



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

- Rambam treated 1,244 patients from overseas in 2014
- Over 3,000 participants from 61 countries have been trained by our Teaching Center for Trauma, Emergency, and Mass Casualty Situations

**INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:**

- It's All About People 2
- Purim at Rambam 2
- Reaching the Nations 2
- Helping Others 3
- Help—Ezer— עזר 3
- You Can Help 4
- Current Needs 4
- Contact Information 4

## It's Nice to Share...

Growing up, I never forgot a particular TV commercial. A child was crying and needed help. Another child came and helped by sharing something. The crying child smiled, and the words appeared, "It's nice to share."

That picture stands out in my mind as I prepare this issue of the Christian Friends of Rambam Newsletter. It's not just nice to share with you—it is an honor!

We post many of the exciting things happening at Rambam Health Care Campus on our Facebook page—but not all of you have Facebook. Why should

you miss out on hearing how your prayers are being answered through the variety of ways that Rambam is helping others? Many of you have donated. Beyond a thank you letter, how has your giving impacted Rambam and our patients?

This issue includes several short articles about Rambam's impact in the lives of others. Rather



than go into full detail, after giving a brief overview, links to a news item or to our website are given. That way you can get the whole story.

Thank you for reading the Christian Friends of Rambam newsletter, for including us in your tours of Israel, and for your prayers and support. If you do have Facebook, don't forget to visit our page to keep up to date. Each one of you is helping to make a difference in the lives of the people of Northern Israel. It IS nice to share!

*Deborah Hemstreet*

*Representative  
Christian Friends of Rambam*

## In the News

In February of this year, Rambam drew the attention of the BBC by performing a first ever titanium jaw implant in Israel—in a wounded Syrian! As a result of the successful procedure, three additional patients are scheduled to undergo similar innovative treatments. Hence, local patients will benefit from the doctor's experience.

[Read More on our Site](#)  
[Read the BBC News Item](#)

Another way Rambam is helping people is through an innovative use of Facebook, by posting the status of the Emergency Room (ER), including the wait time on our Hebrew page. This gives people a choice if they are not in an emergency situation. A first in the country, this healthy use of Facebook made the news. Now other Israeli hospitals are considering doing the same thing.

[Read More](#)

The Israeli Ministry of Health

recently conducted a survey to determine patient satisfaction with regard to service and medical care received. Rambam was listed as one of the top three hospitals, with 77% of our patients expressing satisfaction with the services received and their treatments while hospitalized.

[Read More \(Hebrew\)](#)



## It's All About People



**Mohammed Awad with his doctor, Professor Eytan Blumenthal.**

Young and old come to Rambam Health Care Campus seeking help for their medical problems.

Mohammed Awad is 102 years old. He has led a full and active life but found that his eyesight was limited. Awad was suffering from cataracts, a problem easily solved at Rambam, with the help of Professor Eytan Blumenthal.

[Read More](#)

Rambam recently began performing pediatric bone marrow transplants. Among the first to benefit from this life-saving treatment were five-year-old Malek Shekh-Ali, from Gaza, and two-year old "L" from Northern Israel. Both girls have had to be treated in special isolated rooms for one month. Please pray for their full recovery!

Israel has five centers for kidney transplants. Rambam

performs the second highest number of kidney transplants in the country. In October of 2014, 6 kidneys were transplanted in 4 patients in 10 days. One man from Haifa, 60-years-old, received two kidneys. Uri Badler, 63 and the father of 4, from Tiberias, waited 4 years for a kidney! Esther Stomker, from Beersheva, is 63 and the mother of 7; she waited for 8 years and received 2 kidneys. Amna Abo Ahlega is from Tamra; the mother of 3, she

## Purim at Rambam

**The dream of a young patient comes true.  
Photo: Pieter Fliter**



Purim in Israel is the happiest holiday of the year—when joyful children in festive costumes crowd the streets and schools. But celebrating Purim in the hospital is a sadder affair, and hospitalized children usually miss out on all the fun.

