



# Christian Friends of Rambam Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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## FACTS & FIGURES

- Rambam treats more trauma victims than any other hospital in the nation.
- Our hospital's percentage of trauma survivors is the highest in Israel.

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## We Asked—You Received

The Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem, sponsored by the International Christian embassy, marked the first time Rambam Health Care Campus has reached out to tell Christians about our needs. Israel news is always talking about those who pray for and support Israel and the Jewish nation. It was exciting for us to get to know people whom, until now, we had only heard about.

It was an honor and privilege to be able to tell you about the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital. At the Feast, we also launched our 2,000 bed campaign to equip this underground hospital, critical for assuring patient safety.

Our first donor at the Feast was David, from Australia, and one of the last donors was a young lady from Beijing named Ting. People from every corner of the world wanted to learn more about Rambam's underground hospital.

Many of you listened to our story and were pleased to receive the gift of our hospital's calendar—just for listening.

Thank you for encouraging us in this enormous effort. Thank you for taking back brochures and

calendars to tell others about our need to be prepared for every state of emergency.

Most of all, thank you for loving Israel and her people.



**Rambam's booth at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem.** Left to Right: Deborah Hemstreet, Ellen Shapira, and Maayan Katz, Rambam representatives; Talia Zaks, International Relations Coordinator

## Rambam's New Newsletter

This newsletter inaugurates a special newsletter for our Christian friends around the world. We plan on sending it to you four times a year, beginning in 2013. It will be available by email and online via our website.

Each issue will provide articles about Rambam Health Care Campus, our activities, and different needs. Special articles will inform about language, culture, Rambam, and more—so you can learn more about Israeli life.

This issue introduces the man for whom we are named, Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon (also known as Maimonides); the acronym for his name is Rambam.

Please [let us know](#) if you enjoyed the new Christian Friends of Rambam Newsletter.

## Southern Conflict—Northern Comfort



**The four children from Gaza: Mohamed, Hadeel, Hadeel's brother Achmad and six-month-old Lian.**

*Photo by Pieter Fliter—RHCC*

At a time when rockets are being fired from the Gaza Strip at communities in Southern Israel, four young Gaza residents are receiving treatment in Northern Israel. The four children, nephrology patients suffering from kidney failure, have been hospitalized for several months in Rambam's children's hospital. They have been receiving lifesaving therapy while awaiting kidney transplantation.

Several months ago, three of the children—Mohamed and Hadeel (both 12) and Hadeel's brother Achmad (15)—arrived at Rambam in serious condition. Since then, they have undergone treatments to clean their blood. Their health now improved, the three children are due for release to their homes.

Over the past year, the Pediatric Nephrology Unit has cared for tens of Palestinian children from the West Bank

and Gaza, who arrived at Rambam Health Care Campus with various kidney diseases. The Unit, which specializes in dialysis for infants and small children, has performed over 4,000 dialysis treatments this year.

This picture of the children was taken just before Mohamed was released to return home to his family.

## Seriously Clowning Around

**Working in lopsided frizzy wigs and loudly mismatched clothes, medical clowns are paramedical professionals in full.**

*Photo by Edward Kaprov*



It was learning by doing when tens of novice and veteran medical clowns from the United States, Canada, Russia, Holland, Germany, and Brazil converged on the Children's Hospital at Rambam in mid-July of 2012. "Waka-Waka" (a.k.a. actor-auteur Javier Katz) and his clown colleagues at Rambam

escorted the visitors on clowning rounds throughout the children's wards and into the Adult Dialysis Unit.

The context was the "First Advanced Medical Clowning International Summer Seminar," recently hosted by the University of Haifa's Theatre Department in cooperation with Dream Doctors, Israel. In 2006, then

Theatre Department Chair Dr. Atay Citron founded the university's Medical Clowning Academic Training Program, which he currently heads.

Six medical clowns have been working at Rambam since 2003 in the framework of the nationwide Dream Doctors project.

## Neonates Lend Us Your Ears



**Rambam doctors perform a hearing test on a newborn.**

*Photo by Pieter Fliter—RHCC*

On January 1, 2010, the Israeli Ministry of Health protocol mandated that all newborns have hearing tests prior to hospital release. A newborn's first hearing test at Rambam is administered by Audiology Clinic technicians. Newborns passing the first screening do not require additional hearing tests at the hospital.

A multi-disciplinary clinical research team headed by Prof. Imad Makhoul, Director of the Neonatal Unit at Rambam, has studied the mode of delivery—vaginal or caesarian—on the failure rate in neonatal hearing screenings.

