

The New MICHA Jerusalem בית מיחא ירושלים החדש بيت ميخا الجديد في القدس



הקרן לירושלים
THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION
مؤسسة صندوق القدس

New Home for MICHA Jerusalem

A Multidisciplinary Early Childhood Center Providing
Therapeutic, Educational & Rehabilitative Services to
Children with Hearing Impairments & Their Families

Dedicated April 20, 2015



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בית מיחא ירושלים
MICHA Jerusalem
بيت ميخا القدس



Municipality of Jerusalem
Office of the Mayor

April 20, 2015

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend my good wishes on the occasion of the dedication of a wonderful new home for MICHA Jerusalem by the Jerusalem Foundation, with the generous support of its friends from Israel and around the world.

The beautiful, diverse human mosaic that comprises Jerusalem's population is a source of pride for this magnificent city, and I applaud MICHA for its pioneering work that enables young children with hearing impairments from all sectors a chance to integrate and succeed within that mosaic.

Creating quality education for all of Jerusalem's residents is of the highest priority to me personally and to the city of Jerusalem. Taking care of the hopes and dreams of the next generation will lead us into the future.

Sincere thanks and congratulations to all of you who helped make this dream a reality and wishing all of our children a bright future.

Sincerely,

Nir Barkat
Mayor of Jerusalem



The Jerusalem Foundation

The legendary mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek had a dream of building a multicultural city where all of its people could live together equally – religious and secular, veteran and new immigrant, rich and poor, Muslim, Christian and Jewish. In 1966, to provide Jerusalem supporters worldwide with a forum to build this new reality together, he established the Jerusalem Foundation, which has since played a key role in Jerusalem's development as a pluralistic, modern and economically vibrant city, focusing on Community, Education, Culture and Coexistence.

The Foundation works with the Municipality and many local partners to identify and implement high impact projects that are catalysts for change. With the active partnership of friends around the world over the nearly 50 years since its inception, the foundation has raised over \$1.5 billion and invested in physical and programmatic endeavors that enhance the city and the quality of life of all its residents. Indeed, Jerusalem would be unrecognizable without the work of the Jerusalem Foundation, rising above the city's political complexities to touch every population, every social group of every age, in every neighborhood of the city.

The Micha Jerusalem Association for the rehabilitation of hearing impaired children

The Micha Jerusalem Association, founded in 1969 by concerned parents and professionals, provides advanced, multidisciplinary, therapeutic, educational and rehabilitative services to infants and young children with hearing impairments from all sectors of Israeli society. For over 40 years, the center in Jerusalem has accompanied the children and their families from the moment of the impairment's detection through the child's successful rehabilitation and integration into the hearing world and education system.





MICHA Jerusalem is the only institution in the city providing holistic treatment to very young hearing-impaired children and their families regardless of social, religious, cultural or ethnic background. It offers a comprehensive package of services throughout the week, and each child is given the tools to acquire good communication, language and speech skills and the equal opportunity to develop to their full potential.



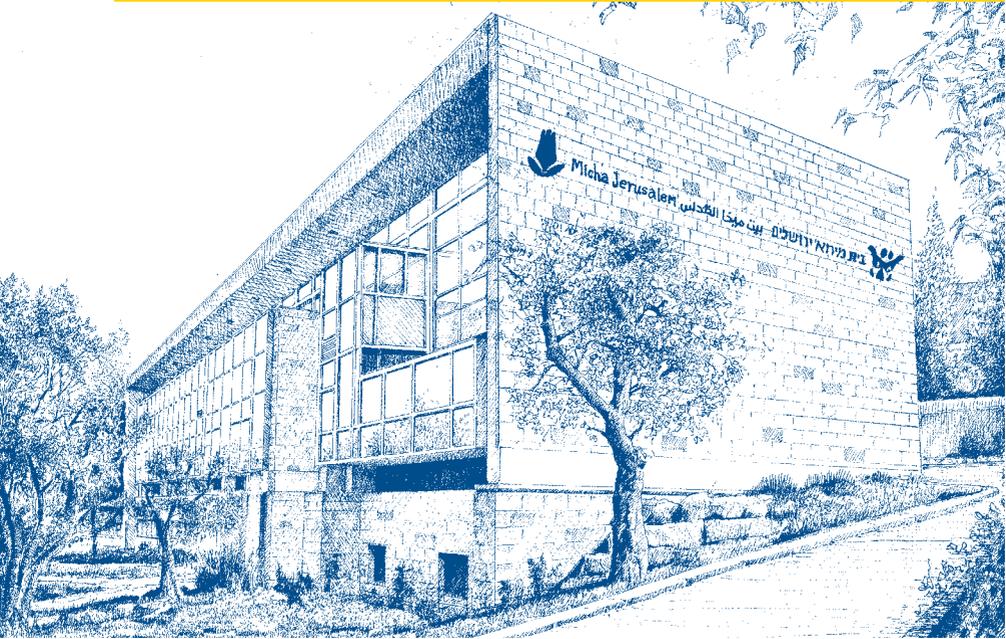
The greater and earlier the investment in hearing-impaired infants and children in their formative years, the more spectacular results they can achieve. With the help of today's sophisticated hearing aids or cochlear implants, Arabic and Hebrew speaking speech therapists, social workers, psychotherapists and physiotherapists, specially trained infant care professionals and kindergarten teachers, MICHA Jerusalem provides access to advanced early intervention methods and enables the youngest children to hear and integrate with the hearing world.



