



CHW

Children
Healthcare
Women



SUMMER 2020

POWER ON!

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES
FROM NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, ALINA IANSON

SHALOM!

Dear Friends,



HOME IS WHERE
THE HEART IS

This past January, I was fortunate to be in Israel with Marilyn Libin, CHW National President, and several other National Directors for **WIZO's Enlarged General Meeting**. We really enjoyed the special presentations and events as WIZO celebrated their Centennial. It's always so gratifying to visit our projects and see our impact first-hand.

As we returned home, the global health crisis rapidly unfolded, and we were consumed with concern for the health and wellbeing of our families and friends here at home, our Jewish Homeland and globally. Throughout the pandemic, CHW's support focused on front line workers and services for Children, Healthcare, and Women.

While all educational institutions were closed during weeks of lock down, the **CHW Montreal Clara Balinsky Day Care Centre**, which is located at the Shamir Medical Centre (Assaf Harofeh), was one of the very few daycares in Israel to remain open, providing essential childcare and support to front line Hospital staff who cared for COVID-19 patients as the Medical Centre stepped up as a COVID national testing site for the government.

Our two youth villages: **CHW Hadassim and CHW Nahalal** became safe-havens for hundreds of Na'aleh students, unable to return to their home countries for Passover holidays, due to travel restrictions. Special arrangements and programs were created to ensure that children and youth were safe and healthy throughout the lock down period, in compliance with strict Ministry of Health guidelines. Essential services continued, such as Therapeutic Horse Riding at CHW Nahalal and Emotional Therapy at CHW Hadassim for youth during lock down.

Once the lock down was announced mid-March in Israel, incredible efforts were made by the **CHW Neri Bloomfield College of Design** and **Hadassah Academic College (HAC)** to ensure students were able to immediately access online classes. Students with socio-economic difficulties were provided with computers allowing them to continue their studies from home during lock down. I am very pleased to report that both colleges succeeded to ensure distant learning for all their students.

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Our **Healthcare** projects were directly impacted by the pandemic.

Hadassah Hospital remains at the front line of fighting COVID-19 in Israel and internationally, with its ground-breaking research and protocols around COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. Hadassah Hospital became the National Testing Site for COVID-19. Major scale up efforts, protocols and invaluable testing resulted in relatively few deaths from COVID-19 and successful recoveries from innovative treatments. Hadassah staff were praised for their dedication and commitment, including Nurse of the Year Prize, to Daphna Hyvroni, a NICU nurse at Hadassah Mount Scopus. Hadassah Hospital was a beacon of hope, with countless stories celebrating the diversity of staff and humanitarian services provided to all communities.

The Shamir Medical Centre (Assaf Harofeh) provided essential COVID-19 testing and treatment to patients in one of the largest catchment areas serving a population with major socio-economic challenges. The expertise of the medical staff of doctors and nurses from the CHW Debbie Eisenberg and Gary Levene Pediatric Intensive Care Unit contributed to the overall COVID-19 emergency efforts aimed at children. The 'More than Masks' initiative replaced name tags with photos of smiling faces of staff that were hidden underneath protective gear.

The Shamir Medical Centre (Assaf Harofeh) was honoured and recognized by The Civil Service Commissioner, for successfully advancing more women in key senior and management positions over the past four years, under the leadership of Director General, Dr. Osnat Levtzion-Korach, the first woman to head an Israeli public hospital.

And last but certainly not least, projects for **Women**:

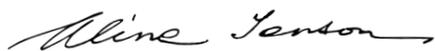
Home isolation throughout COVID-19 disproportionately affects the most vulnerable women and children. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, a 30% spike in cases of domestic violence in Israel was reported. **During the peak of the pandemic, an alarming 400% increase in emergency calls to support hotlines, included the one supported by CHW, was recorded.** Special attention and support was provided to single mothers, many newly unemployed, and under major financial and emotional stress.

In response to a truly critical situation, **WIZO opened an emergency shelter** to support women and children escaping domestic violence and abuse during lock down. Despite the increase in demand, the shelter is the only new shelter in Israel to be opened in the past 15 years.

During these unprecedented times, CHW is striving to stay solid and stable and to continue supporting our projects and services for Children, Healthcare, and Women in Israel and Canada.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for opening your hearts and providing help to Israel's most vulnerable. They say the one who saves one life, saves the world. Think of the impact your generosity is having, if last year alone, **CHW improved the lives of over 170,000 people.**

Toda Rabah!



Aline Janson, National Executive Director

COVID-19 EMERGENCY SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED



Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) Needs Your Help.

