



Newsletter

March 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we share our first newsletter of 2025, we extend our deepest hopes for peace and renewal in the year ahead. Despite the recent collapse of the ceasefire, we stand firmly in our belief that transformation is possible. Though the path to lasting peace might seem even more distant, in these darkened times, hope isn't just our name—it's our foundational principle that sustains us even now.

Against a backdrop of continuing hardship and loss, our commitment grows stronger. We remain dedicated to amplifying the voices of constructive Palestinian and Israeli civil initiatives and cultivating a balanced, peace-focused dialogue that transcends borders and polarization.

This year marks a significant milestone—B8 of Hope's ninth anniversary. Our journey began in February 2016, when eight friends gathered in Geneva, united despite our different backgrounds, faiths, and origins. Inspired by courageous Israeli and Palestinian peace activists, we formed a grassroots initiative to support their vital work from Switzerland. We named ourselves B8 of Hope, with "8" representing our founding members and "B8" echoing "Beit"—the word for "home" in both Hebrew and Arabic—creating a sanctuary where hope could flourish.

What started as a modest initiative has blossomed into something remarkable. While still intentionally small, we've built a respected presence on the ground, supporting over 20 transformative initiatives through our diverse community of donors across Switzerland and beyond.

Already this year, we've hosted compelling public talks, powerful documentary screenings, and meaningful exchanges with peace activists—with much more planned in the months ahead. [See our recent activities here.](#)

Even amid the ongoing challenges exacerbated by the war, our Israeli and Palestinian partners continue their brave, essential work—skilfully combining bridge-building with critical humanitarian support. Throughout this newsletter and the year ahead, we'll spotlight these organizations, showcasing the rich diversity of approaches within our grantee community. Each contributes a unique perspective, creating a mosaic of change-making efforts that complement and strengthen one another.

◆ *Nobel Peace Prize Nomination: Women Leading the Path to Peace*

We are thrilled to announce an extraordinary achievement: two of B8 of Hope's grantees—Israeli movement [Women Wage Peace](#) and Palestinian movement [Women of the Sun](#)—along with our partners, French movement [Guerrières de la Paix](#) (Warriors for Peace), have been jointly nominated

for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize!

Three Movements, One Vision

Women Wage Peace has mobilized thousands of Israeli women from diverse backgrounds across the political and social spectrum. Through powerful public demonstrations, awareness campaigns, and grassroots organizing, they champion UN Resolution 1325 and amplify women's voices in calling for a return to diplomatic negotiations. Their unwavering commitment focuses on achieving a sustainable and just peace agreement that serves all communities.

Women of the Sun works tirelessly to elevate Palestinian women's voices from all walks of life. Their mission centers on empowerment, leadership development, and driving meaningful social change. By building capacity and creating platforms for engagement, they strive to create a just and inclusive society where women take leading roles in peacebuilding and reconciliation processes.



Guerrières de la Paix, founded by documentary filmmaker and peace activist Hanna Assouline, brings together women of diverse origins united in their dedication to peace, justice, and equality.

B8 of Hope has proudly supported Hanna's impactful work, including screening her illuminating documentaries "Les Guerrières De La Paix" (Warriors for Peace) in 2018 and "Résister pour la Paix" (Resisting for Peace), co-directed with Sonia Terrab, in 2024.

The Power of Collaboration

What makes this nomination particularly significant is the collaborative spirit these organizations embody. Despite

operating in different contexts and facing unique challenges, these women-led movements have joined forces on numerous initiatives, offering mutual support and strengthening each other's impact in their shared pursuit of peace, dignity, and equality for all.

This prestigious nomination stands as powerful recognition of women's essential role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. It acknowledges that sustainable peace requires women's full and equal participation at every level of the process.

We at B8 of Hope stand proudly with these remarkable women and celebrate this momentous recognition of their courage, perseverance, and visionary leadership. Their nomination reminds us that even in the darkest times, the work of building peace continues—and women are leading the way.

