

IMA around the Globe

No. 6 • AUGUST 2006



Unity in a Time of War

Amidst anguish and pain, the citizens of Israel have rallied together to offer their support in any way possible during this horrific period.

The Israeli Medical Association has also been active in searching for ways to alleviate the plight of physicians and their families from the North, initiating a number of ways in which to assist them. The organization has arranged weeklong camps in central Israel for physicians' children. Due to the summer vacation, many doctors, called for emergency duty, have nowhere to leave their children and this will provide them with at least a temporary solution. The first group of 80 children has begun their week long camp. IMA staff, including the organization's Secretary-General, Adv. Leah Wapner, endangered their own lives by going personally to the north to escort the children. Many young ones, torn from their parents and homes, were very distraught, however, they have now settled in well and are enjoying the respite from their otherwise harsh reality.

Another program set up by the IMA involves the hosting of doctors' families from the north by doctors' families from central Israel or, alternatively providing them with housing and provisions.

A third program initiated by the IMA is a 24-hour hotline for physicians, providing information about the impact of the situation upon their work, updates on activities in medical institutions, requests for assistance and other vital facts.

An additional plan, already underway, is supplying First Aid kits to shelters up north.

As the violence against Israel escalates, large numbers of physicians from all over the country are volunteering their services to hospitals and checking in on people sitting in shelters.

Taking along a helmet and body protection, Dr. Yoram Blachar, President of the IMA, and Adv. Leah Wapner risked their lives to visit the northern hospitals and meet with the physicians' representatives, to learn of their needs and offer support. ■