



PROJECT ROZANA

2019

YEAR IN REVIEW

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Ron Finkel AM

## From the Chair Welcome

When I sat down to write this introduction to the Project Rozana Year in Review in mid-January, I was blissfully unaware of the chaos that was about to overwhelm us, creating a 'new normal' that will define our lives in ways that we could never have anticipated. Some of the initiatives mentioned in this review may be curtailed, postponed or abandoned as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. However, until we have certainty over their future, the references will remain in place.

I am mindful that while the focus of this review is on the year completed, 2019, it has an eye on the year ahead, 2020; not only a new year, but a new decade and the promises it holds.

For Project Rozana, whose seed was planted in mid-2013, the calendar transition is much more than a date.

It marks a milestone on a continuum that reflects our evolution from an idea in 2013, launching a process of development and achievement in the following years to become a genuine 'start-up' in early 2017. Now in 2020, Project Rozana has become a truly international organization on the cusp of significant impactful expansion over the next decade.

I don't make this statement lightly.

In 2013, with the launch of Project Rozana, we saw the future.

Our mission was and it remains to build better understanding between Israelis and Palestinians through health.

We felt strongly that innovative and novel ways could be found to address

identified gaps in Palestinian health capacity by supporting the training of Palestinian health professionals in Israeli hospitals. Early 'investors' such as World Vision Australia and others were prepared to back our vision. Their validation and support attracted widespread interest and by early 2017 we were beginning to invest meaningful funds in programs reflecting our three core areas of activity – transportation, treatment and training.

We saw what could be done to leverage Israel's world-first health system to benefit Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank. Our confidence was built on the knowledge that many individuals and organizations in Israel involved with healthcare were already working to support their Palestinian counterparts.

Today, seven years later, we celebrate the past. The foundations we built are stronger than we could have imagined. The successes are broader and more significant than we anticipated. The relationships more valued than we could have hoped for.

*"Our Mission was and it remains to build better understanding between Israelis and Palestinians through health."*

Looking back gives us the strength to push forward knowing that not only has the quality of life of so many Palestinians been enhanced, but that many lives have been saved. And increasingly, it is the Palestinians themselves who are using their training in Israel to build the health capacity of their own society.

2019 was a year to savour for Project Rozana when we reflect on significant achievements. Among our notable successes were:

- The awarding to Project Rozana of a €741,286 sovereign grant by the European Union to expand the work of the Binational School of Psychotherapy, a new training program initiated by Project Rozana based at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and originally financed by World Vision Australia (see story page 17).
- The introduction of a Pediatric Rehabilitation & Developmental Intervention Training Project at two major rehabilitation centers in Jerusalem under the auspices of Project Rozana. ALYN Hospital and Jerusalem Princess Basma Center will

implement the project to benefit practitioners working to support Palestinian children with disabilities.

- Reaching an agreement with Physicians for Human Rights-Israel for a professional development program for Gazan doctors in Israeli hospitals to begin in early 2020.

It was also a sobering year with the death of our dear friend and fellow Australian Board member, Joe Samara. Joe passed away in May 2019 after a long illness. At the time of his retirement from our Board, I wrote that Joe was someone I constantly referred to as we built the Project Rozana family. His experience in the Middle East has given me important insights into needs and possibilities in the region that we are beginning to leverage for the benefit of Project Rozana. Joe was a man beloved by many and a true 'mentsch'. I will miss his wise counsel.

I also want to thank Dave Sharma who retired from the Australian Board following his success in the Federal Election in May 2019. Dave is a former Australian Ambassador to Israel and is recognized as one of our

most effective diplomats in what is arguably among the most challenging postings. He is a man of great principle and insight and while we miss his perspective, we congratulate him on his elevation to the Australian Parliament.

This is a snapshot of a year of progress and achievement, and a history of activism which values people and their aspirations. This was always Project Rozana's focus and mission.

I commend this Year in Review to you.

Ron Finkel AM  
Chair  
Project Rozana  
Australia & International



# ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT



## TRANSPORT



## TRAINING



## TREATMENT

## Projects

If 2013 was the year of our birth and the setting of our agenda, then 2019 was the year that saw us move beyond the role of start-up to become a major and impactful organization that has made a meaningful difference to Israelis and Palestinians in the area of health.

But it wasn't all smooth sailing. We faced a number of significant issues that were beyond our control, such as the decision in 2018 by the Trump Administration to remove funding to the East Jerusalem Hospital Network, which had a flow-on effect on our projects. (See 'Trump's Jerusalem Hospital Cuts To Hurt Innocents' in Appendix 2). Despite the difficulties this caused, we remained committed to our core values.

## Snapshot

Here is a snapshot of activities undertaken in the past year by Project Rozana in realizing our mission of providing Transport, Training and Treatment to the Palestinian communities of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.





# TRANSPORTATION

The three Project Rozana-funded services (Road to Recovery and Humans without Borders in Israel and Green Land Society for Health Development in the West Bank) are services that bookend this important initiative in healthcare. They are providing the means by which Palestinian patients can access Israeli hospitals for vitally-needed medical services. The support for a West Bank service to connect with services in Israel necessitated the need to create an overarching brand – known as ‘Wheels of Hope’.

In addition to ensuring daily patient transportation, the

NGOs organize rehabilitation and fun days in the summer for Palestinian child patients and their families, taking them to resorts in Palestine and/or beaches and resorts in Israel. These activities combine to help change the narrative from a focus on conflict to an emphasis on cooperation and building better understanding between Israelis and Palestinians.

As a daily bridge builder, the Wheels of Hope program is as much about the recovery of trust and mutual respect among Israelis and Palestinians as it is about physical recovery of the sick.

## ROAD TO RECOVERY (RTR)

Project Rozana International signed a three-year agreement with Israel’s well-respected NGO Road to Recovery in January 2019 to continue to provide the much-needed transportation of critically and chronically ill children and their caregivers from the border checkpoints to 13 Israeli hospitals. Project Rozana is now the major funder of Road to Recovery.



