

JERUSALEM PRINCESS BASMA CENTRE

Opened in 1965 to serve families whose children were affected by polio, Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) has expanded its mission to treat and empower children with a wide range of disabilities and offer support to their families by providing an array of therapies and rehabilitation services, a residential program for mothers and children, adult physical therapy, and a sheltered vocational workshop for adults with disabilities.

The Center also runs an academic K-12 inclusive school. Of the more than 400 students enrolled, nearly 40% are children with disabilities. The school is a model for creating inclusive education programs that can be replicated in schools across the West Bank to provide children with disabilities equal educational opportunities.

With its accreditation from the Joint Commission International for Ambulatory Care, Princess Basma serves as a clinical placement site for graduate students in physical, speech, and occupational therapy as well as social work.

In 2011 Princess Basma Center launched the first and only classroom and therapeutic services available to Palestinian children with autism. As part of its mission, the Center works to advocate for children with disabilities and their families and raise awareness in the wider community about the rights of the disabled.



AT A GLANCE

Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre

- + Ibrahim Faltas, Director
- + In 1987 opened an inclusive K-12 academic school where children with disabilities learn side-by-side with non-disabled students.
- + The only comprehensive program for autistic children open to Palestinian families
- + 453 students are enrolled in the inclusive school
- + Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre has been greatly affected by U.S. cuts in aid to the East Jerusalem Hospital Network



*I came here feeling ashamed,
and I leave here feeling strong.*

— A mother who with her daughter participated in the residential Mother's Empowerment Program

YOUR IMPACT AS AN AFEDJ DONOR

AFEDJ donors have contributed well over \$1 million in support of Princess Basma Centre.

- + Located atop the Mount of Olives, Princess Basma Centre is a frequent stop on pilgrimage tours. Many Holy Land pilgrims are moved by the Center's ministries and become life-long supporters.
- + In 2019, eight Episcopal dioceses made Sustainable Development Goals grants to support the Mother Empowerment Program.
- + Recently, the Bedell Fund, associated with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Bedford, NY, contributed \$100,000 as the lead gift in the renovation of the Center's kitchen and dining hall.



The inclusive school allows mainstreamed students to benefit from expert therapy during their school day without needing to travel to a separate clinic.



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