



Published on *matanel* (<http://www.matanel.org>)

---

# Aleh-2012

**Name of program**

Aleh

**Year of activity**

2012

**Name of the report's writer**

Esther Brander

**Function of the report's writer**

Project Coordinator at Aleh

**Phones & Emails**

Email: [esther@aleh-israel.org](mailto:esther@aleh-israel.org)

Phone: +972-2-501-1112

Cell: +52-620-8468

**Status of program**

During the year 2011, Aleh Jerusalem embarked on an ambitious renovations project in which the dormitory wing was completely restructured to create a homelike, inviting apartment-style wing for the special-needs children in our care.

In 2012, the new Assisted-Living Wing became home to some 60 severely disabled children who suffer from both physical and cognitive disabilities. The spacious, beautifully designed bedrooms house 2 children in each room and offer them privacy and comfort. The project has completely changed the wing from an "institutional" feel to that of a warm home.

At the same time, the children's complicated medical conditions require ongoing professional supervision and monitoring. It was important that the wing be designed in a way that would ensure proper supervision and safety. The Central Medical Island, dedicated by the Matanel Foundation in April 2012, fulfills this goal.

The Medical Island is situated in the center of the wing, enabling the nursing staff to have a view of all the bedrooms. It is the connecting factor between the various bedroom units.

The Medical Island is well-equipped with the medical and therapeutic equipment required by the children's conditions. These include fully stocked emergency and resuscitation equipment, monitors, kangaroo feeders, suction machines, medicines etc., and a modern computer tracking system for ongoing recording and follow-up of the children's conditions.

At the same time, the medical island's design fits in aesthetically with the homelike environment of the wing, with equipment and medicinal supplies in unobtrusive corners and closets. This helps understate the seriousness of the children's conditions and contributes to their quality of life.

In conclusion, the Central Medical Island is a significant feature in enabling the children to live a normative life while receiving the supportive care they require.

### **Main achievements during the last year of activity**

The year 2012 is a year of growth and development in every area within the Aleh Jerusalem facility.

- o The facility now consists of two residential wings – the assisted-living floor and the high-dependent floor – with each providing the medical, educational, and paramedical services their unique population requires.
- o A third floor, to serve as a special education school for Aleh residents and community children, is currently under construction. It will have the capacity to offer educational and rehabilitative services to 100 children.
- o The Child Development Clinic is being renovated, to include more spacious therapy and waiting rooms and several new features, such as a Rehabilitative Fitness Room and Gameroom Lending Library. The expanded clinic will enable more outpatient children to receive the quality therapy they require to integrate well within their communities and families.
- o This year encouraged the expansion and cultivation of Volunteers Program, including high-profile community involvement and integrative events. Some of these include:
  - o over 300 steady volunteers
  - o March of Hope (Passover 2012) – Aleh children joined family, friends, and hundreds of guests on a march across Jerusalem's String Bridge
  - o Jerusalem municipality's Streetball event – basketball stars played a game dedicated to Aleh's children, with the children in attendance
  - o Kav L'Chaim organization establishment of an Aleh branch
  - o Volunteers Shabbat held every 4-6 weeks, with some 40 volunteers spending Shabbat with

Aleh's children

- o Shabbat Camp Weekend, taking Aleh children to Mercaz Shapira for a weekend to remember
- o Aleh Flashmob – held in Jerusalem's Mamilla Mall, with Aleh children dancing in wheelchairs

## **Others**

At present, Aleh Jerusalem's nursing staff cares for all the residents on the various floors. We hope to be able to hire new staff and delegate a number of nurses specifically to the assisted-living wing, so that they can better devote themselves to the 60 children in their care.

---

**Source URL:** <http://www.matanel.org/content/aleh-2012-0>