An Israeli volunteer driver with a family being transported to hospital from the checkpoint

## GREEN LAND SOCIETY FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (GLSHD)

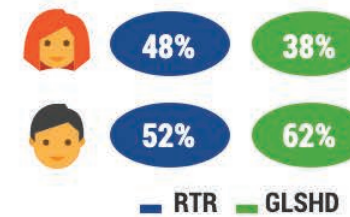
Following the success of the first year of GLSHD’s volunteer driver program, Project Rozana International increased its annual support to GLSHD enabling it to expand the free medical patient transport service in the West Bank. The aim is to provide transport to every patient in need of this service, from home to the checkpoint and back (with a handover to volunteer drivers working with Road to Recovery and Humans without Borders on the Israeli side of the checkpoint). By the end of 2019 there were 150 registered volunteer Palestinian drivers in the program. Between them they drove almost 100,000km involving over 3,000 transfers and 321 patients (see table next page).



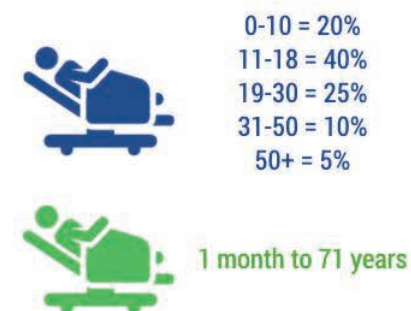
GLSHD volunteers assist Palestinian patients in the West Bank

## ACTIVITY SUMMARY

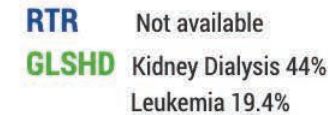
### PATIENT GENDER



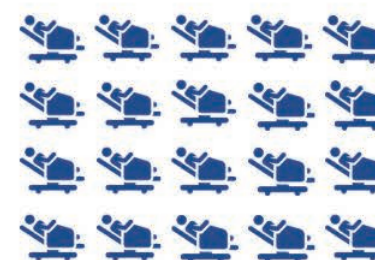
### PATIENT AGE



### PRIMARY ILLNESSES



### PATIENT TRANSFERS

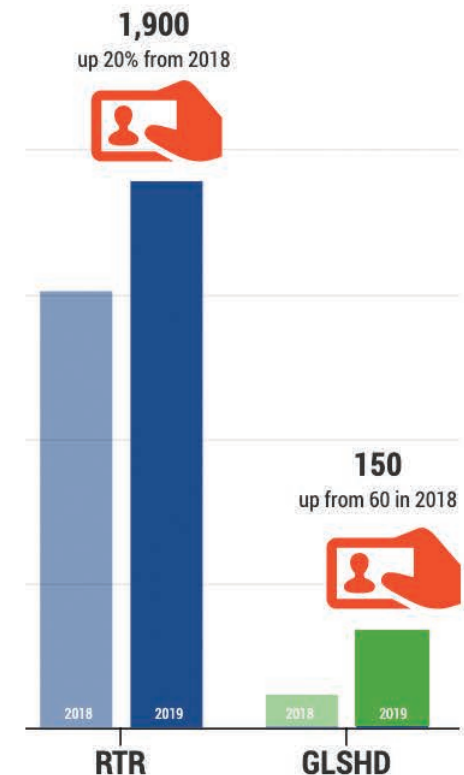


RTR - 20,000

GLSHD - 3,002

up from 737 in 2018

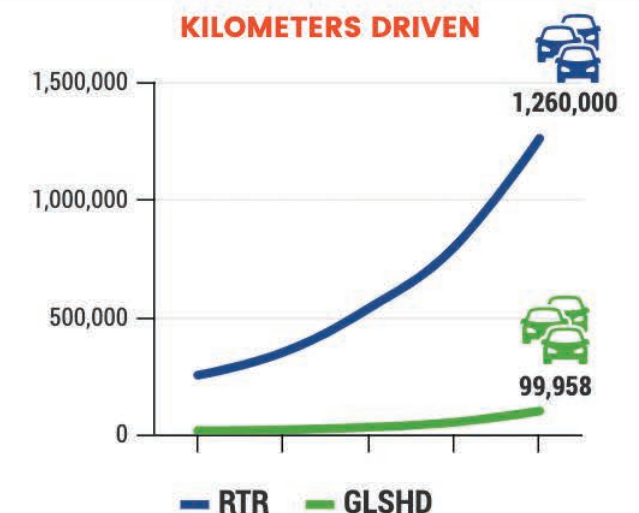
### NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOLUNTEER DRIVERS



### MAJOR HOSPITALS



### KILOMETERS DRIVEN





# TRANSPORTATION



## SUMMER CAMPS AND FUN ACTIVITIES

In addition to ensuring daily patient transportation, the Wheels of Hope NGOs organize rehabilitation and fun days in the summer for all Palestinian child patients and their families, taking them to resorts in Palestine and/or beaches and resorts in Israel. The volunteers make sure that all the children are taken care of, in the pool or beach, in the playground, during lunch and during the entertainment. These activities help change the narrative from a focus on conflict to an emphasis on cooperation and building better understanding between Israelis and Palestinians.

A fun day requires a major effort and considerable funds to cover transportation and entrance fees, food, entertainment and hiring of toys and equipment. All reports indicate that the get-together, the refreshments, the pool or sea, good food and entertaining clowns, are the obvious and visible elements of the program that give great joy to the guests. However, the subtle threads of true friendship between Palestinians and Israelis surface everywhere, and this is the beauty of all three of the Wheels of Hope programs.



# INTERVIEW: RUBA DWAIK- TRANSPORTING THE VULNERABLE



## A PALESTINIAN PERSPECTIVE

**Ruba Dwaik** (pictured previous page) is manager of volunteer drivers at Hebron-based NGO Green Land Society for Health Development. This critical service is helping Palestinians access Israeli hospitals, often for life-saving treatment. We sat down with Ruba to discuss her role and what the future holds.

**PR: How difficult has it been to attract volunteer drivers?**

**Ruba:** The real challenge is to reach potential volunteers. For this we need an intensive social media outreach, radio coverage and other forms of publicity. The next challenge is to motivate these potential volunteers. To do this we try to involve them in one of our organized trips, so they are encouraged to participate. In some cases we find people who want to help but don't have a car.

**PR: What are the main reasons that people choose to become drivers?**

**Ruba:** Some of them want to help when they have relatives who are sick. Some are related to children or patients who died and want to contribute to honor people who helped their family. There are some who feel for the first time that they are doing something valuable for society. We also have volunteers who are already taking a patient, and would like to take another one with them.