We decided to make this Purim an unforgettable

holiday for our young patients in the Ruth Rappaport Children's Hospital at Rambam.

We all know that children coping with illness are heroes each and every day of the year. So we asked them which of their heroes they would like to dress up as for Purim. One said a police officer. Another, a firefighter. One young boy

dreamed of being a legendary knight. And a little girl saw herself dressed as the fairy of light from a popular Israeli children's play.

Our next task was to make their dreams come true, if only for a day. The result was worth the effort...

[Watch the YouTube Movie](#)

## Reaching the Nations

**Dr. Sharony enjoys a happy moment with one of his patients.**



Two Rambam doctors regularly volunteer with "Operation Smile". Within 25 years, the organization has helped eradicate all adult incidences of cleft lip and cleft palate in Vietnam.

The two doctors, Dr Omri Amudi, from Rambam's

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dr Zach Sharony, from its Department of Plastic Surgery, returned from Vietnam in January where they participated with an international delegation sponsored by "Operation Smile".

The delegation performed more than 500 operations

over 10 days on children with cleft palate and lip.

The delegation also received the unexpected help of Mee Huang, Miss Vietnam of 2011, who offered her support. The initiative touched the beauty's heart, and she decided to join them, assisting with translations and encouraging the children and participants.

# Helping Others

What does it mean for us at Rambam Health Care Campus to help others in a “Maimonidean” way? Maimonides (also known as the Rambam), the Jewish physician and leader of the entire Jewish community of his time (until 1204), had a clear vision of helping others. He emphasized the relationship of the body to the spirit thusly: the body must be maintained optimally so that it can serve the spirit to fulfill its main goal, which the Rambam described as being to get closer to knowing God. The Rambam was truly a model of selflessness, modestly helping others—not just talking the talk, but walking it every day of his life. His writings include texts well-known to this day. Perhaps his greatest emphasis was on

“tzedakah” which means righteousness, but which is also correctly translated as charity.

*We are obligated to be more scrupulous in fulfilling the commandment of charity [that is, righteousness] than any other positive commandment because charity is the sign of a righteous man.*

Book 3 (Sefer Zemanim “Times”), Teatise 8 (closing words)

*For it is said, “You shall strengthen the stranger and the dweller in your midst and live with him” (Lev. 25:35), that is to say, strengthen him until he needs no longer fall upon the mercy of the community or be in need.*

From: Maimonides Eight Degrees of Charity

Rambam Health Care Campus and its thousands of staff members are all focused on the business of saving lives; this is our mission, and each one of us contributes in whatever ways we can. In helping others, we fulfill ourselves with one of the highest senses of purpose. My motto includes: more giving is more living. Each member of our multicultural staff collaborates with a single purpose, as if each one is a finger of the larger hand that helps bring healing to those in need.



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

Professor Jesse Lachter  
Head, Endoscopic Ultrasound  
Service, Rambam HCC

*Language,  
Culture,  
and  
Rambam*

## Help—Ezer—עֵזֶר

The Hebrew word ezer (עֵזֶר) is most frequently translated as “help” or “helping.” It has different connotations in the Bible.

For example, in the Psalm 46:1, help is used in the context of God being a stable source of shelter and refuge. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help (ezrah/עֵזְרָה) in trouble.”

A different aspect, “support,” is found in Psalm 54:4, “Behold, God is my helper (ezer/עֵזֶר); the Lord is with those who uphold my life.”

Ezer is repeatedly seen as a quality of the Divine, as an integral aspect of who God IS. In Psalm 70:5 we read, “But I am poor and needy; make haste to me, O God; you are my help (ezri/עֵזְרִי) and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.”

