



NEWSLETTER FALL 2004

Summer Camp in Kishinev In July 2004, JHI sent a team of four healthcare professionals to conduct medical screenings of all the campers at a Jewish Agency-sponsored summer camp, held in the countryside, outside of Kishinev, Moldova. Julie Kaminsky, JHI Assistant Director, led the team, which included: Dr. Paul Hart, Family Practice, Sterling, MA, Jennifer Breitbart, Oncology Nurse, New York, Dr. Lea Even, Pediatrician, Haifa, Israel and Anat Solsky, Pediatric Nurse, Kibbutz Gat, Israel. Each of the 164 campers (ages 9-17) was given a physical exam which included: height, weight, BMI, medical history, pulmonary function), hearing screening, and a vision screening. Overall results indicate that the children attending this camp were quite healthy and normal, however, it is assumed that children with serious medical problems would not have been allowed to attend the camp.

At the suggestion of one of the local doctors that JHI works with, all campers were also given the Reynolds Adolescent Depression Scale, test. Depression is one of the most prevalent psychiatric disorders in adolescents and may cause significant impairment in daily functioning. The test showed that a significant number of the children suffer from some form of depression. Future JHI missions will now include Child Psychology and/or Social Work to follow up on this issue. Mission volunteers also delivered health promotion seminars to small groups of campers. These seminars promoted sustainable life-style changes and will be continues on future missions.



Home Visit in Odessa, Oct 2004

(From left to right): JHI translator, **Chana Mairaz**, JHI nurse from Beit -Yanai, Israel, Hesed homecare worker, **Labov** (Hesed client) and **Dr. John Goldkrand**, OB/GYN from Savannah, GA.

Just seeing this program in action and what it means to provide dignity to these people brings a reality one can only get by being here...

very very moving time for me.

-Dr. John Goldkrand

Accomplishments

Since July 1999, JHI has made a significant impact.

-JHI has sent 340 American and Israeli volunteers on 70 missions to 8 different sites in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union.

-JHI volunteers have delivered 749 lectures to 26,989 local physicians and home care workers.

-JHI volunteers have given second opinion consultations to 2088 patients and visited 248 patients in their homes.

-JHI has used its collaborations and contacts to leverage medical care for over 10,000 members of the Jewish community for major surgeries, regimens of chemotherapy, medical evaluations, consultations and otherwise inaccessible services

-JHI has donated pharmaceuticals and medical equipment valued at over \$600,000

The Beltsy Baby

On a JHI mission to Kishinev, Moldova in March 2002, a JHI team of doctors and nurses visited a baby in Beltsy (a town outside Kishinev). The baby was born with a serious neurological disorder called myelomeningocele, which causes multiple problems including impairment of normal neurological growth and development. After making the initial diagnosis and sending two additional JHI teams to examine the child, JHI determined that without surgical intervention, currently unavailable in Moldova, her life was in imminent danger.

JHI contacted Sheba hospital in Israel who agreed to provide almost all of the tests, pre operative care, surgical intervention and post-operative care and follow-up. The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and its local staff in Moldova assisted with the logistics of getting the child and her mother to Israel.

The surgery was completed in May 2004 and the baby is doing extremely well and her prognosis for a total recovery is superb with a high probability of reaching her full and growth and development potential. Back in Moldova, the baby is now followed closely by our teams and her future care is coordinated with the local Jewish community and specialists.

Once again, JHI was called upon to mobilize its partnerships and contacts to make a miracle happen. Whether it be an individual in need or an entire community at risk, JHI is committed to improving the health and quality of life of the Jewish world.

Dental Education in Ukraine - Dentists Morton Lang of Montreal, Canada, Walter Goddard of Ramot Israel and Yosef Kowalsky of Efrat, Israel spent a week in July 2004 visiting various

Jewish Agency summer camps in and around Kiev and Odessa. Most were attended by children, but there was even a camp for the elderly, including many Jews who survived World War II, and remained in or returned to various cities and villages in the area. At each camp, the dentists gave a brief lecture on the importance of oral hygiene. The kids were spellbound by the talk and the demonstrations of brushing and flossing. The three dentists screened most of the children and those with serious problems were referred for treatment to a local Jewish dentist who agreed to treat them for free, in exchange for JHI donated dental equipment and supplies.

Minsk Oncology Conference - Drs. Bernard Kabakow, Louis Harrison, Mark Persky and Bruce Wenig of New York, all high level experts in Head and Neck Cancer, lectured in October 2004 at a Scientific Conference entitled "Current Options of Organ Preservation Treatment in Head and Neck Cancer," held at the Institute of Oncology and Medical Radiology in Minsk, Belarus. The conference was co-chaired by Dr. Kabakow and the Director of the Institute of Oncology and Medical Radiology, Professor I.V. Zalutsky. Dr. Ella Evron of Hod Hasharon, Israel, lectured on Breast Cancer to Belarusian Oncologists at the Institute on the following day.

Center of Periodontal Excellence -Bikur Holim Jewish Hospital, Riga, Latvia - After visiting Riga in May 2004, Dr. Sheldon Sydney of Raanana, Israel and Dr. Stuart Fischman of Buffalo, NY developed a 4-phase program to establish a Center of Periodontal Excellence at Bikur Holim, In November 2004, Dr. Alex Osinovsky of Reston, VA and Dr. Stephen Sinykin of Bloomington, MN implemented the first phase of the program. They trained dentists at the Jewish Hospital to do comprehensive dental exams, including complete medical histories, selective probing and radiographic evidence to establish which patients would be candidates for continuation in the next perio-focused missions. After receiving this JHI training, Bikur Holim dentists are now able to establish a comprehensive treatment plan that begins with emergency care, followed by a comprehensive order of treatment. Subsequent missions will focus on Periodontal diagnostics, treatment planning, non-surgical therapy, and surgical interventions. Over the past four years, JHI has successfully established Centers of Excellence in Endoscopy and Ophthalmology at Bikur Holim, allowing the hospital to secure government contracts in these areas, to provide services to members of the Jewish community free of charge, and to generate revenue from private pay patients.