◆ *Ramadan Gift Basket Initiative: Bringing Hope During Difficult Times*

B8 of Hope is proud to support both [Takadom](#) and Taghyeer's initiatives to provide essential Ramadan assistance to vulnerable Palestinian communities. While Taghyeer distributed food



Photos credit © Taghyeer

parcels to 70 needy families in the Nablus area. Takadom focused on marginalized women across East Jerusalem, Ramallah and its surrounding villages, and Jericho. These carefully prepared baskets contain food necessities and personal hygiene products for women who are facing extraordinary hardships.

The recipients include divorced women, widows, and those whose husbands have lost their livelihoods due to the war. Many of these women previously worked in Israel themselves but are now unable to obtain entry permits. Despite numerous logistical challenges, including closed roads and delivery difficulties, Takadom aims to reach between 60-80 families.

This initiative has created a complex emotional impact. Many recipients—women who previously participated in Takadom training programs—find it difficult to accept donations. However, the baskets serve as a powerful reminder that they are not forgotten. The initiative acknowledges their struggles while honouring their remarkable strength and resilience.



Photos credit © Takdom

Wisam, who leads this initiative, expressed heartfelt gratitude to B8 of Hope:

"This opportunity is truly an honor for me. My daughter will be working alongside me, allowing my children to develop empathy for these women's situations. Our family will gain so much from this experience too. This is my first time leading such an initiative—it feels both unique and holy. Having my children witness this work means everything to me."

These women, despite limited education and rights, display extraordinary resilience as they shoulder the responsibility for their households. Through this collaboration, B8 of Hope and Takadom honor their strength and ensure they are seen, acknowledged, and supported during this challenging time.

◆ **Healing Waters: Healthcare Initiatives in Hebron**

In times of conflict, addressing basic human needs becomes a foundation for any future progress towards peace. Recognizing that peace efforts cannot succeed when essential health services are unavailable, B8 of Hope proudly supports crucial healthcare initiatives that serve communities in need.

The Green Land Society for Health Development: Transforming Healthcare in Hebron

The Green Land Society for Health Development (GLSHD), established in 2007, stands at the forefront of improving health and environmental conditions across Palestine. This Palestinian nonprofit focuses on raising the quality of life through targeted health services, environmental initiatives, disaster management preparedness, research, and community awareness campaigns.

In the summer of 2023, we partnered with GLSHD on a groundbreaking hydrotherapy training program, which brought together Palestinian physiotherapists and Israeli hydrotherapy experts from Alyn Hospital in Jerusalem. The initiative created a valuable exchange of medical expertise while fostering professional collaboration.



From Training to Treatment: The Hydrotherapy Unit at Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital

Building on this successful collaboration, we expanded our support in 2024 by contributing to the construction of a dedicated hydrotherapy unit at the Al-Rahma (Mercy) Charitable Rehabilitation Center in Hebron-Loza. This facility addresses a critical gap in the region's healthcare infrastructure, providing specialized rehabilitation services that were previously inaccessible to many Palestinian patients.

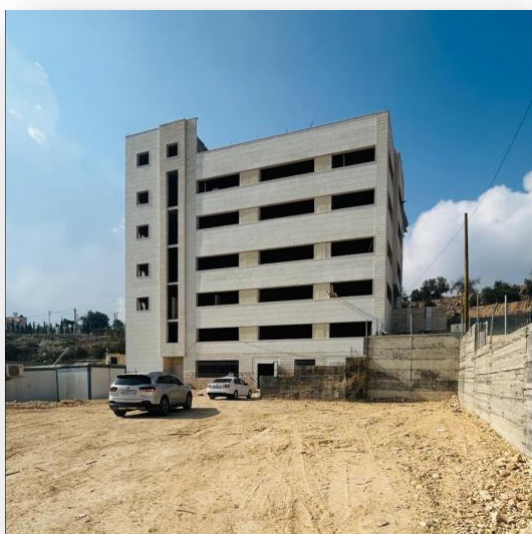
The new hydrotherapy center offers a transformative solution for families in the Hebron region who previously faced significant barriers to care:

