.



### **Volunteers**

The corona crisis brought with it many challenges, especially for the elderly population. We instructed all the + 1000 volunteers who normally visit Holocaust survivors to continue to be in touch with them, in parallel with a whole set of additional volunteers – speakers of different languages – who had talks and continuous contact with the survivors in the program, to alleviate loneliness and show them that they are not alone.

A quote from Elad, one of the volunteers, about his relationship with Yael, the survivor that he has volunteered with for 13 years:

"My relationship with Yael was built over a period of time. At first, it was a little hard for me and her to both open up, but over the years we have opened up to each other and today I feel like she is my third grandmother. I am very happy that I had the opportunity to take part in the project and develop such a relationship with Yael."

A quote from Zehava, one of the volunteers:

"Lilia is a very lovely woman. She lives alone in Beer Sheva, and every time I come with the food package she is excited and thanks me wholeheartedly and endlessly. We talk a little, I offer more help...and she never asks a thing more. I strengthen her and in turn I leave strengthened. The power in her personality captivates the heart. There is no doubt that I won with this opportunity."



***In the photo: Zehava and Lilia***

## **Mishloach Manot for Passover**

On the occasion of Purim, a collaboration was held with the Israel Police service, which recruited its police officers and, in cooperation with their families, packed special parcels that were distributed to the survivors as part of the monthly food distribution by volunteers of the organization.



## **Passover**

For Passover we changed the composition of the package and enlarged it to fit the dietary requirements of the festival. All the products in the food basket were kosher for Passover, and we also added matzah, matzah flour, cookies, charoset and wine.

Additionally, during the holiday we were prepared to respond to urgent inquiries from Holocaust survivors in need who are not in our regular assistance program but need one-off assistance before Passover. Leading from this, we expanded the scope of assistance provided to 150 additional survivors in need.

Usually before Passover we hold social events in order to alleviate the loneliness of the Holocaust survivors in the program. Due to the corona crisis we had been unable to do this last Passover, and it was sadly not possible either this year, so we formed collaborations with the companies that usually host these events as well as other organizations, and they sent the survivors home cooked meals for the holiday as well as various gifts to lift their spirits. This holiday we were

able to address all Holocaust survivors in the assistance program with a visit from at least one volunteer.

***In the photos: Representatives from the Prison Service and a representative from Elbit distribute holiday gifts to the survivors***



### **Yom Hashoah**

In preparation for Yom Hashoah the 'Eshel Hanasi' boarding school near Beer Sheva invited Rachel, a Holocaust survivor from the program to a special meeting in which she told the boys the story of her life. The boys were very moved by her story and thanked her from the bottom of their hearts.

***In the photo: the end of the meeting with the boarding school students who had prepared a blessing of thanks and appreciation for Rachel.***



## **Memorial Day - Holocaust Martyrs 'and Heroes' Remembrance Day**

During the 76th Holocaust Remembrance and Heroism Day, 20 Israeli influencers hosted 20 Holocaust survivors via Instagram for an intimate and exciting meeting that dealt with the story of their childhood during the war. For the first time in the world, we historically received a rare glimpse into the testimony of the survivors and we had the privilege of following their lives in Israel, some of whom as mentioned are experiencing a reality of poverty and great loneliness. About half of the survivors who participated in the project are supported by a giving organization and receive ongoing assistance. The project was conducted in collaboration with Facebook Israel and gained immense resonance. More than 2.5 million Israelis watched the various stories and we managed to reach new and young audiences.



## **Distribution of glasses in Be'er Sheva**

During the month of May, we launched an amazing campaign in which in one day we adjusted glasses for about 30 needy Holocaust survivors in the city of Beer Sheva. Thanks to the wonderful volunteers and the joint teamwork of all the factors, we were able to centralize the requests in the city and coordinate the arrival of all the survivors.



**Thank you Mitzva e.V for what we accomplish thanks to you,  
Latet Family**

