

MEDIA RELEASE

Melbourne

For immediate release

12 August 2022

From Dream to Reality: The Gandel Rehabilitation Center at Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, is dedicated in the presence of Melbourne's Gandel Family

On Monday 08 August, a significant event took place in Jerusalem. On the heights of Mount Scopus, on a site overlooking the city of Jerusalem on one side and the distant mountains of Moab in Jordan on the other, the 20,000 square metre Gandel Rehabilitation Center was dedicated in the presence of the Israeli Minister of Health, Nitzan Horowitz and John Gandel AC, Pauline Gandel AC, their daughter Lisa Thurin and a large number of dignitaries from Israel, Australia and the USA, including Australian Ambassador to Israel, His Excellency Paul Griffiths.

The Gandel Rehabilitation Center, which is being built with significant support from the State of Israel and generous additional funding from the Gandel Family and the Gandel Foundation, will address a clear and evident gap in health delivery in Jerusalem and the surrounding area.

The 132-bed state of the art facility, which, when completed will arguably be the largest dedicated rehabilitation facility in the whole of Middle East, will provide the people of Jerusalem with a comprehensive solution to decades of lack of acute rehabilitation care in their city.

John Gandel AC declared, "We are here to celebrate the construction and development of a very important and badly needed piece of medical care infrastructure. It will be a facility that will help countless people needing rehabilitation". He further noted "(for me and my family) the need was absolutely clear. Jerusalem today is a city of some 1.2 million people, and it definitely deserves to have a first- class dedicated rehabilitation centre. Also, we are confident that the centre will benefit not only the people of Jerusalem but the whole country and that this will materially improve the quality of life for many people and their families."

The dedication plaque underscored the Gandel family's passion, commitment, and dedication to the people of Israel.

The ceremony concluded with a spontaneous rendition of "Me'al Pisgat Har Hatzofim" (From the summit of Mount Scopus), followed by a heart-warming chorus of "Jerusalem of Gold".

At a celebratory lunch following the dedication, Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Leon warmly thanked the Gandel family, stressing the importance of their support: "I am here on behalf of all the residents, the people of Jerusalem, to thank you for your tremendous contribution. Jerusalem is the heart of all the Jewish people around the world. You are helping to keep this heart beating strongly. The Gandel Rehabilitation Center is a milestone for medical care in Jerusalem."

Speaking from Melbourne after the dedication event, Hadassah Australia President Ron Finkel AM commented: "with this transformative and legacy gift to Israel, the Gandel family is delivering on its vision and commitment to the people of Israel. Their gift, the largest single gift from the Australian Jewish community to Israel, is providing a 21st century expression of the spirit and values of Henrietta Szold, the Founder of the Hadassah movement and of her famous words: "Dream, and when you dream – dream big". We are incredibly proud to be actively helping to deliver Australia's Gift to Jerusalem – the Gandel Rehabilitation Center".

About the Gandel Rehabilitation Center, Mt Scopus Jerusalem

Defined by the Israel government as a priority strategic project, Hadassah International and Hadassah Australia have adopted the US\$100-million-plus Rehabilitation Center at Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus as a signature fundraising project. The greater Jerusalem area, with over 1.2 million people, is the fastest growing urban area in Israel and has the highest proportion of elderly residents in all of Israel.

Jerusalem is in dire need of rehabilitation facilities for disease, illness or injury, with residents forced to travel long distances for treatment, often facing extensive delays which impact their chances of recovery. Recognizing the shortage of adequate and modern rehabilitation services in Jerusalem, the Government of Israel has partnered with Hadassah to help fund this once-in-a-generation project. Now, in a truly inspirational act of generosity, John and Pauline Gandel and their family have stepped up to add their substantial backing for this unique and significant contribution to the City of Jerusalem, a contribution that will transform lives.

Currently at an advanced stage of construction, the Gandel Rehabilitation Center is an iconic, 21st-century building located adjacent to the historic Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus in the very heart of Israel – a magnificent eight-story, 20,000 square-meter modern world-class rehabilitation facility.

The Gandel Center will provide 132 inpatient beds and specialized cutting-edge rehabilitation and research facilities, including occupational therapy, physical therapy and hydrotherapy departments, advanced robotics, technological incubators, Medical Centers of Excellence, conference rooms, laboratories, clinics and outpatient areas, a synagogue and a magnificent rooftop healing garden.

This remarkable donation to Jerusalem from the Gandel Family will enable those recovering from serious accidents, illness and disease to rebuild physically and mentally, and live productive independent lives. Those whom the center will serve includes some of the most vulnerable people in Jerusalem – the elderly, sick, injured, wounded, and victims of terror.

Available for comment: Ron Finkel AM, President, Hadassah Australia

rfinkel@hadassah.org

(m) 0411 282 020

Photos: Download the high-res selected images: <https://we.tl/t-hjwO4obPvD>

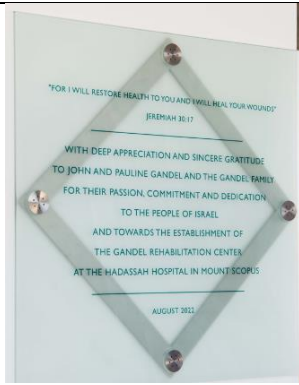
Named as below:



L-R Pauline Gandel AC, John Gandel AC and daughter Lisa Thurin



L-R John Gandel AC, Pauline Gandel AC, Israel's Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz, Jorge Diener Executive Director Hadassah International before the unveiling



Dedication Plaque at the Gandel Rehabilitation Center



L-R Israeli Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz, Hadassah Hospital Mt Scopus Director, Dr Tamar Elram, Gandel Foundation Director Lisa Thurin, Ambassador Paul Griffiths, CEO Gandel Foundation, Vedran Drakulic



Mr John Gandel AC addressing the guests at the celebratory lunch