- **Improved accessibility:** Patients no longer need to undertake long, painful journeys for treatment
- **Affordability:** Services provided within a charitable hospital setting make specialized care available to families regardless of economic status
- **Integrated approach:** The facility combines physical, mental, and psychological support—a comprehensive model unavailable at private clinics in the region
- **Specialized care:** Children with special needs and their families now have access to adapted facilities and appropriate therapeutic environments

Healthcare as a Foundation for Community Wellbeing

These healthcare initiatives demonstrate how professional cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians can produce tangible benefits for communities in need. By supporting essential medical services while encouraging cross-cultural professional exchange, we address immediate needs while maintaining space for meaningful interaction.

As the rehabilitation center prepares to open its doors, we are encouraged by what this project represents—a commitment to human dignity and wellbeing that transcends boundaries, and a reminder that cooperation in healthcare can make a real difference in people's lives.



Photos credit © GLSHD

◆ *Standing Against Extremism: Roots' Vital Work*

Even in the wake of the recent ceasefire, the effects of the war continue to impact lives across Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel. Our grantee [Roots](#) has responded by significantly expanding their programs. The beginning of 2025 saw them engage hundreds of Israelis and Palestinians in initiatives specifically designed to address the challenges of the current environment.

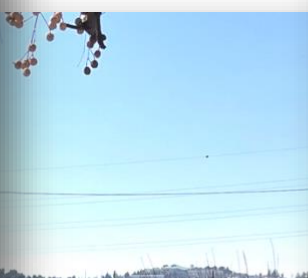
Countering the Rise of Extremism

The ongoing conflict has created fertile ground for extremist viewpoints to gain traction. Recognizing this dangerous trend, Roots has developed several impactful approaches to confront it.

Their Jewish leaders have launched a program of events facilitated by respected local religious teachers, creating spaces where Israeli participants can process their emotions and re-examine where the war has taken them. These gatherings have sparked important conversations in communities where such dialogue is increasingly rare.

In parallel, Roots has assembled a dedicated working group of community leaders focused specifically on addressing violent extremism. While the sensitive nature of this work requires discretion, they report meaningful progress in their efforts.

What speaks volumes about Roots' commitment is their consistent presence alongside vulnerable Palestinian communities facing extremist violence. They have been particularly active in supporting Bedouin communities near Bethlehem and in the Southern Hebron Hills, not only providing protective presence but also persistently engaging with Israeli authorities about the troubling increase in extremist actions.



Photos credit © Roots

Transforming Education to Prevent Radicalization

Looking toward sustainable change, Roots has initiated a promising collaboration with an educational program that develops curriculum for Religious Zionist schools. This partnership aims to help teachers recognize signs of radicalization and address the heightened tensions that war has exacerbated among young people.

Roots hopes these educational initiatives will eventually be implemented across various school networks in Jewish communities, helping to counter extremist narratives at their earliest stages.

Through their multifaceted approach—combining community dialogue, direct intervention, solidarity actions, and educational innovation—Roots demonstrates what it means to confront extremism with both courage and compassion. Their work embodies the kind of principled peacebuilding that B8 of Hope is proud to support, especially during these extraordinarily hard times.



Our Continued Commitment

As we move through 2025, we remain deeply grateful for all who share in our journey. In these challenging times, the stories and initiatives featured in this newsletter remind us that meaningful change continues to take root through persistence, compassion, and collective action.

Your engagement strengthens our work to bring Israelis and Palestinians together, building foundations for a future based on mutual respect, equality, and dignity. Through supporting grassroots peacebuilders, we continue to nurture spaces where recognition and understanding can flourish despite the immense challenges.

With gratitude and determination,

**B8fully Yours,
The B8 of Hope Team**

