



Dear Reader

What could be more beautiful than to see a sick child get healthy and happy again? We from the Children's Relief Bethlehem work day by day towards that wonderful moment - together with the medical and nursing staff of the Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem. We are committed to assisting all children and families in need, regardless of their origin and religion.

As a non-profit organization based in Lucerne, Children's Relief Bethlehem runs the Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem, which is the only children's hospital in the West Bank. It is the largest private Swiss development project in Palestine.

In addition to the hospital, Children's Relief Bethlehem supports a number of smaller projects in the Bethlehem region each year with the aim to strengthen children, adolescents and women. In crises we also provide emergency aid.

We sincerely thank you for your support.



Sybille Oetliker
Managing Director









Caritas Baby Hospital: Comprehensive health care for all children

The Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem is the only hospital in the West Bank/Palestine that treats children exclusively. The doctors and the nursing staff of the hospital guarantee children up to the age of 14 the best possible medical and therapeutic care - regardless of their origin and religion.

In 1952, the Swiss Father Ernst Schnydrig founded the hospital in response to the need that existed at the time. He rented a few rooms in the old city of Bethlehem. The Caritas Baby Hospital has been steadily evolving ever since. Today, there is an outpatient clinic as well as over 82 beds for inpatient treatment of the young patients.

Thanks to donations, around 50'000 children can be treated on an outpatient and inpatient basis each year.



Immediate help for sick children in the outpatient clinic

Parents and their sick children go to the outpatient clinic of the Caritas Baby Hospital unannounced and receive medical care. The outpatient clinic is child-friendly with colorful painted walls and specially selected furniture.

The Caritas Baby Hospital offers special consultation-hours for pediatric disciplines such as neurology and pneumology. There are also various counseling services regarding various topics, such as healthy eating. Self-help groups are organized for parents and family members of children with chronic illnesses.







Life-saving medicine in the Intensive Care Unit

Since 2013 there is a pediatric intensive care unit in the Caritas Baby Hospital. The medical team saves lives here every day. Intensive care beds are available for babies and newborns, as well as for children up to 14 years. Particularly children with severe respiratory diseases, hereditary metabolic disorders or heart problems are treated.

Some of the children in the intensive care unit are so seriously ill that they have no chance of survival. Every effort is made in the hospital to accompany them on this difficult path and to relieve their suffering. The hospital team also provides advice to the parents and relatives of these patients.



Thanks to early childhood physiotherapy children live more independently

The first years of life are crucial for the development of a child. Using physiotherapy, late effects of a disease are prevented or alleviated as far as possible, and children with neurological abnormalities are supported and fostered from an early stage. Early childhood physiotherapy is in high demand: More than 9,000 sessions take place each year.

The Caritas Baby Hospital offers physiotherapy especially for toddlers up to the age of three. The small patients often suffer from cerebral palsy or developmental delays. Even premature babies are treated in a targeted way - e.g. with a swallowing therapy that makes it easier for them to drink.







Empowering women in the Mother's Residency Department

The Mother's Residency Department of Caritas Baby Hospital is where mothers find tranquility and advice. The women stay here when their children are hospitalized. The closeness of the mother favors the healing process of the small patients. The mothers also receive advice on topics such as hereditary diseases, hygiene and nutrition.

The mostly young women use the acquired knowledge after returning home and pass on the new knowledge to their families and neighbors. This way they make sure that the acquired knowledge is embedded in the community.



Social Service supports the poorest

Those who cannot afford the modest treatment fees of Caritas Baby Hospital find support with the social services. The social workers clarify the needs and financial situation of the families. If the family is in a precarious situation the costs are waived. This guarantees that all children receive equal medical care.

As part of the follow-up care of the patients the social workers visit the families at their homes if necessary and thus spare them the often time-consuming and costly way to the Caritas Baby Hospital.







Setting standards in the Palestinian Health System

The Caritas Baby Hospital was founded as a charitable act. Meanwhile, the children's hospital has become an important pillar of the Palestinian Health Care System. With its holistic approach, pediatric specialization and the first-class hygiene the hospital plays a pioneering role in the Palestinian Health Care System. The hospital has 250 full-time and part-time employees, making it one of the most important employers in Bethlehem and the surrounding region.

The operational management of the Caritas Baby Hospital lies with CEO Issa Bandak and Head Physician Dr Hiyam Marzouqa.



How You Can Help

The Caritas Baby Hospital can fulfill its mission only thanks to donations. There are many ways to get involved and help sick children in Bethlehem:

- Private Donations
- Corporate Donations
- Own collection campaigns
- Donations made in someone's memory
- Products Partnerships
- Legacies and inheritances

As a Zewo-certified relief organization, we strive to keep our administrative costs as low as possible.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you very much!



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Please send me:

Quantity

Payment slip

Annual report

This brochure

Set of 8 cards, A5 dimension cards

(CHF 30, postage included inside Switzerland)

Sympathy card with blank page

Donor's box

Wooden pendants (star of olive wood)

(5 pieces CHF 15, postage included inside Switzerland)

Please contact me

I want to visit the Caritas Baby Hospital

Comments

Sender:

Last name/First name

Address

Postcode/Town, City

Telephone number

Email

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