

## **A letter from Jeff Graber, Southeast Hebrew Congregation, Silver Spring, Md.**

A few months ago, the South East Hebrew Congregation signed on with Operation Embrace. Operation Embrace is a support program for injured victims of terror. Operation Embrace gives congregations the opportunity to connect with an injured individual and his/her family. Our responsibility is to offer emotional support to the victim and his/her family as much as we can.

SEHC is fortunate to have been given the name of Elyashiv Gaheli and his fine family. This is Elyashiv's story.

Elyashiv Gaheli is 15 years old and was badly injured on June 11, 2002. He and two other friends were helping out in an agricultural farm and when returning to their yeshiva was trapped in a terrorist explosion. This is how the event was reported by Arutz 7.

A bomb exploded this morning at the Sdeh Kalev cherry farm near Hevron, wounding three 15-year-old boys, one of them seriously. The wounded were part of a group of 50 high school and junior high school students from Kiryat Arba on a working-visit in the field, under the supervision of IDF soldiers. The bomb was placed about five meters from a bus that was to take the boys back to their schools, and exploded as the last of them were about to get on. The three were rushed by helicopter to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Two boys were initially listed in moderate condition, while one - Dvir ben Chanah - was wounded in the stomach and has reportedly lost part of at least one leg.

On this past Purim, I had the distinct honor of spending time in the Gaheli home and learning about Elyashiv and his wonderful family.

Elyashiv lives in Jerusalem but continues to attend yeshiva in Kiryat Arba.† His parents are Ehud and Hadassah. They are a Yeminite family with 9 children, one is married. Ehud learns and teaches at Mercaz HaRav Yeshiva.

All their children learn in yeshivas or seminaries. Several have also served in the military.

The Gahelis have moved to Jerusalem to facilitate Elyashiv's therapy. Every day, Elyashiv goes for therapy in the morning and in the afternoon travels back to his yeshiva in Kiryat Arba to continue learning. Elyashiv has had several complex and painful operations. He still has limited feeling on his right side and cannot walk unattended.

Hadasah's email is [hadasa\\_ge@hotmail.co.il](mailto:hadasa_ge@hotmail.co.il) .

For now they would like to hear from others with words of support and comfort. It is important that people who have suffered feel they have the support of others. They also would welcome visits whenever someone goes to Israel.

Thank you Operation Embrace for the opportunity to really be connected to the heroes who live in Israel and to be able to offer comfort to the Gahelis and other families like them.

*Jeff Graber*