



## The Year 2013 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 500 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.

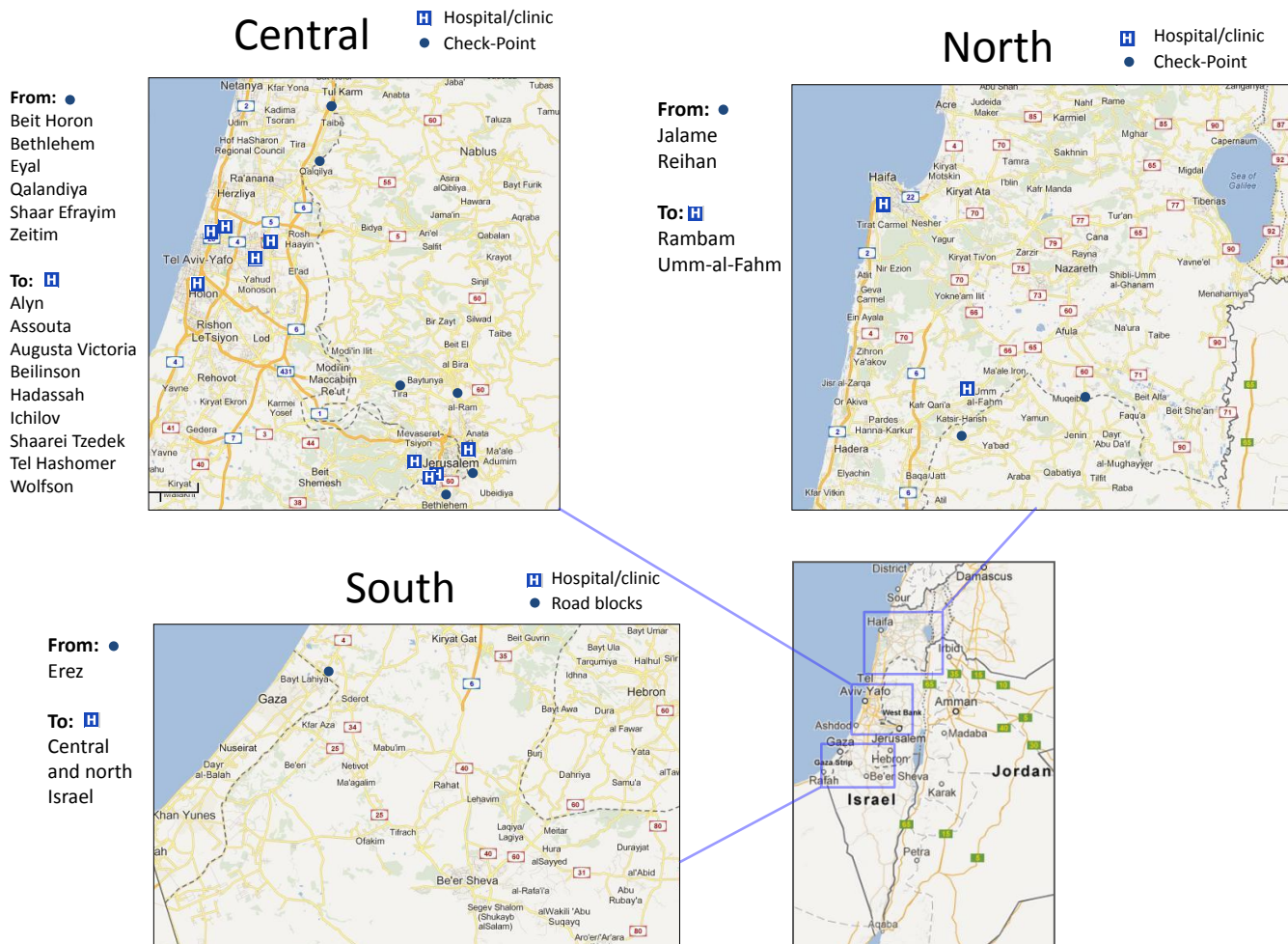
We have received countless thanks and heart-warming gestures of gratitude from the patients and their families. Since our organization's founding over 7 years ago, we have brought about an estimated 33,000 person-hours of interaction between Palestinians and Israelis, thereby forging special and personal 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 2013 we were able to reimburse our volunteers for their gasoline expenses, a fact that enabled more volunteers to join our ranks. As of 2013, our ranks grew to about 500 volunteer drivers. In 2013 alone, our volunteers provided about 8,000 patient-trips (in about 2,900 hospital trips), covering over 217,000 miles.

