



Nazareth Project Inc

Partnering with Nazareth Trust in Nazareth and surrounding areas



A heavy year, yet God is faithful



Charles Dickens wrote in the Tale of Two Cities: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ... it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

The Corona virus pandemic made a massive impact on the World during the past 15 months and Nazareth was not spared the pain, the losses and the severe adjustments that were required.

In many ways the pandemic proved to be the “worst of times” – fear of the unknown, patient deaths, staff anxiety and stress. The fall and winter were a time of darkness and despair rather than the normal celebration of light at Christmastime.

The greater Nazareth community lost residents to the virus, schools were closed for months at a time and businesses faced numerous restrictions.

Nazareth Hospital set up a large tent for initial screening and testing. Several wards were repurposed for treatment of Covid-19 patients. The Hospital also upgraded other facilities to better respond to the pandemic.

Senior leaders recently attended a blessing for the new ICU units at Nazareth Hospital. They are (left to right) Frank Kantor, Spiritual Director; Wasseem Dibbini, CFO; Richard Mayhew, CEO; Salam Hadid, Director of Nazareth School of Nursing; Fahed Hakim, Medical Director of Nazareth Hospital and Marta Bahour, Director of Nursing at Nazareth Hospital.

More dramatic than the physical changes were the difficult adjustments for doctors, nurses and other staff. Those treating Covid patients were fearful about carrying the virus home to their families.

Life has been painful and full of anxiety. However, the past 15 months also have proven to be a time of hope and light as the Nazareth Hospital leadership and staff rose to the many challenges and combatted the virus with remarkable success. Prayers from around the world and the caring presence of the Spiritual Care Team have helped staff to persevere.

Nazareth Hospital flourished financially during the year as a result of extra

financial support from the Israeli Ministry of Health. Individual donors from Europe and North America gave special gifts. NPI received a grant of \$891,000 from USAID.

Richard Mayhew, CEO of Nazareth Trust, noted several highlights from the past 15 months:

“Back in March 2019, as the realization that COVID was a pandemic and could cause serious illness and death began to hit home, we faced a huge challenge – what would our response be, how could we support the staff through fear and uncertainty, how could we

We faced a huge challenge! What would our response be? How could we support the staff through fear and uncertainty? How could we manage financially and operationally?



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manage financially and operationally. **Our prayer was that of Jehoshaphat (2 Chron 20) – Lord, we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.**

“Today, looking back, it has not been an easy year. In fact the best description would be ‘heavy’. But we know for sure that the Lord has been with us in the challenges we were facing, and as an organization, as management, staff and volunteers, we have come through it.

“In fact it has been an amazing year – we have been able to build a new 12-bed Intensive Care Unit, renovate the labor rooms, maternity department, surgical department, psychiatric department, internal medicine department, expand and renovate the dialysis department, create a new isolation room in the ER, and complete the renovation of the Doctor’s House.

“The hospital has been transformed physically. But also we believe we have strengthened our Christian ministry during this past year. We have relaunched the Pastoral Care Team, and they have been instrumental in providing spiritual and emotional care to staff and patients during this difficult period.

“So, for the hospital, we give thanks for the Lord’s provision and guidance during the past year, and for keeping all our staff and volunteers safe from serious illness. But other parts of our ministry still face a challenge in the months ahead. Both SERVE and the Nazareth Village are still closed, as we await the opening of flights to Israel. Please do pray for these ministries.”

Q&A with Elyse Kauffman, MBA, Charitable Consultant at Everence®



Q: Who can consider a bequest to Nazareth Project?

Any individuals who are passionate about the mission of Nazareth Project and would like to make a commitment to the sustainability of the organization’s good work. Some individuals include the organization as a beneficiary of their retirement account. Others consider including charitable gifts as part of their estate planning—when drafting or updating their will.

One reassuring benefit of a charitable bequest is that the gift is revocable—so if you or a loved one has a change in your financial situation and need to direct these assets elsewhere, those changes can be made during your lifetime.