Another clear example is found in Psalm 121:1-2: “I will lift up my eyes to the hills.<sup>1</sup> From where does my help (ezri/עֵזְרִי) come? My help (ezri/עֵזְרִי) comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

“Help” does not come from God alone, yet His help most certainly can be counted on. Help may well depend on us! A clear example is the partnership seen in Genesis 2:18, “And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper (ezer/עֵזֶר) to match him.’” Here, “help” implies a sense of closeness and interdependence. Furthermore, we find an affirmation of our need for help—the help that comes from the God who provides for us, and the help of others.

These sources demonstrate how help (ezer) is both a Divine and a human quality and a stable source of support that can be absolutely counted on, while implying partnership between the two entities.

These concepts represent well the Rambam approach to health care—dedicated, professional, assistance that can be relied on. We know we have to work in partnership with our patients in order for them to receive the best care possible, making ezer the best word to describe what we strive to do.

Rabbi Tsvi Landau  
Hospital Chaplain  
Rambam Health Care Campus

<sup>1</sup>This word is usually translated in most English versions as hills; however, the word is actually mountains in Hebrew—a difference well worth noting.



# RAMBAM Health Care Campus

Creating the future of medicine.

## Rambam Health Care Campus

P.O.B 9602  
Haifa 3109601  
Israel

Phone: +972-4-777-1285/2042  
Fax: +972-4-777-2657  
E-mail: [cfr@rambam.health.gov.il](mailto:cfr@rambam.health.gov.il)

**American Friends of Rambam Medical Center**  
[www.aforam.org](http://www.aforam.org) | [info@aforam.org](mailto:info@aforam.org)  
212-292-4499

**Canadian Friends of Rambam Medical Centre**  
[www.cfram.ca](http://www.cfram.ca) | [info@cfram.ca](mailto:info@cfram.ca)  
416-481-5552

**British Friends of Rambam Medical Centre**  
[www.rambamuk.co.uk](http://www.rambamuk.co.uk) | [anita@rambamuk.co.uk](mailto:anita@rambamuk.co.uk)  
208-371-1500

**French Friends of Rambam Medical Center**  
[amisfrancaisrambam.asso-web.com](http://amisfrancaisrambam.asso-web.com) | [joelleabitbol16@gmail.com](mailto:joelleabitbol16@gmail.com)  
609-580-268

**Spanish Friends of Rambam Medical Centre**  
[www.amigosderambam.org](http://www.amigosderambam.org) | [info@amigosderambam.org](mailto:info@amigosderambam.org)  
609-580-268

**Israeli Friends of Rambam Medical Center**  
[galit@rmc.gov.il](mailto:galit@rmc.gov.il)  
+972-4-852-0670

**[Donate Now by PayPal](#)**

For more information:



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



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



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



## You Can Help

The generosity of others is helping us replace old equipment, build new facilities, perform research, and care for our patients. Every gift counts. 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.

## Current Needs

Sometimes, math is just plain hard work. The following equation helps put Rambam's many needs into perspective:

$$\text{Growing Population} + \text{Limited Facilities} = \text{Increased Financial Burden}$$

While the overall cost to meet our needs can seem overwhelming, every donation makes an impact and makes you an active participant in the health care extended to our patients at Rambam.

In 2014 we had an amazing response to a special campaign for emergency medical carts in our children's hospital: 138 people from around the world helped us raise \$70,000, enabling the purchase of 15 carts and two additional defibrillators!

A 2015 campaign is underway to fund the salaries of medical clowns—medical team members who help reduce the stress and fear experienced by children before surgery and during treatments.

Equipment is still needed for the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital. In time of war, it will serve as a regional 2,000-bed haven of safety for the sick and injured. The bottom floor has already been set up for infectious disease preparedness!

Yet more equipment is needed for the much needed Joseph Fishman Oncology Center, scheduled to open later this year. It will be the most advanced center of its kind in the region.

Please consider how *you* can be part of the answer to our prayers. One person and one gift does make a difference.

**Remember: It's nice to share!**

*Cast your bread on the water, for you will find it after many days....*

*Ecclesiastes 11:1*