The demand for our services grew substantially in 2013; substantial growth in trip demand from Gaza arose this year thanks to the joining of a special Palestinian coordinator for the central region. In 2013, we were able to meet nearly 100 percent of trip demand from the West Bank and about 80 percent of the demand from Gaza. In addition to the hospitals identified in the accompanying maps, this year we have also transported Palestinian patients to the Schneider Children's Medical Center in central Israel, the Al Makassed Hospital and the St Jones Hospital in Jerusalem.



## Medical Assistance

During this year, we took a major part in special fundraising campaigns dedicated to:

- **Mohamed Alfra**, a 4-year-old amputee from Gaza, for defraying the cost of his extensive rehabilitation treatment.
- **Mary Samar**, a 7-year-old girl from Gaza, whose lower body is paralyzed by Spina Bifida, for surgery and the purchase of orthopedic equipment.

## Recreational Patient Activities

This July, we have organized a 4-day rehabilitation retreat to the [Jordan River Village](#) for 40 Palestinian patients and their guardians. In this camp, the children engaged in fun-filled, memorable and medically safe recreational activities, guided by professional and dedicated staff that spared no effort to enrich their experiences. Our volunteers contributed by organizing off-road trips, kayaking water sports, and visits to the city of Acre and several craft fairs.

In August this year, we have organized a vacation day for 160 Palestinian patients and their families. Activities included time at the Mediterranean beach, group lunch at the [Hekaya restaurant and entertainment center](#), and attending an evening performance by the Fantasia ensemble of Shfar'am.

Both of these summer excursions and related activities have been supported in part by generous financial and logistics contributions made by the Israeli Arab community, whose cooperation helped make these two summer events a success.

## Supporting Activities

This year, we have expanded our sources of support and donations in other countries. In the United States, we have set up a sister 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 65<sup>th</sup> Independence Day festival in Palo Alto. Other fundraising activities were initiated in the U.S. and we hope to see initial results in 2014. In Germany, the organization "Friends of Israel" has made appreciable charitable contributions to our cause, joining other anonymous donor organizations. This year, we commenced with an Arabic language course in Tel Aviv, instructed by our volunteer Eyal Ofek. This course 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.

Communications among our member volunteers is enhanced by our annual national meetings. This year, 300 people took part in our annual meeting in Yakum, where we enjoyed a spectacular circus show.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	באחריות יגול	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	טל 050-5281899	שבת	ראשון	ראשון	ראשון	ראשון	שני	שני	שלישי
3	שעה	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	מעבר	ריתון	ריתון	ריתון	ג'למה	איל	מיתר	ירושלים	ג'למה
5	בית חולים	אום-אל-פאחם	הדסה	רמבם	רמבם	שיבא	להבים	תל-השומר	רמבם
6	מבוגרים	אמ"ד	2	1	2	2	1	2	2
7	ילדים	מא"י	2	על כנבא	1	1	1	1	2
8	הלוך	הלוך	הלוך	הלוך	הלוך	הלוך בלבד	הלוך	הלוך	הלוך
9	שם המסע	חגי אתמרי	יגול רות	עוד אפרת	פננת אתנה	דורן לי	יעקב גול	דבי שפיר	הלוך
10	מספר מקומות	4			4	4			
11	שם המסע								
12	מספר מקומות								
13	חזור	חזור	חזור	חזור	חזור	חזור	חזור	חזור	חזור
14	שם המסע	חגי אתמרי		צבי נביר					
15	מספר מקומות	4		3					4
16	שם המסע								

## Special thanks and acknowledgement

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

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; 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** (Northern region), **Chico Inbar** (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 course 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 Shiffman**, **Revital Katznelson**, and **Ron Katznelson**. For capturing a glimpse of our activity in a brilliant [video documentary](#) released this year, we recognize and thank **Nati Malhi**, who filmed and edited this special creation.

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.