**PR: Why do some people choose not to be drivers?**

**Ruba:** Lack of backup in case of accident. Or concern that police will intervene if transporting someone in a private car. Some are concerned about the risk of complication with a vulnerable patient while transporting them. For others, especially young people, the difficulty they have of meeting early morning appointments. There are some people who become emotionally involved and find it hard to deal with sick children. Another factor is an inability to meet fuel costs without subsidy.

**PR: What do the drivers know about Project Rozana and its mission?**

**Ruba:** Usually we inform our volunteers about Project Rozana. And we educate them about the key areas where it is involved in building bridges between Palestinians and Israelis through health. This is transporting patients, treating the patients in Israeli hospitals, and training Palestinian health workers.

**PR: Has the experience changed how the drivers perceive Israel and Israelis?**

**Ruba:** From our observation, yes this has happened. One of our drivers, Ahmad, was injured by the IDF. Since he learned about Project Rozana and joined the volunteer service, he is dealing well with the Israeli drivers who receive and return his patients at the checkpoint. Also, we hold fun days for volunteers at Murad Tourist Resort near Bethlehem. Both Israeli and Palestinian volunteers meet and realize that the most important thing is to be partners in making children happy and smiling.

**PR: How many of the volunteer drivers have personal experience of the transport service, either as patients themselves or through family members who have used or are using the service?**

**Ruba:** We have nearly 150 volunteer drivers. 16 of them had been involved in the past with patients who passed away.

**PR: So if currently the number of drivers is 131, looking forward, how many do you anticipate there will be in five years' time?**

**Ruba:** We hope that in five years we will have 1,000 volunteers.

**PR: How has involvement with the transport service impacted on the reputation of Green Land?**

**Ruba:** This service has put Green Land on the map of active NGOs in Hebron and the West Bank. We are working in a sensitive humanitarian field that is needed every day of the year. It has also expanded our public profile well beyond Palestine.

**PR: What is your personal experience of working with Project Rozana?**

**Ruba:** Being the coordinator and later, the manager of this project made me realize how close we are with patients and their families. We know how important it is to be a real friend during the hard times, with no other interest than to help a human in need. So we feel we are one family who understands each other. Also, the thanks and appreciation we get from patients and their families has become our main source of pleasure and satisfaction. That is a very addictive feeling!



# TRAINING

## Peritoneal Dialysis Assuta Hospital-Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH)

From January to December 2019, state of the art training in Peritoneal Dialysis was delivered to physicians, nurses and dietitians from Augusta Victoria Hospital by the team at Assuta Hospital, Ashdod. The Project Rozana two-year grant covered the medical, academic, research and training activities for the six trainee doctors in 2019 and will cover the planning and organizational requirements to launch the Peritoneal Dialysis service at AVH in 2020.

Training occurred every two weeks. The training provided Augusta Victoria Hospital with the capability of treating and delivering Peritoneal Dialysis to patients in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. All the logistic and regulatory work was undertaken so that both adults and children



Assuta Hospital - AVH Peritoneal Dialysis team and guests

from the West Bank will be able to start Peritoneal Dialysis during 2020. Assuta doctors will continue supporting the trainees, mainly by visiting AVH and doing patient rounds together, as well as by working together on conference presentations.

## Binational School of Psychotherapy (BNSP)

The BNSP was established in 2016 to train Palestinian and Israeli child psychologists in the latest strategies and techniques for dealing with children in the region suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The BNSP opened as a Project Rozana pilot program in 2016 with a grant from World Vision Australia. The first cohort comprised eight Israelis and eight Palestinians (six from the West Bank and two from Gaza). The success of the pilot and the resulting professional and personal outcomes encouraged Project Rozana to submit an application in 2019 for funding under the EU Peace building Initiative (EUPI). The awarding of the EU grant represents 80% of the funding needed for the next 40 months, with the balance to be provided by Project Rozana. It is estimated that the funding will allow for 60 Israeli and Palestinian psychotherapists working in the



Prof Galili-Weisstub and Dr Masalha with the first cohort in 2016

field of child and adolescent mental health to complete the WHO-accredited course. The new course is due to begin in October 2020 under the leadership of Prof Esti Galili-Weisstub of Hadassah Hospital and Dr Shafiq Masalha, a Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University lecturer.

# TREATMENT

## DSD SURGERIES

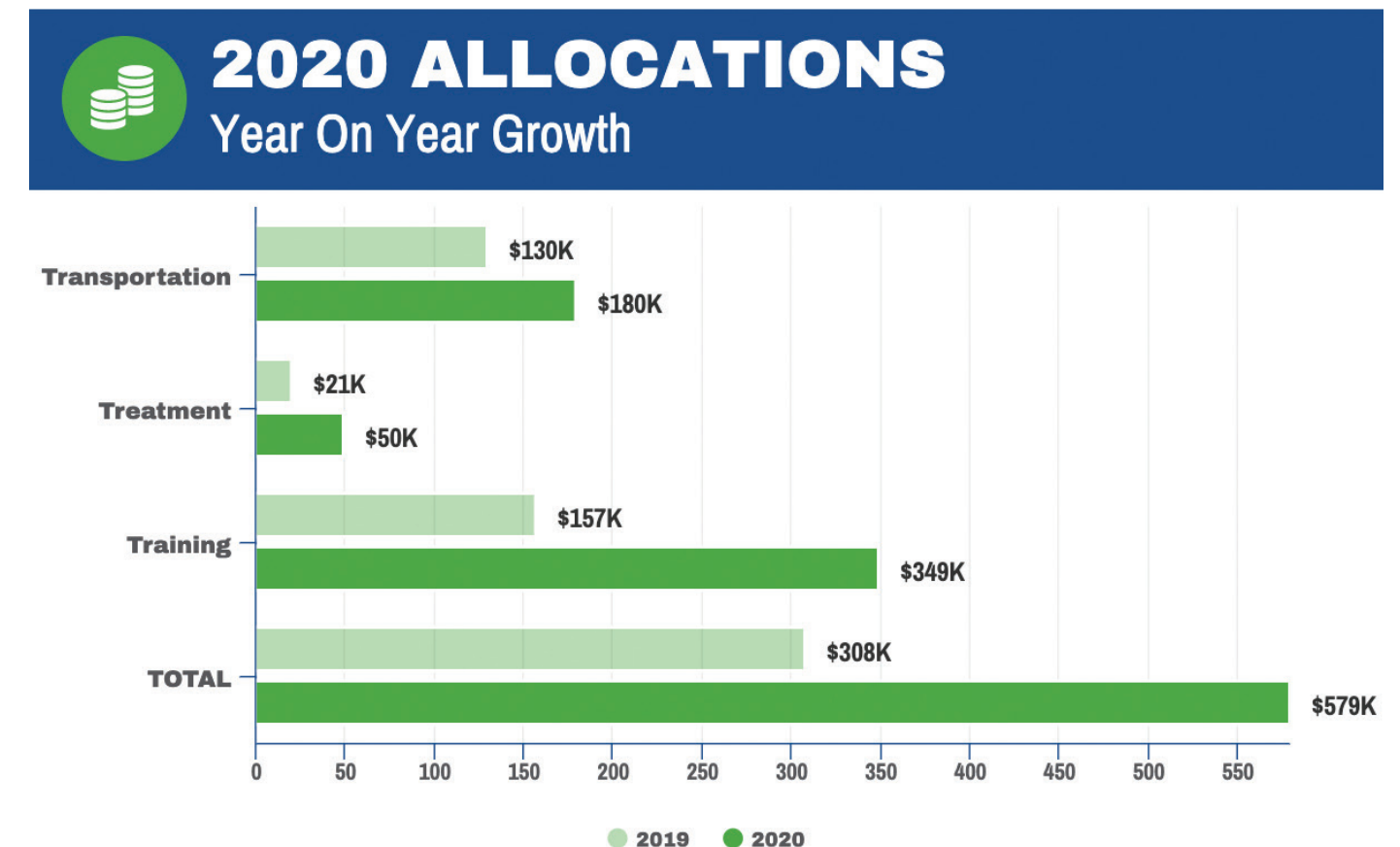
Project Rozana has been a strong supporter of Dr Guy Hidas, Director of Pediatric Urology at Hadassah Hospital, who has been undertaking life-saving treatment of children requiring Disorders of Sex Development (DSD) surgeries. DSD is one of the most medically and socially complex of the genetic disorders seen within the Palestinian population (and Israel's ultra-orthodox Jewish population). Babies born with this condition may have characteristics of both sexes or external genitals which are severely malformed or cannot be clearly defined as male or female.



Dr Guy Hidas

Dr Hidas and his team successfully undertook multiple operations on a small number of children requiring treatment in 2019. Project Rozana has raised funds to provide these surgical outcomes for Palestinian children born with these conditions. DSD surgeries are difficult topics in a conservative society, particularly in the more remote villages of the West Bank. The Palestinian health

system doesn't have the expertise or the resources to deal with these, whereas Israel is a world leader. We know that the impact of the surgery on the child and his or her family is significant, as it enables the patient to look forward to a normal and happy future.





# MILESTONES 2019



Dr Shafiq Masalha presenting to the first cohort

## Established International Advisory Council



PRIAC offers  
strategic guidance  
and advice to  
assist Regional  
Boards.

The Board of Project Rozana International announced three appointments to its new International Advisory Council. The role of the PRIAC is to offer advice and guidance, especially on strategic matters, to assist and empower the organization's Regional Boards to enable their operational tasks to be successfully conducted and completed.



### Tim Costello AO

Tim is the former Chief Advocate of World Vision Australia and a leading voice on social justice issues. He is Director of Ethical Voice, Executive Director of Micah Australia, Senior Fellow for Centre for Public Christianity, and an advocate for pokies (gambling) reform. He is a globally respected human rights activist and commentator. He was previously a Patron of Project Rozana Australia.



### Prof Saleem Haj-Yahia

Saleem studied medicine at the Technion in Haifa. He completed his residency in cardiac and thoracic surgery at Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv, the largest hospital in Israel. Until recently, Saleem was CEO of An-Najah National University Hospital in the West Bank city of Nablus, the first university hospital in the Palestinian Territories. He is currently a professor of cardiothoracic surgery at Bristol University in the UK.



### Martin S Indyk

Martin Indyk is distinguished fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. Previously, he was the John C. Whitehead Distinguished Fellow in International Diplomacy in the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution. From February 2015 to March 2018, he served as executive vice president of Brookings. Indyk served as the U.S. special envoy for the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations from July 2013 to June 2014. Prior to his time as special envoy, he was vice president and director of the Foreign Policy program and a senior fellow and the founding director of the Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings.

## First Sovereign Grant For Project Rozana

A particularly significant milestone for Project Rozana was the European Union's €741,286 grant to expand the work of the Binational School of Psychotherapy (BNSP), a unique training program initiated by Project Rozana and based at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. The announcement of the EU grant is a resounding endorsement of Project Rozana's approach to people-to-people relationship building. The award also meets the EU's priority for professionalized programs that offer measurable outcomes and scalable models.

We were heartened by the strong expression of support we received from John Lyndon, CEO of Alliance of the Middle East Peace (ALLMEP). John wrote: "The EU grant — which is only awarded following meticulous due diligence both in the region and in Brussels — should be seen as a great validator of Project Rozana's work, and their positioning in the wider fields of both health and peace building."

The grant will enable 60 Israeli and Palestinian psychotherapists working in the field of child and adolescent mental health to complete the course. It will also fund the BNSP to undertake curriculum development and accreditation by the World Health Organization (WHO).

"The EU grant...should be seen  
as a great validator of Project  
Rozana's work..."

*John Lyndon, CEO Alliance of the Middle East Peace (ALLMEP)*



Project Rozana receives  
€741,286 grant from  
European Union for  
Binational School of  
Psychotherapy.