Q: Is it complicated?

One of the simplest ways to make a planned gift to a charity, is to incorporate a charitable gift into your will or trust. This can be completed when drafting or updating your documents. Individuals should review their planning documents every three to five years or any time they experience a life transition—like a marriage, a new child, a geographic move, an illness or death.

Another simple way to include charity in your plans is to review the beneficiary designations for your life insurance plans and retirement accounts. Individuals can easily contact the consultant related to these accounts to review their current selections

and make updates to include charity, if desired.

Q: What is the tax benefit of a bequest?

You may be able to reduce estate and inheritance taxes because charitable bequests are deductible from your estate. Many individuals find that the most heavily taxed asset during estate settlement is their retirement account. Therefore, planning charitable gifts from this asset may be a beneficial strategy. Please remember, it is important to talk with your financial consultant or tax advisor to be sure that you make decisions that are best for your individual situation.

Q: Why is it important for Nazareth Project to know about this decision?

NPI would appreciate the opportunity to celebrate the generous decision that you’ve made to support the critical work that is being accomplished in Israel. Understanding your gift intentions helps NPI to strategically plan for the future and builds confidence for the organization’s sustainability!

Of course, gifts can remain anonymous if you’d prefer.

For additional information please contact Elyse Kauffman at Everence (Elyse.Kauffman@everence.com) or Howard Good at NPI (howardgood@nazarethproject.org)



During 2021 Nazareth Project is celebrating thirty years of program support for Nazareth Hospital and School of Nursing. During those years, a foundational component of NPI's work has been connecting people and resources with these vital and historic Christian organizations in Nazareth.

In 2010, Sawsan Shehadeh attended a Peacebuilding Institute in Harrisonburg, Virginia while she was the Deputy Director of Nursing Studies at Nazareth School of Nursing. Sawsan's class of 20 students, from many countries and faiths, shared their experiences and found common points for peacebuilding.

She later wrote: "My identity as a follower of Christ asks me to be a peacemaker. My vision for my community here in Israel is that people from different faiths will see that there is a possibility to make peace."



Sawsan Shehadeh, second from left, with friends at the 2010 Summer Peacebuilding Institute.

A review of NPI newsletters from past years yields many highlights including:

- Our many faithful, committed donors who supported many special projects and new initiatives over the years
- Dedicated Board members and staff who joined hands to further NPI's mission
- US doctors and nurses who exchanged ideas with Hospital and School of Nursing staff and offered specialized training and consulting
- Hospital and School of Nursing staff who attended special training events in the U.S.
- Bike riders and hikers from the US who experienced the Nazareth community and raised significant funds for development projects
- Numerous major grant awards from ASHA/USAID as well as private foundations that helped construct new facilities, upgrade equipment, and build new programs at the Hospital and School of Nursing

A reflection from Karen Miller Rauch who served with NPI during 2002-2018

"Nazareth Hospital is a demonstration of Christian community that extends across natural social boundaries and draws people together for the flourishing of all. Centered on a Nazareth hilltop, not far from where Jesus stood in the synagogue and read aloud from the prophet Isaiah, this community of people is a living embodiment of the 'already but not yet' of God's kingdom. When I was director, I saw Nazareth Hospital and School of Nursing meeting community needs through healthcare, medical training, and public health education.

"It is a community of people who, facing intense obstacles, choose again and again to embrace resurrection hope, a place where many generations have experienced compassion, friendship, and belonging."

FLASH
NEWS

**As of June 30 the Nancy Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund surpassed \$100,000!
Thanks for your continuing gifts in support of nursing student scholarships!**



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for Nazareth Hospital and
School of Nursing



photo: Andrew Huth

*Dr. Muhammad,
Nazareth Hospital
physician participating
in the Hospital's West
Bank outreach*

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[Karen Miller Rauch]