The researchers found that infants born by C-section

failed their first hearing screening at three times the rate of vaginally delivered infants (20.7% vs. 7.1%).

Their findings may lead to revised global recommendations regarding the optimal age for undergoing a neonatal hearing test.

# Ark—Tevah—תִּבְהָ



In Hebrew, the word “ark” is used only twice. Interestingly, it refers only to the basket in which the baby Moses was hidden (Ex 2:3), and the ark that God commanded Noah to build (Gen 6:14; 7:1). In both cases, this word refers to a place of surrounding refuge and

safety. Someone is hidden and secure from all danger.

It is no surprise that this word has special meaning for us as we approach completion of the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital. Serving as a parking lot in times of peace, this facility will, in every sense of the word, become an ark for the sick and wounded of Northern Israel during times of war. Within 72 hours, the parking lot will convert to a fully

functioning hospital, safe from the threats of conventional, chemical, and biological warfare.

Whether a basket, a ship, or a fortified hospital, we are thankful for those arks that provide shelter in our time of need.

We are now seeking to equip our “ark” so that we will be prepared, should the floods come.

Please consider giving for the safety of patients in Northern Israel.

[More Information](#)

*Language,*

*Culture,*

*and*

*Rambam*

## The High Holy Days at Rambam

The Jewish High Holy Days are a time of soul searching, with hopes for health and long life. This period takes on extra depth when observed by patients and families in a hospital rather than at home.

A holiday atmosphere is so important for patients and employees during this special time.

Volunteers arrange for bedridden patients to hear the sounding of

the shofar (ram’s horn) and listen to Torah readings for the Jewish New Year (Feast of Trumpets).

On the Day of Atonement, Rambam’s doctors and nurses do their best to accommodate patient requests to fast.

A Sukkah is built for the Feast of Tabernacles so that patients and employees can enjoy their meals according to the Torah.

Rambam’s cooks and dieticians prepare special meals to meet our patient’s dietary needs. Employees enjoy holiday meals in a festively decorated hospital dining room.

By honoring these important holidays, Rambam extends spiritual comfort to our employees and patients and their families when they need it most.

## Rambam Said...

The personality and medical values of Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon (Maimonides, the Rambam) are best reflected by the prayer he recited every day before work:

“...Preserve the strength of my body and my soul, that they be ever ready to cheerfully help and support rich and poor, good and bad, enemy as well as friend.... Never allow the

thought to arise in me that I have attained sufficient knowledge, but grant to me the strength, the ambition, and the ability ever to extend my knowledge....”

This prayer expresses ideals that we at Rambam Health Care Campus seek to emulate. When such ideals are lived out in our professional practice, they must

overflow into the society in which we live. The extension of knowledge through the pursuit of research and education, opens new doors for patient therapies and treatments.

It is truly fitting that our hospital is named after this great rabbi and physician.



**Moses Maimonides, also known as Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon (the Rambam)**



## RAMBAM Health Care Campus

Creating the future of medicine.

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#### For more information:



[www.rambam.org.il](http://www.rambam.org.il)



[rambambahospital](https://www.youtube.com/rambambahospital)



[Rambam Health Care Campus - Hospital](https://www.facebook.com/RambamHealthCareCampus-Hospital)



## You Can Help Current Needs at Rambam

We depend on people like you to help us replace old equipment, build new facilities, perform research, and care for our patients. Your gift counts—whatever the amount. Click on the links below for more information on how you can help support the people of Israel via Rambam Health Care Campus.

#### Pray for Us and Tell Others About Us:

Visit our [Christian Friends of Rambam Facebook page](#) often for prayer requests and regular updates about what is happening at Rambam.

**Friends Organizations:** Tax-deductible donations can be made via a Friends organization near you (listed above).

**Giving:** Please [visit our webpage](#) for more information about how you can make a difference in the lives of the people served by Rambam Health Care Campus.

The Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital must always be prepared to receive both soldiers and civilians during wartime.

Essential medical equipment is urgently needed, including operating tables, anesthesia machines, and thoracic surgery tools.

Give a tax-deductible donation now through your regional Friends organization or directly to Rambam in Israel via credit card or bank transfer.

**Remember:**  
**Every donation is a life saved!**

Type of Bed	\$/Bed	No. of Beds Needed
Standard Patient Bed	\$3,000	1,493
Pediatric Bed	\$5,000	49
Maternity Bed	\$6,000	146
Critical Care Bed	\$10,000	97
Dialysis Chair	\$25,000	95
Incubator or Baby Bed	\$30,000	120

**We know that "little is much."**  
**Your donation in any amount will make a difference**