**70+%**  
of Palestinian children in Gaza  
suffer moderate to severe PTSD

**23%**  
of children in the West Bank  
suffer from severe PTSD<sup>1</sup>



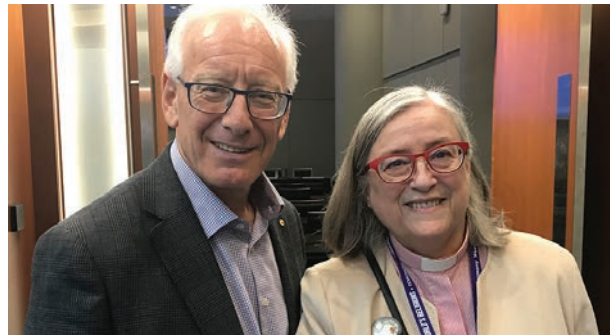
**42%**  
of Israeli children suffer from  
various levels of PTSD<sup>2</sup>

**1 in 3**  
has witnessed an attack or knows  
someone injured or killed.

# HIGHLIGHTS



## Project Rozana At Parliament Of World Religions



(L-R): Ron Finkel AM and The Reverend Canon Laurette Glasgow - Parliament of World Religions Project Rozana Presentation [photo Matt Gardner]

Project Rozana was a participant in the Parliament of World Religions held in Toronto in early November 2018. Speaking about compassion and healing, especially in areas of conflict, Project Rozana Canada Board Member Rev Canon Laurette Glasgow, led the team and helped set the scene for harmonious engagement. Her presentation was followed by former Canadian diplomat and fellow Board member Jon Allen, who noted how the economic and political turmoil in Israel and Palestine was affecting the Palestinian community, particularly in the area of health. That led into Ron Finkel's presentation of the work being undertaken by Project Rozana to build bridges of understanding and helping to fill the health gaps in the Palestinian medical system through mobilizing professionals and volunteers on both sides.



## The Wheel Deal – US Launches ‘Adopt-A-Driver’ Campaign

Every year, many thousands of Palestinian children require extensive life-saving medical care unavailable to them in the Palestinian Territories. They have no choice but to commute long distances with their caregivers (usually family members) from their homes to Israeli checkpoints on the West Bank or Gaza Strip, and from there, to one of 13 hospitals in Israel.

To add further stress, the financial burden of transiting from home to checkpoint and then to the hospital can easily cost up to USD \$100 for a single trip. For Palestinian families with an average monthly income of \$1,000 this can be a heavy burden. For those with children requiring multiple hospital visits a month the burden is too challenging. To assist Palestinian families overcome their financial stress, free transportation is provided by volunteer drivers with the West Bank NGO, Green Land

Society for Health Development (GLSHD), who transport ill Palestinian children and their caregivers from their homes in the West Bank to Israeli checkpoints. Once patients and caregivers cross the checkpoint, they are met by volunteer drivers from Israeli NGOs Road to Recovery and Humans without Borders and are transported to medical facilities throughout Israel for treatment.

Project Rozana has been contacted by other NGOs functioning in the space and we hope to develop further synergies between the organizations while increasing the overall funding for this invaluable service.

In support of these vital services, Project Rozana USA created the ‘Adopt-A-Driver Campaign’. The Chair of the organization, Kenneth Bob, explains:



### US Communities Fuel Free Hospital Transfers for Palestinian Patients

In 2019, Project Rozana USA introduced the Adopt-a-Driver program. The program was designed to offer religious institutions, clubs and community groups an opportunity to connect with Project Rozana's mission and to financially support this essential service that provides Palestinian patients and their escort with free transport to hospitals in Israel from their homes in the West Bank.

Our partners on the ground, Road to Recovery and Humans without Borders (Israel) and the Hebron-based Palestinian NGO Green Land Society for Health Development in the West Bank provide us with profiles of drivers which are then assigned to the adopting entity.

Early adopters of this program include:

- Jacobi Medical Society, a group of Jewish doctors in Maryland who meet regularly for educational programs and networking. I was invited to present to a meeting in early 2019 and as a result they decided to join the program. They have raised enough money to adopt three drivers in the first year.
- Huntington Jewish Center, a Conservative synagogue on Long Island invited Project Rozana to present a program this fall and as a result, the congregation's Executive Committee decided to make the Adopt-a-Driver initiative an official synagogue project. Funds to adopt two drivers have already been raised.

- The community of Falmouth, MA organizes an annual interfaith Alternative Gift Market, a two-day weekend fundraising event on the Upper Cape. Each year they choose international organizations to highlight and Road to Recovery was one of the selected groups. The funds raised equal the amount needed to sponsor two drivers.

Following our last speaker's tour in 2018, the Greater Washington DC chapter of Project Rozana was formed. It is an interfaith group that has a shared commitment to help those in society who are most in need.

According to Chapter coordinator Walter Ruby, the rationale behind the establishment of the group is to “Support the life-saving work of Project Rozana in Israel-Palestine and by volunteering to do community service work in inner-city Washington.”

To date they have raised enough money to sponsor an Israeli and a Palestinian driver. They also work alongside local volunteers from the Masjid Muhammad DC (termed ‘the Nation's Mosque’) in distributing fresh fruits, vegetables, canned and packaged food items in advance of Thanksgiving to residents of the Anacostia area, which has the highest poverty rate in Washington D.C. There are other groups already involved with the Adopt-A-Driver program and we hope to see many more join in 2020.



# HIGHLIGHTS



## Israeli and Palestinian Healthcare Volunteers Win Peace Price



(L-R): Steven Lax; Naeem Al-Baeda, Road to Recovery; Victor Goldberg, Institute of International Education; Yuval Roth, Road to Recovery; Ron Finkel AM

**Outstanding work conducted jointly by two individuals, one Arab and one Israeli.**

Project Rozana USA has taken its support for life-saving transport service Road to Recovery to the next level after two key members of the volunteer-based Road to Recovery were awarded the Institute of International Education's (IIE) annual Victor J. Goldberg Prize for Peace in the Middle East following their nomination by PRUSA. The prize is valued at \$10,000 and was first presented in 2005. Nominated with Yuval Roth is Palestinian Naeem Al-Baeda, who for seven years has been involved with coordinating patient transfers at the checkpoints to ensure a smooth process.

"Yuval and Naeem represent the best of humanity and within their selfless actions we can see how the future can evolve for these two communities," says Kenneth Bob, Chair of Project Rozana USA. "The Victor J. Goldberg Prize is a fitting tribute to their commitment. I am extremely proud that Project Rozana is able to play its part in spreading the message that is so eloquently delivered every day in Israel and Palestine."

The award ceremony was held at America House in Jerusalem on June 12. Among those present was Victor J. Goldberg; Chris Hodges, Public Affairs Officer at the Palestinian Affairs Unit of the US Embassy; Allan Goodman, President & CEO of the IIE; and representatives of Project Rozana.

Victor Goldberg said the award has become a symbol of the power of international education to bring people together to solve shared problems.



