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Operation Embrace to meet missile victims

A delegation of American Jews arrived in Israel for a weeklong visit aimed at providing comfort and support to victims of recent Palestinian rocket attacks on the Negev. The group, which is being organized by Operation Embrace, a Potomac-based nonprofit founded five years ago by Aviva Tessler, will meet with attack victims and their families and provide assistance aimed at helping them to rebuild their lives.

“The goal of the mission,” Tessler told *The Jerusalem Post*, “is to put a human face and heart to the ongoing assistance that we try to provide to the wounded.”

“Over the years,” she said, “it has been shown that personal visits are very therapeutic for people who feel like one day they are news headlines and that the next day they are forgotten.”

In recent years, as part of its efforts to “embrace” victims of terror, the organization has initiated several post-traumatic stress disorder programs at hospitals throughout the country, including Rambam Hospital in Haifa and Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem. Currently, group members are helping to launch similar PTSD units in Nahariya, Safed and Sderot.