



Yad Sarah – Who We Are

Yad Sarah is Israel's leading humanitarian voluntary organization, providing a spectrum of free or nominal cost services designed to make home and community care possible for special needs, sick, disabled, elderly and recuperating people and their families. With over 100 branches throughout Israel run by more than 6000 volunteers, Yad Sarah saves the Israeli economy more than \$320 million a year in direct hospitalization and medical costs, with an annual budget of approximately \$17 million.

In December 2003 Yad Sarah was accepted as an NGO at the Department of Public Information of the UN. This was after the application submitted to the United Nations proved Yad Sarah's contribution in assisting and rehabilitating the injured in Third World countries and in countries of the former Soviet Union.

In January 2005, Yad Sarah was granted special consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Brief Description of Yad Sarah and its Vision

A dramatic increase in life expectancy is apparent at both ends of the life cycle. There has been a significant drop in infant mortality but with this there has been an increase in the number of children who have special needs and require special care. At the other end of the life cycle, the number of elderly people in the population, who have the benefit of life-extending medical innovations, has grown, as has the population suffering from chronic diseases that require care and attention for their special needs.

The simple solution, it might be thought, would be to hospitalize or institutionalize these populations. This solution is fraught, in the first place, with significant economic difficulties (if we want to ensure a proper level of hospitalization) but even more difficult is the moral dilemma at the root of this solution, in that hospitalization cuts the individual off from his home and his community, and has an adverse effect on the quality of his life. We do not seek just a life of survival, but rather a life of quality and dignity.

The home care programs are in need of a strong infrastructure to complement what is missing in the existing set-ups. This infrastructure is being deployed at an ever-increasing pace by Yad Sarah.

Yad Sarah strives to enhance the quality of life for people who are coping with difficulties in functioning. At the core of Yad Sarah's existence as a volunteer organization is a commitment to mutual social responsibility. Volunteers and contributors from every part of the social and communal fabric share this commitment. Together with the Yad Sarah staff, they create and provide an array of home and community services for anyone who needs a helping hand, whether temporarily or for an extended time.





These home care support services evolve and develop to meet the changing needs of a multi-aged and diverse population. They are services that rest on advanced technology and human warmth, and are reliable and available to all.

Yad Sarah is committed to providing the very best service, with personal attention, a sympathetic ear and wholehearted giving to every applicant, making it a hub of warm humanity and encouragement to the people being helped and their families.

Volunteering plays a central role in Yad Sarah's vision of the world, in the values of the association and in its day-to-day operations. The volunteers, representing the entire range of the social spectrum, are seen as the backbone of the association, as its principle resource and as the driving force in its development.

Yad Sarah strives to make life easier for the disabled and special needs people within the Israeli society, and welcomes the opportunity to do the same for people worldwide.

Countries and communities from around the world come to Yad Sarah each year, wanting to learn about the organization and its activities with a view to trying to develop a similar model in their own home countries. Yad Sarah, through its External Professional Relations and Public Relations Divisions, liaises with these foreign countries (and sometimes even on the instigation of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs) welcomes the visits and the requests for information, and makes an effort to provide the information or assistance requested.

To date the department for Professional External Relations of Yad Sarah has operated or is in the process of implementing projects in the following locations: Russia, Cameroon, Angola, Uzbekistan, Jordan, South Korea, South Africa, El Salvador and Turkey. In each case, part of the Yad Sarah model was/is being applied according to the needs and specifications of the local population.

Our website can be found at: www.yadsarah.org

Brief Description of Yad Sarah

Among the services provided are:

- Lending of Medical and Rehabilitative Equipment
- Guidance and Exhibition of Rehabilitative Equipment
- Personal Alarm Systems
- Transportation for the wheelchair bound in special Yad Sarah vans
- Home and Community Division
- Legal Counseling for the Elderly
- Geriatric Dental Clinic
- We also have Warehouse Departments and various workshops for the upkeep of the rehabilitative and medical equipment loaned out.