## Project Rozana USA Opens New Chapter

With financial support from the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, Project Rozana USA launched a local chapter in the Greater Washington DC area. Kenneth Bob, Chair of PRUSA, reports:

On the evening of June 13 we held an inspirational launch event of the Greater Washington Chapter of Project Rozana (GWCPR) at the home of Dr. Maqsood and Nadira Chaudhry. Twenty-three people from diverse faith backgrounds took part in the meeting. (Dr Chaudhry recently became a Board member of Project Rozana USA).



Participants at the home of Dr Maqsood and Nadira Chaudhry

The GWCPR, which will serve as the prototype for future chapters in cities across America, will support the work of Project Rozana in Israel and Palestine, as well as

co-sponsor community service events in the Washington area. This is an expression of our commitment to the moral imperative in Judaism, Islam and Christianity, to help those in society who are most in need. Walter Ruby, a veteran activist in Muslim-Jewish relations, will serve as coordinator of the GWCPR.

Participants received an update on the latest developments in Project Rozana's work in the region. These include Road to Recovery, a program through which volunteer Israeli and Palestinian drivers join forces to transport Palestinian patients, mostly children, to hospital appointments in Israel. It also includes logistical and financial support for advanced training for Palestinian health care professionals in Israeli hospitals. This enables them to improve the quality of health care in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

Of particular interest to attendees was the news regarding Dr. Khadra Salami, a Palestinian pediatric oncologist at Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem, who took part in a Project Rozana event last year at the ADAMS Center. Khadra will undertake fellowship training in pediatric bone marrow transplantation at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. (See 'Supporting the Aii Maasarwe Memorial Medical Fellowship').

Participants in the meeting held a wide-ranging discussion and brainstorming session about ways that the GWCPR can support the work of Project Rozana, while supporting community service initiatives and strengthening Interfaith ties here at home.





## Project Rozana Canada Endorsed By Major Donor



(L-R): Gail Asper, President, The Asper Foundation; Ron Finkel AM, Chair, Project Rozana International; Jon Allen, Director, Project Rozana Canada and former Ambassador of Canada to Israel, Spain and Andorra and Chargés d’Affaires ad interim to the Holy See.

The Asper Foundation gave a CA\$50,000 donation to Project Rozana Canada. Many Canadians will be aware of the work of philanthropists Israel and Babs Asper whose belief in philanthropy as a driving force behind changing the quality of people’s life was renowned, particularly in Winnipeg. We are delighted that The Asper Foundation identified Project Rozana as an initiative that brings better understanding between Israelis and Palestinians through health.



## Launch of Australian Medical Training Program

Project Rozana is an advocate of ‘train local – stay local’. This means that Palestinians who train in Israel are more likely to stay within the Palestinian health system. In order to support that and encourage Palestinian health professionals to develop world-class skills locally, we have initiated the Medical Training Program.

The tragic death in Melbourne in January 2019 of Palestinian-Israeli exchange student, Aii’a Maasarwe, was the catalyst for Project Rozana Australia launching the Aii’a Maasarwe Memorial Medical Training Program. Aii’a’s family embraced the opportunity to honour their daughter through a program that reflected their family value of engagement and outreach with the “other”.

“Like so many people in Australia and around the world, the leadership of Project Rozana was deeply affected by Aii’a’s tragic death,” said Ron Finkel AM, Chair of Project Rozana Australia & International. “We were motivated to

create a project in her name that would have lasting impact and represent in some way the power and joy of her life rather than the tragedy of her death. Project Rozana is humbled and honoured to have the support of Aii’a’s family in establishing this training initiative.”

In October 2019, Project Rozana Australia welcomed Aii’a’s father Saeed Maasarwe, and sister Noor to the launch of the Training Program, which will provide financial support to Palestinian physicians training at Israeli hospitals. (Saeed Maasarwe wrote an important opinion piece – please refer to Appendix 1).



Ron Finkel AM (left) and Dr Jamal Rifi AM (right) present a certificate to Dr Khadra Salami and Saeed Maasarwe at the launch.



## ‘Wheels Of Hope’ Transportation Initiative Launched

Project Rozana’s transportation program is making a positive difference to the lives of Palestinian children and their families

In 2019, volunteer drivers from Israeli and Palestinian NGOs funded by Project Rozana undertook over 30,000 patient transfers and covered more than 1,500,000 kms.

Our support for Road to Recovery and Humans Without Borders – the Israeli arm of ‘Wheels of Hope’ – began almost on the day we opened our doors in 2013. Transport of vulnerable Palestinian patients, in particular its children residing in the West Bank and Gaza, is a core pillar on which the ethos of our organization is based.

Having observed how important this free service is, we saw an opportunity to fund the service on the Palestinian

side as well. This not only removes a significant cost that Palestinian families face in order to reach Israeli hospitals from the checkpoints, but also brings Israelis and Palestinians together to appreciate the humanity of ‘the other’.

This happened after meeting the inspirational head of Hebron-based Green Land Society for Health Development, Dr Abdul-Rahman. As a result, a sister service is now available to Palestinians from their homes in the West Bank to the checkpoints. This provides a seamless service for the patients and their carer, removing the need for costly commercial transport.

We named the overarching service ‘Wheels of Hope’ and we also hope that one day we can initiate a similar service in Gaza.





# APPENDIX 1

## Inspirational Stories

Over the last year, there have been inspiring editorials and opinion pieces written by distinguished supporters of Project Rozana, pieces motivated by a wish to express solidarity and thanks to the organization in anticipation that the Project Rozana message will be spread internationally.



**‘Trump’s Jerusalem Hospital Cuts to Hurt Innocents’** – Ron Finkel AM, Chair Project Rozana  
<https://projectrozana.org/trumps-east-jerusalem-hospital-cuts-could-backfire/>



**‘A Short Life That Speaks to the Possibility of Peace’** – Hebron-based Dr A. Abdul-Rahman  
<https://projectrozana.org/a-short-life-that-speaks-to-the-possibility-of-peace/>



**‘Perhaps We Can Help Find Peace to Honour Aiiia’s Life’** – Reverend Tim Costello AO, Project Rozana International Advisory Council Member  
<https://australia.projectrozana.org/media/>



**‘Grassroots Activism Drives Interest in Project Rozana’** – Kenneth Bob, Chair Project Rozana  
<https://usa.projectrozana.org/grassroots-activism-key-to-middle-east-peace/>



**‘Living Our Faith’** – Reverend Canon Laurette A. Glasgow, Project Rozana Canada Board Director  
<https://canada.projectrozana.org/living-our-faith/>



