



*“Together, may we all continue steadfastly and faithfully to serve the most vulnerable in our community, whoever and wherever they are.”*  
– *Violette Mubarak, The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre*

March 2024

Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Easter, I am reaching out to you with a message of hope from the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) here in the Diocese of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives. In the face of heart-wrenching challenges and the devastations inflicted by the current war, our unwavering commitment to bringing profound healing, support, and renewal to the lives of Palestinian children with disabilities and their families burns brighter than ever.



JPBC’s brand-new satellite clinic at Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, which was about to begin working with patients before the war’s outbreak, has been damaged. However, we are responding to needs as they emerge and our small team in Gaza is starting to provide much-needed occupational therapy and psychosocial support services for displaced children and families in their immediate geographic proximity. **As we look towards recovering this crucial facility and expanding our work in Gaza, your generosity emerges as the lifeline that will not only restore essential services, but breathe hope back into the shattered world of the children of Gaza—those who have borne the deepest scars of this unforgiving conflict.** Your compassionate support is the beacon of hope they desperately need to rise from the ashes of devastation.

Meanwhile, here in East Jerusalem, we are resolved to sustain and strengthen our programs for families in the West Bank, who are becoming increasingly isolated on account of heightened travel restrictions. Our Centre's Mother and Family Empowerment Program, which accompanies the residential treatment programs for Palestinian children with disabilities, serves as a bedrock for our endeavors by providing training to caregivers that transforms them into "shadow therapists" for their children,



continuing care at home through personalized therapy plans. In the wake of ongoing challenges, this program becomes even more vital, tending to the physical needs of the children while also offering indispensable psychosocial support to help families navigate the cultural stigma and immense pressures linked to raising a child with disabilities in the current crisis.



All our in-person services at JPBC, including the Mother and Family Empowerment Program, now face unprecedented challenges due to these travel restrictions and questions of safety, limiting our ability to provide these essential services to their fullest extent. The financial strain stemming from the war further compounds these difficulties, making it increasingly challenging to sustain the comprehensive vision of our therapeutic approach. Despite these hurdles, the need for empowering parents and families remains as critical as ever,

and so we are finding innovative ways through telemedicine to reach the most isolated families in need. But we need your help.

**This Easter, we invite your community to join JPBC in our mission of healing and renewal.** Your support is a sacred offering of hope that empowers us to dynamically address evolving challenges across the institution, ensuring that we have the flexibility to respond to emerging needs with agility and precision. Your outreach is a vital lifeline, helping us navigate the obstacles posed by the war, empowering families to navigate these challenges, and fostering an environment where children with disabilities can thrive despite the adversities they face.



JPBC remains committed to its mission of comprehensive, inclusive care. We continue to work tirelessly to innovate ways to treat families in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem and to bridge the gap left by the disruption of services in Gaza, striving to offer a ray of hope to those who have endured, and continue to endure, the devastating consequences of war. **By joining us and sharing our mission with your friends, neighbors, and parishioners, you are engaging in the unity described in the liturgy of Baptism: "One Hope in God's call to us."**

**Please act as a beacon of love and hope—join us in making a difference in the lives of the families we serve as they courageously strive for a brighter and more resilient future.**

You can find print resources that will make it easy to share JPBC's story with your community on AFEDJ's website at <https://afedj.org/resources/worship-and-prayer-resources>.



Donations to JPBC are the lifeblood that sustains our work, enabling us to navigate unforeseen obstacles arising from this awful war and beyond. Your donation is an investment in the holistic well-being of the children and families we serve, allowing us to adapt, innovate, and persevere in the face of uncertainty. Join us in providing the essential resources that will empower JPBC to continue its crucial ministry, offering hope and healing to the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you for undertaking this vital witness and being a champion of our cause. May this Easter season bring you joy and renewed hope, and may your community's generosity be a source of healing for those who need it most.



With gratitude,

Violette Mubarak

*General Director of The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre*