

Amcha Newsletter

National Israeli Center for Psychosocial Support of Survivors
of the Holocaust and the Second Generation

Issue: 8

Hanukkah 2010



In Amcha centers all over Israel, Hanukkah is celebrated by thousands of survivors. For the Jewish people, **Hanukkah** - The Festival of Lights - signifies an eight-day holiday commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. For survivors of the Holocaust, Hanukkah is another reminder that miracles can happen. When they say "Nes Gadol Haja Sham" (A Miracle Happened There), they all look at one another in mutual understanding and agree: "Yes, it was indeed a miracle that we survived". And they light the candles to symbolize the light at the end of the tunnel; the ability to rebuild their lives, to create new life and to be a part of the establishment of a Jewish homeland after the Holocaust. Lighting the candles together with their brothers and sisters also becomes a symbol of the help provided by Amcha: an extraordinary event in which life itself is celebrated.

Fire Disaster in the North of Israel



At least 41 people died, thousands of people lost their homes and more than 17,000 people were evacuated in the worst fire in Israel's history. As planes and helicopters from many nations were battling a raging wildfire that burned at least 4,000 hectares of forest in the Carmel Mountains in northern Israel, Amcha staff in Haifa immediately organized an emergency relief center to support to families of the victims and the various groups of emergency personnel in the area. This center was operating uninterrupted with a coordinating telephone hotline to administer support not only to the bewildered (and sometimes retraumatized) Holocaust survivors in the area, but also to the of victim families, to fire fighters (who had earlier received 'helping-the-helper' workshops), and to various groups of 'first responders'. Under the leadership of **Dalia Sivan** and **Anat Turner** and with

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Major Foundations Supporting Amcha



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SIDNEY E. FRANK
FOUNDATION

the help of staff and volunteers from the Israel Trauma Coalition, they offered both direct assistance and indirect coordination of help efforts in the area. Further information (in Hebrew) may be found [here](#).

In Brief

- Together with the [UJA-Federation of New York](#) and the Jewish Federations of North America, we applaud the unanimous passage of a congressional resolution in the US to support programs that meet the distinct needs of aging Holocaust survivors in America.
- In honor of its 75th Anniversary [Selfhelp](#) is organizing a professional conference - Working with Holocaust Survivors - in New York on *March 29-30th, 2011*.
- **Detlef Harland**, from the "kumenische Diakonie in Germany visited Amcha with a group of volunteers.

It is now possible to [donate online to Amcha](#) through



Earlier **Newsletters** can be found [here](#).