**‘Aiiia’s Dream’** – Saeed Maasarwe  
<https://australia.projectrozana.org/media#aiaa>

# APPENDIX 2

## Speakers And Presentations



### NORTH AMERICA SPEAKERS’ TOUR United States and Canada 14-25 November 2019

Dr Sagit Arbel-Alon and Dr A. Abdul-Rahman travelled around the US and Canada as part of a Project Rozana relationship- building program. Dr Arbel-Alon is former Deputy Director of the Reut Rehabilitation Medical Center in Tel Aviv, and former senior physician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Dr Abdul-Rahman is General Manager of Green Land Society for Health Development in Hebron and Associate Professor in the Department of Physiotherapy at Al-Quds University in Abu Dis. They focused on their cooperative work which is saving the lives of Palestinian children, developing Palestinian healthcare capacity, and building bridges to peace. The Speakers’ Tour was jointly hosted by Kenneth Bob, Chair, Project Rozana USA, and Mark S Anshan, Chair, Project Rozana, Canada.



Photos this page top to bottom:

(L-R): Dr Sagit Arbel-Alon, Ken Bob, Dr A Abdul-Rahman at a gathering in Washington DC

Members of Project Rozana Canada, politicians and guest speakers meeting at the Canadian parliament in Ottawa

Event in the home of Maqsood and Nadira Chaudry, Greater Washington DC



# Speakers and Presentations



## AUSTRALIA SPEAKERS' TOUR

Australia was privileged to host two speaking tours.

The first Project Rozana Speaker's Tour in Australia occurred in August 2018. It was an intense, but highly-successful one week visit to Melbourne and Sydney by Dr Mushira Aboo Dia. Mushira is a senior Hadassah Hospital obstetrician and gynaecologist and clinician with the hospital's Bat Ami Center for Victims of Sexual Assault. She is also the Chair of Physicians for Human Rights in Israel (PHR), which brings together Jewish and Arab Israeli health professionals who work in under-resourced Palestinian communities through their mobile clinics project.

“I am standing here because I believe that Project Rozana has the vision and the ability to strengthen the human interaction between Palestinians and Israelis, while striving to build capacity within the Palestinian Health System.”

Dr Mushira Aboo Dia



Clockwise #1, L-R: Ron Finkel AM, Prof David Copolov AO, Dr Mushira Aboo Dia, Rev Tim Costello AO at a parlour event at the home of Dr Elizabeth AM and Dr Alan Finkel AO; #2, Boardroom Luncheon, L-R: Ron Finkel AM, Dr Mushira Aboo Dia, Prof Les White AM, Karen Loblay AM, Garry Browne AM; #3, L-R: Dave Sharma MP, Peter Hunt AM, Tania de Jong AM, Dr Jamal Rifi AM, Ron Finkel AM, Dr Mushira Aboo Dia, Barbara and Bruce Solomon at Aria Restaurant Sydney.

The second Australian tour in May 2019 included the first national fundraising dinner to be hosted by Project Rozana Australia. Titled 'Hand-in-Hand', it brought together communal, faith, political and diplomatic leaders in a rare show of unity.

Keynote speakers were Professor Esti Galili-Weisstub, head of child and adolescent psychiatry at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and founder of the Binational

School of Psychotherapy at Hadassah, and Dr A. Abdul-Rahman, General Manager of Green Land Society for Health Development in Hebron and Associate Professor in the Department of Physiotherapy at Al-Quds University in Abu Dis. Professor Galili-Weisstub and Dr Abdul-Rahman also met communal leaders, interfaith activists and members of the medical profession in Melbourne and Sydney.



Clockwise #1, L-R: Hugh Riminton, journalist and event moderator, Dr Jamal Rifi AM, Mrs Zena and the Hon Izzat Abdulhadi (Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific), Ron Finkel AM, Dr Abdul-Rahman, Prof Galili-Weisstub; #2: Event held with Project Rozana supporters in the home of Alan and Elizabeth Finkel.



Clockwise #1, L-R: Ruth Rosen- Project Rozana, Mariam Rifi, Dr Mushira Aboo Dia, Nemat Kharbouti – Muslim Women's Association, Lana Rifi, Mrs Dib; #2, L-R: Dr Jamal Rifi AM, Dr Mushira Aboo Dia, Tony Burke MP, Ron Finkel AM; #3, L-R: Ron Finkel AM, Tony Burke MP, Jihad Dib MP, Dr Mushira Aboo Dia (standing), and Randa Kattan CEO Arab Council Australia (front right) with guests at a festive breakfast in Sydney.







## ISRAEL – ITALIAN EMBASSY PRESENTATION

In late 2018, Project Rozana gave one of five presentations at the AperiKucha event held in Tel Aviv and organized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Embassy. Chair of Project Rozana Israel Ronit Zimmer and Dr Khadra Salami of Augusta Victoria Hospital presented ‘Medicine as a Bridge to Peace’, highlighting in an informative slideshow how every minute of every day, Israelis and Palestinians engage through health.



L-R: Dr Khadra Salami and Ronit Zimmer



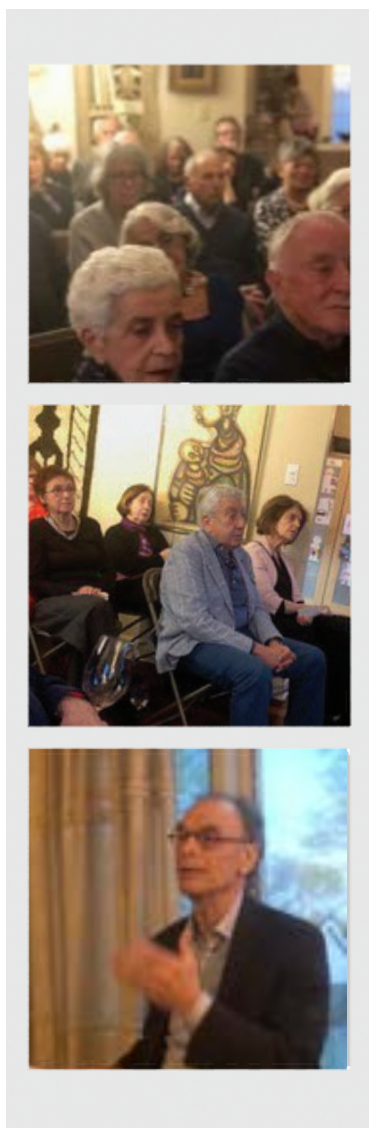
## PARLOR MEETINGS

Project Rozana Canada has been arranging meetings, as part of an educational program organized by women’s group ITAG (‘It takes a Grandmother’). They attract community members interested in learning about and supporting Project Rozana.

