

## Supportive Communities for People with Disabilities

### Enabling Israel's Disabled to Live Independently

The Supportive Community is an innovative model of care that empowers people with disabilities to live independently in their homes. Adapted from the model developed by JDC-ESHEL for the elderly, the program provides disabled persons living in the community with 24/7 support and an array of services and assistance so that they can effectively cope with emergency situations and live with dignity under their own roofs. The program also encourages residents to become active participants in their community.

Members of a Supportive Community have access to:

- A "Community Parent" to help with urgent tasks (e.g. medication delivery)
- A "Community Social Worker" to connect them with other services
- 24/7 emergency call center including access to medical services
- Minor home repairs and modifications
- Basic repair of assistive devices
- Social activities



**Currently, 23 Supportive Communities are transforming the lives of 1,700 disabled people and over 4,500 other family members, including 800 children (up to 18 yrs.)**

Acre, Be'er Sheva, Beit Shean, Galilee Panhandle, Hadera, Haifa, Jerusalem (3), Karmiel, Kiryat Shmona, Ma'alot, Merhavim, Mizpe Ramon, Naharia, Nazareth, Sachnin, Safed, Sderot, the Sharon region, Tel Aviv (2), and Tiberias.

**This program can be expanded to reach 100 communities, serving 10,000 people with disabilities and 30,000 family members.**

## Member Satisfaction

Research shows that over 80% of Supportive Community members report a high level of satisfaction with the program, citing the following main benefits:

- ✓ Increased sense of security
- ✓ Enhanced functioning in daily life
- ✓ Greater involvement in social activities

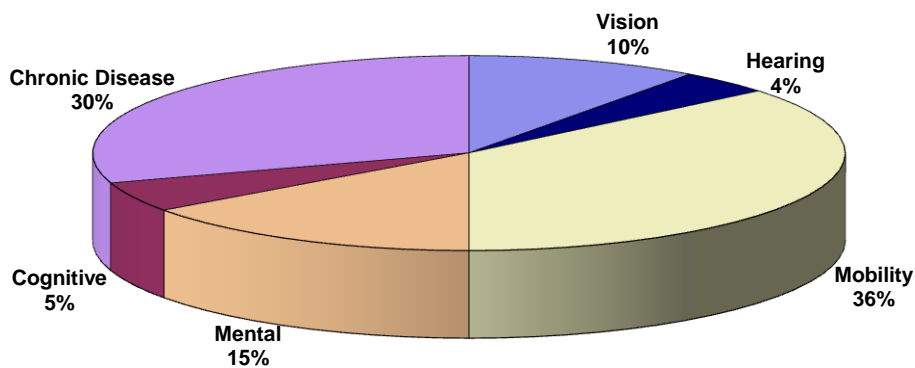


*Community Parent repairs a member's kitchen sink (Tel Aviv)*



*Community Social Worker visits a member at home (Haifa)*

## Who Participates in the Supportive Community Program? Members' Primary Disability (%)



## Gaining Self-Confidence

“For me, independent living means – among other things – privacy. People with disabilities, especially the blind, suffer from a lack of privacy. Today, with my buzzer to the community emergency call center, I don’t worry when I’m alone at home and I enjoy some privacy, and that’s very important to me.”

*Susan Malcha, Supportive Community member in Jerusalem*

## Person-Centered Services

The strength of the Supportive Community model is that each member – whatever his/her disability – can choose what suits him from a vast array of services.