Dear Friends,

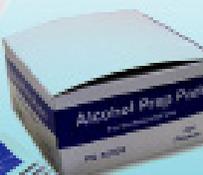
As schools and daycares at CHW Projects in Israel prepare to reopen, an urgent need for medical and sanitary supplies has arisen. Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) needs your help and here's what you can do TODAY:

Visit our **SUPPLIES LIST** on our website and choose from a wide variety of supplies needed. Your donation goes directly to help provide Daycares and Youth Villages supported by Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) with much needed COVID-19 supplies such as:

- Disposable Masks and Gloves
- Face Shields
- Hand Sanitizers and Disinfectants
- Thermometers
- ... and Much More

Your donation will help curb this pandemic at CHW Projects as we prepare Children & Youth with **the help they immediately need.**

CLICK HERE FOR A FULL LIST OF SUPPLIES AND TO DONATE TODAY



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN'S HEARTS: WHAT HADASSAH HAS LEARNED

COVID-19 has disproportionately affected women because of an increase in domestic abuse and financial stress, as well as the loneliness and isolation of social distancing, related Dr. Donna Zwas, director of the Hadassah Medical Organization's Linda Joy Pollin Cardiovascular Wellness Center for Women, during a June 3 webinar on "Women's Heart Health during COVID-19."

Dr. Zwas reported that the Hadassah domestic abuse hot-line has received three times as many phone calls during the COVID-19 pandemic. In general, she said, statistics reveal that among abused women, there has been a 29 percent increase in strokes, a 31 percent increase in cardiovascular disease, a 40 percent increase in heart attacks, and a 44 percent increase in overall mortality.



Dr. Donna Zfat Zwas
Director, The Linda Joy Pollin Cardiovascular Wellness Centre

Unemployment, too, has affected more women than men, Dr. Zwas noted. Single mothers are particularly under stress because they often rely on grandparents for child care, and, with the advent of COVID-19, this has not always been possible. Financial stress, she explained, often leads to more obesity, more smoking, and less exercise. On a physiological level, the stress and anxiety trigger a rise in adrenaline levels, which, in turn, cause inflammation, leading to a rise in the number of white blood cells that bind with molecules of cholesterol and clog cardiac arteries. Ultimately, the scenario can lead to a heart attack.

Statistics also illustrate that social isolation and loneliness, Dr. Zwas reported, have caused a 29 percent increase in heart attacks and a 32 percent increase in strokes. The significant impact of domestic abuse, financial distress, social isolation, and loneliness, she noted, has led her and the staff at the Pollin Center to focus more on these environmental developments as key risk factors. She urged Hadassah women in America to mobilize their communities to help alleviate the loneliness that isolated women are experiencing and to offer resources to those suffering from domestic abuse.

Dr. Zwas also emphasized the need to ensure that women don't ignore symptoms of a heart attack. "At the peak of COVID-19 in Israel, patients were terrified," Dr. Zwas said. "Hadassah experienced a 50 percent decrease in patients coming to the emergency room with heart attacks. Those who did come to the hospital often came late." As a result, Dr. Zwas reported, there was a 28 percent increase in serious cardiovascular complications. In speaking with colleagues in the United States, Dr. Zwas learned that they all had stories of the same phenomenon. Heart patients experienced more complications because they hesitated to come to the hospital.

Dr. Zwas issued "a call to action to my sisters in America" to spread the message: "If you have heart attack symptoms, even in these crazy times, you need to get help."

THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

FATHER'S DAY ZOOM BBQ

**WITH COMEDIAN
JOEL CHASNOFF**

Sponsored by CHW Toronto Centre President,
Tova Train, in Honour of All Fathers!



SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020 | 3:00 PM EST

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
DONATE A 'VIRTUAL
HAMBURGER'**

Join us when stand-up comedian and writer
Joel Chasnoff "performs" his popular online show
"Jokes I Can't Tell In My Act."

Read more about Joel at: www.joelchasnoff.com

In support of our Frontline Workers in Israel during
the COVID-19 pandemic, send a 'Virtual Hamburger'
to honour a special man in your life this Father's Day.
A Registration Link to the ZOOM BBQ event will be sent
to you and the recipient of your donation!

**CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR BURGER
MENU AND DONATE TODAY!**

CHW CAPTURING JOY DURING COVID-19

COVID-19 has placed the whole world on lock down, with a great deal of stress and chaos descending on medical institutions. At **The Shamir Medical Centre (Assaf Harofeh)** in Israel, Photographer Din Arel has captured a different kind of atmosphere where the staff welcome new life into the world with joy and positivity during these troubling times. The photos capture a resilient staff of dedicated medical professionals who help a new mother deliver a newborn baby, as well as the nurses keeping their spirits high while dealing with this unprecedented pandemic.



Photos Credit, Courtesy of **Din Arel Photography**



**HOME IS WHERE
THE HEART IS**



Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)
2020 Annual Campaign

Changing Lives

Providing Hope

Building Futures

Annual Campaign Launches March 1
Help Us Reach Our Fundraising Goal of \$1.5M