

SPRING 2026



## WHERE YOUR LIGHT SHINES

### The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre

In the Holy Land, autism is often a hidden crisis. It remains one of the most underdiagnosed conditions in the region, leaving thousands of children without a voice or a clear path forward. For families in marginalized communities, the obstacles are constant: checkpoints, travel restrictions, and a severe shortage of specialists often stand between a child and the care they require. By the time many children are finally seen, they have already passed the most critical years for early intervention.

Your support of the **American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)** changes this reality. By directing your generosity to the area of greatest need, you empower the Diocese to sustain humanitarian institutions like the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC).



Photo: A child at the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre receiving therapy in the sensory room

This partnership fuels the breadth of JPBC’s work, ensuring that they possess the resources needed to meet children with autism and their families where they are, regardless of the barriers in their way.

#### Because of You, Care Never Pauses

The work at JPBC’s campus in East Jerusalem remains constant, even when the region faces profound instability and disruption of daily life. At the Centre’s Inclusive School, children with and without disabilities learn side-by-side, building a foundation of mutual respect that will last a lifetime. In a land often defined by its divisions, your support allows these children to experience a world where they belong together.

When government-mandated closures make in-person learning impossible, the mission continues through digital platforms and remote outreach. Thanks to your partnership, JPBC has the technology and the dedicated staff to pivot to digital platforms and remote outreach.

“During the school closures, the teachers prepare activities every day and share them with the mothers, explaining step by step how they can be implemented with their children at home,” says Ms. Fayzeh, a teacher in the Inclusive School’s autism class. This resilience relies on the steady foundation AFEDJ donors provide to the Diocese, allowing institutions like JPBC to adapt instantly to a changing landscape. Your gift keeps students and families connected, ensuring that a child’s progress is never halted by instability outside of the classroom.

[LEARN MORE AT AFEDJ.ORG/GIVE](https://www.afedj.org/give)

## Bringing Autism Services Closer to Home

JPBC's mission now reaches far beyond the walls of its physical building in East Jerusalem. Through its Outreach Program, JPBC trains local clinicians and educators in the West Bank to provide assessment and therapy in their own communities.

In the southern West Bank towns of Ithna and Yatta, this investment has led to the creation of dedicated autism classrooms within partner centers. The Basma Centre's team of specialized professionals has worked closely with staff and educators in both locations, providing training in autism assessment and therapeutic approaches, along with ongoing mentorship. As a result, local professionals are better equipped to understand and respond to the needs of children with autism.

Mr. Ayman Tmeizi, Director of the Center in Ithna, highlights the critical role JPBC played in his center's growth: "They recognized our need for a dedicated space for children with autism who were previously included in the general special education class. The training and guidance provided by JPBC empowered our team to work more effectively with these children."

For families who cannot travel to Jerusalem, this expansion of services represents the first time specialized care has been accessible. Parents have reported significant improvements in their children's communication, behavior, and independence.

"Before joining the class, [my son] Khalil was hyperactive and sometimes aggressive," said one mother. "Now he is calmer, more focused, and has started using simple words. He greets people, follows instructions, and even uses the bathroom independently. He loves coming to the Centre. Even on holidays he asks to go."

For educators, the transformation has been equally profound—teachers who once felt uncertain about working with children on the autism spectrum now speak with confidence about their students' progress.

"At first, I was hesitant to work with children with autism," shared Ms. Ghada Tmeizi, a teacher in Ithna. "But through the training provided by JPBC, I learned how to understand their needs and communicate with them effectively. The experience has changed how I see inclusion. Children with autism deserve their own space to grow and prepare for integration later on."

The success of the classrooms in Ithna and Yatta reflects the impact of JPBC's comprehensive approach, which combines capacity building, family resources, and professional mentorship to create lasting, community-based impact. Building on this momentum, additional classrooms have since been established in Jericho and Ramallah, expanding access to even more children and families.

*"Children with autism deserve their own space to grow and prepare for integration later on."*

MS. GHADA TMEZI, TEACHER  
IN THE AUTISM CLASSROOM  
IN ITHNA



Photo: Six-year-old Annabelle receives comprehensive therapy and education at JPBC's Inclusive School

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## Carry the Light Forward

Every child who speaks their first word, takes their first independent step, or experiences learning in a safe, nurturing environment carries a piece of the hope you make possible with AFEDJ. Across East Jerusalem and the West Bank, your support allows JPBC to bring these life-changing services to children with autism who might otherwise be left behind. This same spirit of care extends to the full range of rehabilitative and therapeutic services JPBC provides—from its foundational campus in Jerusalem to its satellite unit at Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza—ensuring that children facing a wide array of physical and developmental challenges receive the specialized support they deserve.

