

## Organization Helps Victims Of Terror

Liora Tedgi was celebrating *Tu B'Shevat* in 2002, by standing on a local street corner in the Beit Yisrael neighborhood, distributing food to the needy, when a car bomb was detonated. Tedgi stood in shock as in the background she heard the wailing of ambulance sirens along with those of the pedestrians at her side. Pregnant at the time, and having suffered through the consequences of the bombing, Liora vowed to turn her experience into something positive.

Thus, she began Ohr Meir & Bracha, an organization that provides assistance to victims of terror and their families. Tedgi set up the organization to respond to the unmet, unrecognized needs of these victims. Hundreds of victims of terror don't receive Israeli government's aid initiatives because their injuries are deemed insufficient or because they are still in the process of being assessed for disability (which can take two or more years).

Ohr Meir & Bracha provides a host of services for terror victim's families, including distribution of winter coats, shoes, school supplies, baby formula, diapers, kitchen packages for brides, hospital visits to the wounded, and after-school programs for children. Their biggest and most notable endeavor is the weekly assembly and packaging of hundred of baskets of food for *Shabbat* and *yomim tovim*.

The organization helps Jews. All of the victims

are referred from the government agency Bituach Leumi, regardless of whether they are receiving additional government benefits or not.

When it comes to living as a terror attack survivor, "it is always with you," said Tedgi. "Such an individual faces each day as a new challenge. This person is constantly embroiled in a battle with himself. For example, if he is a survivor of an attack on a bus, he battles with himself should he or should he not board the bus? If he was in a bombing in a mall, should he visit the mall or not?"

In order to expand the program and continue to help these victims in the most efficient way possible, Ohr Meir & Bracha aspires to "house" all its dreams under one roof. Volunteers are currently assembling baskets in an alley, outdoors. In a new building, all activities would take place in a computer room, all purpose room, dining room, synagogue, social hall, and soup kitchen.

"Our center will be their opportunity to showcase their knowledge and impart it to others. This center will truly become the center of their lives where life cycle events such as weddings will take place, day-to-day needs will be met through therapy sessions, and victims of terror will have found a safe haven from their fears and a fulfillment of all their needs."

For more information or to donate, visit [www.terror-victims.org.il](http://www.terror-victims.org.il).

