

Sometimes A Hug Can **SAVE A LIFE**

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IBAN NL91 INGB 0000 7777 77**

COLLECTIEVE
ISRAELACTIE


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UNITED ISRAELI APPEAL
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DIVISION

FIRST HUG

Each year approximately 300 babies are abandoned by their parents in hospitals throughout Israel. These babies remain hospitalised in various departments, sometimes for many months without a mother's loving hug. Unfortunately the nurses and doctors in the hospital are limited with their time & mainly give medical care. First Hug is the only association that is specifically designated to provide emotional care to these abandoned babies.

The volunteers fill the vacuum that is created by the absence of parents and give the babies a human touch, warmth, emotional support, and love that is needed for their recovery and development.

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Who are we?

The First Hug Association was established in 2004 in order to provide babies, abandoned in hospitals by their parents, with the emotional needs that are necessary for their development and recovery. When a baby is abandoned in a hospital, First Hug is contacted. The association quickly sets up a group of volunteers to come to the hospital and support the baby in creating a family-like environment. These volunteers spend many hours with each abandoned baby - hugging, kissing, reading stories, singing songs and giving the babies a great deal of warmth and affection. A network of social workers play an integral role at all levels of activity and communication, supporting the volunteers in times of need due to the emotional attachment that they form with the babies.

Who are our abandoned babies?

There are approximately 300 babies left without any parental care in Israeli hospitals each year. These babies are abandoned by their parents in hospitals right after birth or have a family that for different reasons cannot be present. The vast majority of the abandoned babies have medical problems. Once well enough, these babies are taken care of by government welfare organisations. However, their time in hospital - which may last a few weeks, months or even years- would be a lonely one without the First Hug volunteers.

Why isn't the care of the medical staff at the hospitals sufficient?

The medical staff at the hospitals are busy taking care of a room full of babies. Due to the heavy workload, their attention is focused on the medical aspects. The staff are not able to handle the baby's emotional needs and to provide them with the warm and loving touch that is so desperately needed for early development and healing.

How can you donate?

NL91 INGB 0000 7777 77
to: Collectieve Israël Actie
re: First Hug

Or visit our website:

www.israelactie.nl/help-mee/donaties.html



Studies show that the first 3 months of the babies' lives are critical to their adaptation process to the world, to their development, and to their sense of security. The loving care that is provided to the abandoned babies by First Hug volunteers helps to maximize their developmental and emotional potential, to significantly reduce their deprivations, and to prepare them for adoption, foster care, or the institutional framework.