When you make a gift directed to the area of greatest need, you ensure that JPBC and other diocesan institutions can continue to meet families where they are, adapt to crises, and expand access to life-changing services. Your generosity strengthens teachers, empowers families, and opens doors for children who have waited far too long for care. By giving to AFEDJ, you carry the light further, helping children throughout the Holy Land reach the milestones they deserve and the futures they are capable of achieving.

Make your gift today and ensure that this care, from the classroom to the clinic, never stops, no matter what obstacles stand in the way.

## Spring Campaign Update

As our *Carry the Light* spring campaign continues, we are grateful to share that \$375K has been raised towards our \$1M goal. Each gift reflects a commitment to sustaining the institutions and programs that children and families across the Holy Land rely on every day.

### GIVING BY CHECK?

For USPS Mail:

Please make your check payable to “AFEDJ” and mail it using the enclosed return envelope or your own envelope to: **AFEDJ, PO Box 411814, Boston, MA, 02241-1814**

At a time when the weight of ongoing war continues to intensify needs on the ground, your partnership is more critical than ever. A gift directed to the area of greatest need provides the Diocese with the agility and resources required to sustain institutions like the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre. It ensures they can continue delivering the specialized services you’ve read about here, maintaining a presence in Jerusalem and Gaza, and expanding outreach to remote West Bank villages, even as circumstances shift.

Your support is the steady foundation that allows this care to reach every family who needs it.

Join us in carrying the light forward.

## YOUR GENEROSITY SAVES LIVES

Right now, in the Holy Land, people are facing impossible choices. For parents, that means wondering how long they can keep their children in school. For patients, it’s whether they can afford the care they urgently need. And for the humanitarian institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, it’s a daily fight to keep their doors open to all who seek help. In a region often marked by division, each institution offers something rare: a refuge where anyone seeking healthcare, education, or the chance for a better life is welcomed with dignity, no matter their background or ability to pay.

With your partnership and support, that promise can endure for generations to come. When you give to AFEDJ directed to “where the need is greatest,” you become a part of an extraordinary community. Donate now at [afedj.org](http://afedj.org) or scan this QR code.



**LEARN MORE AT [AFEDJ.ORG/GIVE](http://AFEDJ.ORG/GIVE)**



# AFEDJ

American Friends of the  
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

**Building Hope in the Holy Land**

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25 Old Kings Hwy. N, Suite 13  
Darien, Connecticut, 06820

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Questions about AFEDJ or our work?  
Please be in touch!

Eileen Spencer  
Executive Director  
[espencer@afedj.org](mailto:espencer@afedj.org)

Sarah Schofield-Mansur  
Senior Director of Individual Giving  
[sarah@afedj.org](mailto:sarah@afedj.org)

Betsy Wilson  
Director of Operations & Donor Services  
[bwilson@afedj.org](mailto:bwilson@afedj.org)

Charis Bhagianathan  
Director of Communications  
[cbhagianathan@afedj.org](mailto:cbhagianathan@afedj.org)

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## WAYS TO SUPPORT AFEDJ

### GIVE BY CREDIT CARD

Log onto [www.afedj.org/give](http://www.afedj.org/give) to make a secure, one-time donation or to become a monthly donor.

### GIVE BY CHECK

For USPS Mail: Make a check payable to "AFEDJ" and mail to: AFEDJ, PO Box 411814, Boston, MA, 02241-1814.

For FedEx and UPS: Make a check payable to "AFEDJ" and mail to AFEDJ, 25 Old Kings Hwy N, Ste 13, Darien, CT 06820.

### DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Do you have a donor advised fund? Consider AFEDJ as a beneficiary of your generosity.

### MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies match their employees' charitable contributions. Consider matching funds to double your gift.

### BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

When you commit to giving monthly, you become a member of the Olive Tree Circle, our community of monthly donors.

### LEGACY GIVING

When you support AFEDJ with a legacy gift you become a Jerusalem Saint ensuring the ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem will continue to serve the next generation and beyond.

### WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST

Donations designated to "where the need is greatest" enable AFEDJ to meet urgent needs and swiftly respond to emerging opportunities.

### DESIGNATED GIFTS

100% of designated donations go directly to the institution you specify.