In May, 2019 a parlor event was held at the home of Drs Mark and Corin Greenberg. More than 40 people attended and heard presentations from Mark S. Anshan, Chair of Project Rozana Canada, and board members Jon Allen and Karen Goldenberg C.M.

Jon Allen, a former Canadian Ambassador to Israel, provided an overview of the current situation in Israel that set the context for discussing projects being supported by Project Rozana. He provided a snapshot of these projects, including training by Assuta Hospital in Ashdod for healthcare professionals from Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem to allow Peritoneal Dialysis to be given in patients’ homes.

Top and Middle: Attendees at the parlor event organized by Project Rozana Canada  
Bottom: Board Director, Jon Allen



# APPENDIX 3

## Board Appointments



### Canada Rev Dr Karen Hamilton



Karen is a United Church of Canada minister and former General Secretary of The Canadian Council of Churches. She is an Old Testament scholar, works nationally and internationally in the area of Interfaith Dialogue and teaches an interfaith course at St. George’s Anglican College in Jerusalem. She co-chaired the global Parliament of the World’s Religions in 2018, and is committed to refugee support. She is studying Arabic as her eighth language. Her award-winning Old Testament book, ‘The Acceptable Year of The Lord’ was published in 2009. She is the recipient of a number of ecumenical and interfaith awards.



### USA Steven Lax



In 2014, Steve Lax committed nearly his entire life savings to buy an Israeli shoe manufacturing company, Naot, which has become one of Israel’s top exporters of shoes and sandals. The purchase included a 2,000-person factory in northern Israel and the oversight of 60 distributorships around the world. Steve and his wife Susie made the decision when they heard that the company was in danger of closing. Steve and Susie live by the adage that by working to make the world a better place, you inspire others and leave behind a meaningful legacy.



### USA Dr Maqsood Chaudry, DDS



Maqsood is a practicing dentist in Northern Virginia. He serves on the board of a non-profit free health clinic and has hosted dental health fairs at his own clinics for people without health insurance. He is the founder, trustee and past president of the McLean Islamic Center, which has hosted many Muslim-Jewish twinning activities. The Center has been described as one of the most successful synagogue-mosque relationships in the United States. Dr Chaudhry and Rabbi Jeffery Saxe of Temple Rodef Shalom received the prestigious Interfaith Bridge Builders Award from the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington. The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia commended Dr Chaudhry for his work in interfaith relations.

# Organizational Appointments

## Ruth Ramone Rosen

Executive Director International & Australia



Ruth Ramone Rosen joined Project Rozana after many years in the education sector in Australia and in Israel. During her years living, studying and working in Israel, she taught in high school and lectured in English and Comparative Literature at Tel Aviv University. She also worked as a translator-editor-writer for the Israel Labor Party, a freelance writer and translator and as private tutor to the first Egyptian Ambassador to Israel. Returning to Australia, Ruth moved into international education management. Her roles encompassed program management, education policy and marketing as well as governance and communications. Ruth enjoys being part of a team taking the organization forward by supporting the mission of building better understanding between Israelis and Palestinians through health, and by making a difference to individuals and communities in Israel, Palestine and elsewhere.

## Rosemary Carrick

Development Director Australia



Rosemary has a strong fundraising background and is passionate about the not-for-profit sector. She is particularly experienced in both the medical and performing arts philanthropic areas. Rosemary is a great communicator who is able to build strong and lasting relationships with those around her. Having worked for a medical research foundation, she is well-versed at transforming complex scientific concepts into compelling individual, human stories. Rosemary's positive approach and oral and written communication skills make her an invaluable asset in reaching out to partners and organizations, helping her focus on achieving the best results for every project.

## Diana Shehade

Coordinator Israel



Diana Shehade was appointed Jerusalem-based Project Rozana Israel Coordinator in September, 2019. Her responsibilities include the coordination and oversight of Project Rozana programs in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. This involves management and coordination of visits to the region of guests and board members of Project Rozana and liaison with key agencies and strategic Project Rozana partners. In addition, engagement with potential new partners and evaluation of new programs; and engagement with the Project Rozana Israel board.

## Walter Ruby

Coordinator, Greater Washington DC Chapter



Walter Ruby is a veteran activist in Muslim-Jewish relations, and presently serves as executive director of Jews, Muslims and Allies Acting Together (JAMAAT). Since 2008, he has organized hundreds of twinning events, bringing together thousands of Jews and Muslims in over 30 countries on five continents. These include members of mosques and synagogues and of Muslim and Jewish organizations. He is presently writing a book with Muslim-American writer Sabeeha Rehman entitled We Refuse To Be Enemies. Walter has worked as a journalist for more than 40 years, mainly for American Jewish and Israeli publications.



# THANKS TO YOU!

We want to thank you for being part of our exciting journey. We greatly value your support and invite you to continue assisting us on this vitally important mission of building better understanding between Israelis and Palestinians through health.

All of our projects need funding – your tax deductible donation will make a difference where it matters.

We look forward to partnering together in 2020-2021 and beyond.

## To support Project Rozana and for more information:



Project Rozana  
USA

9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 25 Broadway,  
New York,  
New York 10004 USA  
T: + 1 (212) 366 1194  
E: [usaooffice@projectrozana.org](mailto:usaooffice@projectrozana.org)  
W: [usa.projectrozana.org](http://usa.projectrozana.org)



Project Rozana  
Canada

501 Roselawn Avenue,  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5N 1K2 Canada  
T: + 1 (416) 488 7991  
E: [canada@projectrozana.org](mailto:canada@projectrozana.org)  
W: [canada.projectrozana.org](http://canada.projectrozana.org)



Project Rozana Australia &  
International Head Office

L1, 306 Hawthorn Road,  
Caulfield South  
VIC Australia 3162  
T: +61 (3) 9272 5600  
E: [info@projectrozana.org](mailto:info@projectrozana.org)  
W: [australia.projectrozana.org](http://australia.projectrozana.org)  
W: [projectrozana.org](http://projectrozana.org)





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