The New Building

Until now, MICHA Jerusalem has operated out of the back classrooms of an elementary school in the city center, lacking accessibility and the necessary conditions to provide a full variety of advanced services for young children with hearing disabilities. Aware of this need, the Jerusalem Foundation devised an innovative solution to multiply benefit by creating a new home for MICHA Jerusalem and enabling the provision of various existing services for this population within the same building. The Foundation brought together generous donors, government and municipal support, land provided by the municipality, meticulous designing and two years of construction, culminating in the dedication on April 20, 2015 of a wonderful, new building, which includes a permanent home for MICHA Jerusalem at its core.

The new building sits on a hill with a panoramic Mount Zion view visible throughout the complex in Abu Tor, an easily accessible and uniquely mixed neighborhood of Hebrew and Arabic speakers. There, the children spend their time in safe, well equipped and comfortable surroundings, playing and learning like their hearing peers.



The 3-story structure, stretching some 1,500 sq. meters to house MICHA Jerusalem and pre-existing institutions on the lower level, was completed and equipped by the Jerusalem Foundation in consultation with a team of acoustics and accessibility advisors, MICHA's professional staff and the Jerusalem Social Services Bureau. MICHA Jerusalem professionals and family members can observe and hear the children from outside classrooms and therapy rooms through one-way glass, a state-of-the-art, dynamic sound system and special acoustic elements that facilitate the listening and concentration of the hearing-impaired children.

Designed according to Israel's latest green or sustainable construction standards to save energy and provide optimal natural light without glare, and accessible to persons with disabilities, the building provides separate entrances and full autonomy to three institutions housed there -- MICHA and its Audiology Institute, the Jerusalem Bureau of Social Services for Arabic-Speaking Persons with Disabilities and the Jerusalem Rehabilitation Center for Arabic-Speaking Children with Hearing Impairments -- while enabling them to benefit from shared resources and facilities.

The Jerusalem Foundation also established a rooftop panoramic observation deck accessible via a bridge at street level and open for the public's enjoyment.

MICHA Jerusalem offers:

- Specialized preschools and an integrated kindergarten for hearing and hearing-impaired children
- Various preschool frameworks enabling placement according to individual need and the parents' choice
- Individual speech, hearing and language therapy
- Specialized infant childcare & therapeutic services
- Movement, music, gardening, occupational, physical and animal-assisted therapy
- Innovative diagnostic testing for early detection
- Fitting and training in the use of hearing devices
- A hearing aids lending bank and discount store
- Psychological and sociological testing and counseling



- Special guidance and emotional support programs for parents
- Home care and expert guidance services
- Special afterschool and summer programs
- A games and books lending library
- A professional resource center and lecture hall
- A scholarship fund for MICHA Jerusalem graduates
- Practical training for university students in related fields
- Increasing public awareness and attitudes regarding persons with hearing impairment
- Conferences, advanced courses and workshops for professionals
- Involvement in relevant research projects
- Volunteers – the backbone of MICHA Jerusalem
- Outdoor playground adapted to the needs of children up to age 5 with disabilities
- A vegetables and herbs garden and gardening program





Yonas, or "Sunshine" as we call him, came very late to MICHA at the age of 2½ years, unable at first to make use of language or gestures to communicate. Now at age 3½, he laughs and plays with other children and even started speaking. Everyone including the staff was surprised by the progress Yonas made in only one year. "On long and difficult days, just one look at Sunshine is enough to know why I'm here"

(Ofra, speech therapist)

We are pleased to inaugurate the following facilities in MICHA Jerusalem:

- Activity Rooms, gift of Friends from Switzerland and Liechtenstein
- Audiology Institute, gift of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, USA
- Occupational Therapy Room and Kindergarten Classroom, gifts of the Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Foundation, Germany
- Outdoor Playground & Garden, gift of BILD hilft e. V. "Ein Herz für Kinder", Germany
- Preschool Wing, gift of Sternstunden e.V., Germany



The Jerusalem Foundation and MICHA Jerusalem are profoundly grateful to our donors and partners, whose generous support made this dream a reality, listed in alphabetical order:

Germany

Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Foundation
BILD hilft e.V. "Ein Herz für Kinder"
Sternstunden e.V.

Israel

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Liechtenstein

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Switzerland

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Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

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The Jerusalem Foundation
11 Rivka Street, POB 10185
Jerusalem 9110101
Israel
Tel. +972-2-675-1714
info@jfm.org



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مؤسسة صندوق القدس

www.jerusalemfoundation.org