



LOOKING BACK AT 2023

HOSPICE OF THE UPPER GALILEE

The Nancy Caroline



ע"ש ננסי קרוליין
לזכר רון רוזין

FIGURES TELL

193 patients

About **965** family members involved

2565 home visits

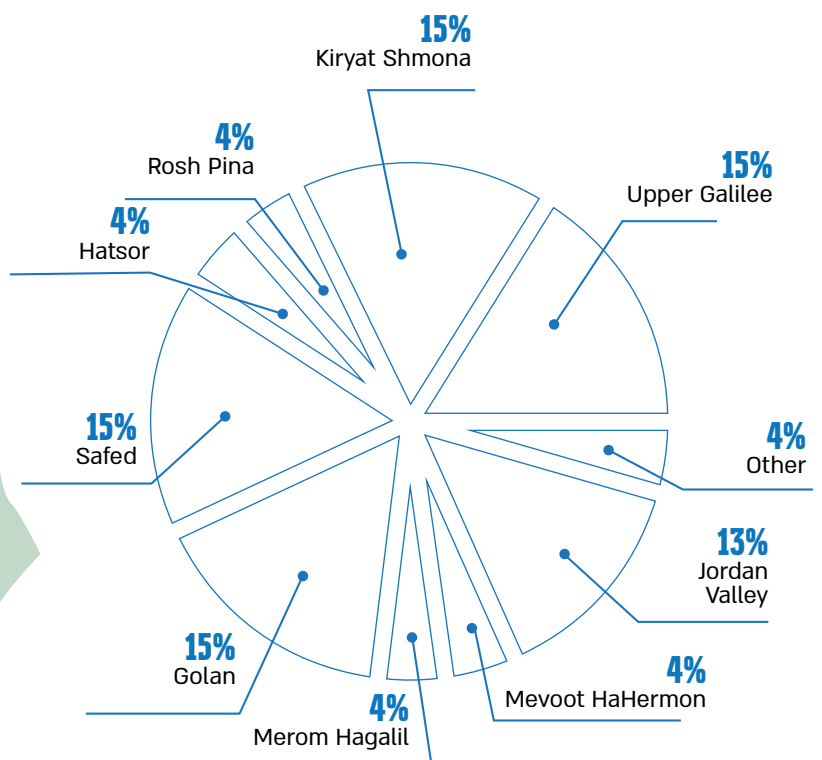
in **75** settlements (out of 120 in the area)

87% passed away at home

6 new foundations from abroad joined the list of hospice supporters



DISTRIBUTION BY REGION



WE HAVE MOVED!

Following many years in which our office was housed in Rosh Pina, we made the decision to move to the Koach Intersection, where we are connected to the local health complex.

This is a great opportunity to thank the Rosh Pina Local Council and its residents, who embraced the Hospice over many years.

Many thanks to the Koach Intersection Business Complex managed by **Ashkar Hana** and **Shlomi Kishinieovski** who have provided us with a lovely office and meeting room and welcomed us warmly into our new home. We intend to make meaningful connections with organizations and communities in this region.

ROSH HASHANA WITH HADASSAH MT. SCOPUS HOSPITAL

This year we decided to celebrate the Jewish holidays with meetings designed to create cooperation and peer learning.

On New Year's Eve (Rosh Hashana), we invited Hadassah Mt. Scopus Home Hospice team to a meeting in which we participated in peer learning, analyzed case reports and shared professional issues.

We invited **Dr. Daniel Azoulai**, Medical Director of Mt. Scopus Hospice, to blow the Shofar and welcome the new year.



MEETING WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF CLALIT'S NORTHERN REGION HEALTH SERVICES

In April, we invited the management of Clalit's Northern Region Health Services to a working meeting. Members of the Hospice's Executive Committee met with **Dr. Mordechai Dayan**, **Dr. Tannous Korzoum**, nurses **Ms. Ettie Zarbiv** and **Ms. Bruria Rikon**.

Dr. Dayan expressed appreciation for the Hospice's work and examined the possibility of expanding cooperation between the two organizations. It was important for the Hospice team to hear and share and to build joint work processes with the Health Services.



JOINT MEETING WITH STAFF MEMBERS OF CLALIT'S NORTHERN REGION HEALTH SERVICES AND HUG

In June, we held a professional workshop with the aim of getting to know each other and receive clinical enrichment. Participants were from the leading teams of Clalit's Northern Region Health Services, including physicians, nurses and social workers, together with the Hospice's team.

The main issues discussed dealt with an array of home treatments available in the Northern District, familiarization with the work of the Upper Galilee Hospice and emphasis and precision in appropriate medicines for palliative care, for patients coping with cancer in its advanced stages.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN HOLLAND

In June, a delegation of 6 Hospice team members, consisting of **Dr. Micha De Vries, Ms. Yael Blech, Mr Eitan Arditi, Ms. Ada Gil, Ms. Naomi Gluzman and Ms. Adira Ben-Aharon**, attended a conference in Holland.

The conference is held annually and is renowned for its importance in the palliative field. It provided a significant opportunity for the Hospice team to meet professional colleagues and present two research studies. The first was presented by **Dr. De Vries and Ms. Ben-Aharon** on the topic "The Effect of Ethnic and Cultural Origin on the Perception of End of Life in Israel". The second paper was presented by **Ms. Blech and Ms. Gil** on the subject "Evaluation of the Contribution of the Volunteer Project Offering Body and Mind Treatments for the Welfare of Hospice Patients"



CAMPAIGN FOR CROWDFUNDING

In July we launched a crowdfunding campaign "Giving Life to the Hospice". We set two targets for this campaign, the first to raise public consciousness towards the Hospice's work and the second, to raise funds towards the continued development of the Hospice, in both its professional capacity and in its ability to expand its caregiving teams.



