

and installed spotlights where the artists display their oil paintings on the walls. I remember the bathrooms the best. They needed a lot of plaster because the walls were so crumbly and the paint was falling off. I think we spent half a day just working on them.

“On the second day, some of the center’s ladies who make ceramic art and tile mosaics came in and kept complimenting our work with *yafey* (beautiful).



The next room was the bomb shelter, converted into a library, where we had to move all the books out and place them in lines on the floor in the next room. The walls of that room were so uneven and bumpy that even after two coats of paint, they never looked right! On the third day, people came in just to see what was going on and watch us as we worked. Some would ask us where we were from. They were very impressed that we were volunteers and that

there were Christians around the world that cared about the Jewish people and wanted to help them. When we got to the arts and crafts room, it was full of potted plants and ceramics. So we carefully moved all of them and painted the room, being careful to put everything back when we were finished.

“After we had cleaned up and packed everything away, the social worker asked if we could come to the dedication. A rabbi would be there to put up the *mezuzah* (Scripture box affixed to a doorway) and pray the dedication blessing over the center. So the next time we went to the center, we were no longer covered in dust and paint but in handshakes, hugs, and thanks from the seniors. Our manager was asked to give a speech. He told them what a privilege it was to be able to help and how we as Christians love them. There was hardly a dry eye in that place, including our own.”



The work was done shortly after the Second Lebanon War last year. This is part of the thank you letter we received:

“There are no words to express our gratitude for all your hard work in transforming our Seniors Club from a neglected depressing place to a new home for seniors—a home of light, air, and hope. You gave us all hope—hope that no matter what, G-d sends us special angels to bless us and help us along in our mission in this world. You gave us hope that there are really good people in the world. You gave us hope—that the world can be a better place between all religions. You gave us hope that even in the darkest moments, there are people who know how to give of themselves to others.”

Though we don’t use precious stones, Isaiah 54:11–12 reminds Daniel of the work they do to bring beauty into the lives of those who feel they are overlooked and forgotten: “O you afflicted one, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold I will lay your stones with colorful gems, and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of crystal, and all your walls of precious stones” (NKJV). Just as it is God’s desire to bring beauty and joy into the lives of those He loves, it is our desire to do the same for the poor in His city. It may seem a small thing to us, only a one- to three-day job, but to those who live or meet in their “face-lifted” places, it can be life-changing.

Join Our Team

Maybe you would like to volunteer in Jerusalem for a week, month, summer, or year and join our Home Repair team, using your skills as a painter, carpenter, electrician, or plumber. Even if you aren’t an expert, if you can wield a paintbrush or hammer, we have a place for you. Maybe you can’t come but could send a donation, so this valuable assistance to Jerusalem and its surrounding communities can continue. **Our latest project is to replace the 14-year-old Home Repair van with a newer used one.** Through each of these ways, you can join our team to give a heart or home a much needed facelift.

Blessings from Jerusalem,

Rebecca J. Brimmer

Rebecca J. Brimmer
International President and CEO