## Social Activities: Getting Out and About

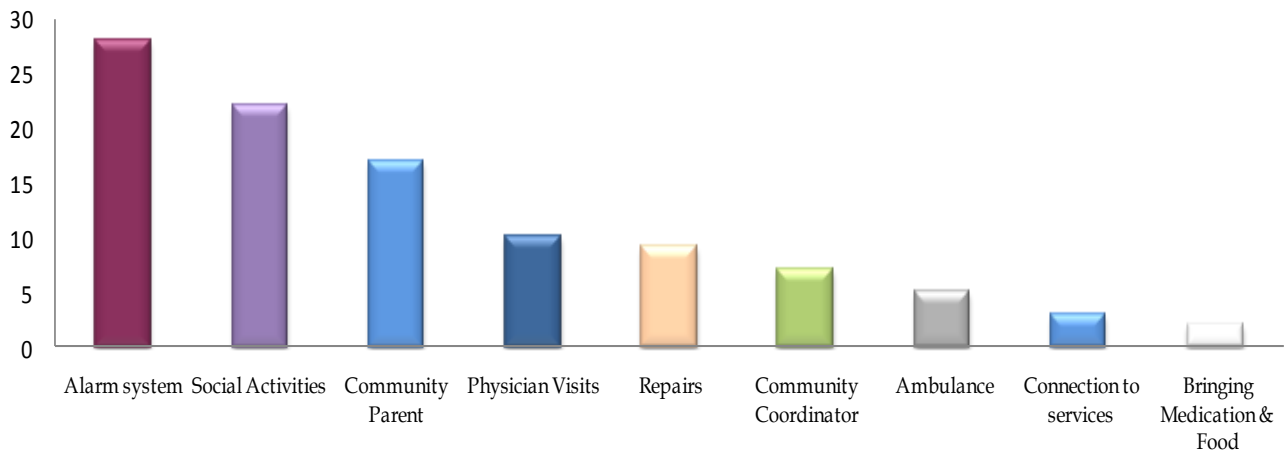


*Trip to the Galilee planned by members of the Jerusalem Supportive Community*



*"If we can reach the top of Masada, then nothing can stop us" – SC member*

## What Members Value Most About Their Supportive Communities (%)



## Further Goals

- ✓ Empower and encourage members to participate in community life.
- ✓ Develop new services tailored to the needs of specific populations such as transportation in the periphery, physical adaptations in the apartments for safety, and improved daily functioning.

## With Thanks

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## **Fast Facts Israelis with Disabilities**

- 19% of the Israeli adult population (700,000 people) is disabled. More than one-third of these individuals are categorized as severely disabled and nearly two-thirds are moderately disabled.
- Ten percent are people with physical disabilities, sensory disabilities (blind or vision impaired, deaf or hearing impaired), cognitive or mental disabilities. An additional 9% have a health-related disability.
- The annual growth of the disabled population receiving government allowances (6.3%) transcends the annual growth of the general population (2.6%).
- Approximately 240,000 people, aged 18-64, receive disability allowances from the National Insurance Institute for living expenses or services; an additional 50,000 people receive disability allowances from the IDF.
- One-third of those receiving disability allowances from the National Insurance Institute live below the poverty line.

Sources: Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, the National Insurance Institute, and the Central Bureau of Statistics.

## **Israel Unlimited**

**Israel Unlimited - a partnership of JDC-Israel, the Ruderman Family Foundation and the Government of Israel, and- develops and implements innovative solutions that meet the unique needs of Israeli adults with all types of disabilities who are living in the community. The programs are implemented in coordination with government agencies, municipalities, non-profit organizations, and others.**

**Programs address the multi-faceted needs of Israelis with disabilities in the following areas:**

- ✓ **Community-Based Support Services for Independent Living**
- ✓ **Disabled at High-Risk and in the Periphery**
- ✓ **Disability Related to Chronic Illness**
- ✓ **Leadership Development among the Disabled**
- ✓ **Promoting Accessibility**
- ✓ **Emergency Response**
- ✓ **Knowledge Management and Training**

*For more information:*

Division for Disabilities and Rehabilitation, JDC-Israel

Tamara Barnea, Director, Barnea@jdc.org.il

Ronit Goldiner, Area Head, Independent Living for the Disabled, Ronitg@jdc.org.il

[www.jdc.org.il/disability](http://www.jdc.org.il/disability)

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