GRIEVING WITH THE FAMILY

Part of the procedure of working with the families of patients with life-threatening diseases is the process of parting from beloved ones. The Hospice team also accompanies the family following the death of their loved ones and encourages them to participate in support groups for widowers.



ANNUAL FAIR

This year, as in previous years, the Annual Fair at Kibbutz Mahanayim was held in June with its proceeds donated to HUG and to Ziv Medical Center in Safed.

The Fair is organized by the Bar/Bat Mitzva children accompanied by a group of dedicated adults who have led this project for many years. Following the Fair, a group of seventh graders visited HUG bringing with them a check for NIS 40,000, HUG's share of the 2023 proceeds.





"HEROES OF LIFE"

DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION



The children's project "Heroes of Life " provides a response both for children suffering from cancer and for their family members. The goal is to enable children to continue a normal life for as long as possible. The project includes pedagogical and psychological support as well as assistance with equipment.

About 50 children (below age 18) who are currently being treated for cancer, live in the Upper Galilee and the Golan. Due to the lack of Pediatric Oncology Wards in the medical centers in the far north, these children have to travel to hospitals in the center of the country, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem, in order to do diagnostic and monitoring tests and receive treatments.

In addition, all the organizations which assist children with cancer and their families with emotional and educational support, hot meals, enjoyable day trips etc., offer these services only in the center of the country, which means that children in northern Israel do not have access to these services.

Once they return to their homes, these children do not receive equal rights as do children in other areas of the country, such as emotional therapies, educational support, assistance with travel expenses and necessary equipment such as computers, tablets, etc.

Following requests from the families of sick children, at the beginning of 2023, the Upper Galilee Hospice established a steering committee which examined ways in which HUG could assist these children and their families. We recruited volunteers from a variety of disciplines – psychology, education, business and welfare – all leading professional in the northern communities.

Fortunately, the Clalit Health Service also joined the effort and the Department of Children's Hemato-Oncology at the Dana-Dwek Children's Hospital, Te-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center Ichilov, agreed to act as a resource for guidance and training.

Following a mapping of needs, we believe that HUG's accumulated professional expertise qualifies us to open a treatment unit with emotional and educational support for children with cancer.

This unit will provide care and educational services that complement the primary medical care received at the hospital and the education received at school. The Unit's services will include:

- Educational enrichment.
- Individual and group assistance to reinforce social contacts and emotional well-being.
- Work with parents and the school team to strengthen ties between the sick child and his/her friends.
- Personalized services designed for each child in consultation with school and family.

In order to train caregivers to work with these children, we held professional training sessions with **Ms. Adva Friedlander**, a specialist rehabilitation psychologist and **Ms. Noa Markovitz**, an educator, both from Ichilov's Dana-Dwek Children's Hospital.

A TOUCHING TALE VENTILATOR PATIENTS DESERVE QUALITY OF LIFE

In a unique joint effort between the Respiratory Department of Clalit Health Service, **Dor Shaham's family**, the management of Kibbutz Amiad and HUG, Dor was transferred from a rehabilitation hospital in the center of the country to his home on Kibbutz Amiad to be cared for by his loving family. The Hospice team is accompanying the care of Dor, thereby enabling him to enjoy an improved quality of life in a warm, enveloping environment.





ISRAEL AT WAR

During a recent visit to one of our patients, one of our hospice doctors visited a very ill woman in her eighties.

After discussing her medical condition, she said: "Doctor, after seeing all these terrible things that have happened to our people in the south of the country, I am so happy and grateful that I can die of cancer, in peace, here in my bed".

The Upper Galilee Hospice is located in an area in which some of the Kibbutzim, Moshavim and the cities of Metulah and Kiryat Shemonah have been evacuated. Some of our team members had to leave their homes and are still in hotels or with family and friends, as have some of our patients who have been evacuated to nursing homes or family members further away from the border.

Many of us in the Hospice know people who have been killed or are amongst those abducted and held as hostages in Gaza. Almost all have loved ones who have been called up for reserve duty and are serving somewhere on the front.

We are doing our best to continue our work with the aim of staying with our patients, under these difficult circumstances. Even as the thunder of explosions can be heard in the background and war planes fly overhead, we wish to continue to visit our patients in their homes or places of residence. At times we stay in touch with patients by phone when reaching the patient's home is not safe.

Every Wednesday morning the team meets as usual, however no longer face to face but by Zoom. We go through the list of our patients and help one another find solutions to the problems patients are facing in these troubled times.

FROM OUR CEO, Dafna Abrahams

A year that started with a lot of optimism and hope for renewal and growth, ended with a lot of pain and uncertainty.

At a time like this, I search for anchors of certainty and resources which I can use so that we may continue to provide the best possible care to our patients.

The extensive knowledge accumulated by the hospice staff, related to end-of-life processes, is precisely that which enables us to attain the magnitude of soul and mind to continue our work at this time.

In the midst of our fears and anxieties, we know that our patients are entitled to receive all the care, compassion and love that can be given to them.

To the hospice staff, doctors, nurses, psychosocial teams and volunteers, I am very proud of you and find courage and strength through your untiring efforts.

It is a great privilege to be on the giving side, to wake up in the morning and be useful, to be part of an organization that touches families in moments of sadness, relief and infinite love.

Together with our entire nation, I pray for the return of the abducted, for the recovery of the wounded and I grieve for our fallen soldiers and civilians.

I hope for days in which we can once again flourish and prosper in our beloved Israel.

Dafna

