



ALYN Update – May 2017

This time of year in Israel is full of our Spring Holidays and Commemorative Days: Pesach, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers, Israel's Independence Day and Jerusalem Day. At ALYN Hospital, we have another special day each spring: the annual trip for the children & families of the Respiratory Rehabilitation Department to the Jerusalem Zoo!

Below, you'll find pictures and stories about these current events, plus other news from ALYN:

- Where are they now? Vladik, a former ALYN patient, is honored for outstanding military service
- ALYN Hospital's 18th Wheels of Love Ride prepares to celebrate chai!
- News from our up-and-coming ALYN Hospital Innovation Space

Pesach



Children at ALYN Hospital enjoying eating matzah that they themselves made!

Holocaust Remembrance Day, Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers, Israel's Independence Day



***Above and Below:** Six children in the Alternative and Augmentative Communications class at ALYN Hospital participated in leading the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony through controlling a laptop which projected, through speakers, the words, "Remember. Never forget." Similarly, the children led the commemoration of Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and participated in the celebrations for Israel's Independence Day.*



A Trip to the Jerusalem Zoo



Above: 13 children from the Pediatric Respiratory Rehabilitation Department took part in the annual trip to the Jerusalem Zoo last month. The visit is meant to give the parents an opportunity to go on an outing - as a family with all of their children - as part of our approach to empowering parents with the ability to successfully reintegrate their child who is on ventilation into their families and homes.

Below: A baby and his mother visiting the penguin exhibit during the visit to the Jerusalem Zoo. For some of the babies who have been hospitalized since birth, this was the first time they had ever been out with their families on a day trip.



Where are They Now?

Vladik, a former ALYN patient, is honored for outstanding military service

Vladislav Polivoda, known to family and friends as Vladik, began coming to ALYN Hospital at the age of 5. Born prematurely in Russia, Vladik had difficulty walking and required intensive physical therapy over the course of his childhood.

With the encouragement of his mother and the staff of ALYN Hospital, Vladik grew into a young man who was determined, despite continued mobility limitations, to make his own dreams come true. In 2015, Vladik joined the Israeli army, and also rode in ALYN Hospital's Wheels of Love Ride as part of the Swift and the Bold team.

This month, Vladik was honored for his military service at a special ceremony. As he walked onto the stage to receive his awards, behind him appeared the words, "Sergeant Vladislav Polivoda, Communications Battalion of the Central Region Command." Congratulations - מזל טוב - Vladik!



Celebrating Chai!

18th International Wheels of Love Ride Registration Opens!



231 riders have already pre-registered for what promises to be the best Wheels of Love Ride ever, featuring 4-star hotels and all new routes! The Wheels of Love website has officially gone live and opened for registration on May 16th! Learn more at alynactive.org.



Wheels Of Love: Oct 29-Nov 2, 2017

Now in its 18th year, **ALYN Hospital's Wheels of Love is the world's premier charity bike ride.** Riders choose between spectacular road or off road routes spanning the north and south of Israel and riding a competitive or relaxed pace. This year's ride winds through the breathtaking Biblical vistas of Israel's north, along the Sea of Galilee and the Golan Heights. Throughout the ride's five days, every detail is handled by our world class support crew. Riders enjoy deluxe accommodations and sumptuous kosher food.

Wheels of Love is essential to supporting ALYN Hospital, a world leader in the rehabilitation of children who have been severely injured or born with significant physical challenges. Every rider commits to raising funds for the care of these remarkable children. Hundreds of riders from across the globe will be doing something extraordinarily kind while having the time of their lives. Life simply does not get any better.

Join us for the ride of your life.

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Innovation at ALYN Hospital

PELE-Thon Generates A Dozen New Solutions for Children with Disabilities

PELE, which aims to expand the scope and scale of ALYN Hospital's Biomechanical Lab to reach children all over Israel (and indeed, all over the world!) held a make-a-thon this past March, in which teams innovated, designed and developed prototypes of assistive technology.

100 "Makers" from various fields including engineering, design and technology joined with ALYN's staff of physiotherapists, occupational therapists, communication therapists and other paramedical staff to create solutions for 12 challenges faced by children in ALYN's SHACHAR combined education, medical and rehabilitation center.

One such challenge was to find a solution for Yusuf, a child with congenital joint contractures of his wrists, so that he would be able to feed himself. The team developed an adapted fork attached with velcro to a foam cut into an arch shape that supports his arm when he inserts his hand. By rolling the foam slightly forward, Yusuf can bring the fork close to the food and poke it, and by rolling the foam slightly backward, a weight on the handle of the fork pulls it downward while the teeth of the fork are turned upward toward his mouth, enabling him to take a bite all on his own. Yum yum!



Above: Yusuf smiles with glee as he tries out the "alpha" version of a fork adapted to enable him to eat independently. At his side are two proud members of the 6-member development team: a volunteer engineer and an ALYN occupational therapist.

ALYN Hospital Invention Wins in the category of Outstanding Social Development at the Technion "Make-a-Thon"

Besides *hosting* make-a-thons, ALYN Hospital staff are also invited to participate in events across the country geared toward using innovation to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. At the Technion make-a-thon earlier this year, the ALYN Hospital invention of the "Chair Call App" won first place in the category of Outstanding Social Development. The "Chair Call App" enables powered wheelchair users to live more independent lives by enabling them to control their powered wheelchair from a distance using their smartphone, rather than being reliant on a caregiver to bring the wheelchair to them.

Dr. Maurit Beeri, Director General of ALYN Hospital, was interviewed on Israel's Channel 1 about the new app and other innovations being developed by the staff of ALYN Hospital's Innovation Space, which is currently under construction.

The Innovation Space, when complete, will house two programs: PELE, the personalized solution-based service open to all children with disabilities, and ALYNnovation, the product and technology innovation and development center for global pediatric rehabilitation. Just this week, we marked the significant progress in the construction and expansion of the Innovation Space with a special event, for which the announcement is below.

Breaking Through at ALYN Hospital

A glimpse into the Innovation Space
May 16, 2017
in the presence of
- Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat
- Director General of the Office of Jerusalem and Heritage Ran Yishai



We are proud to announce an upcoming special moment in the construction and development of the Innovation Space at ALYN Hospital when we break through the outer wall of the building and expose the beautiful landscape of the Ein Karem neighborhood and the Jerusalem hills toward which the Innovation Space will face.

The original site of the Innovation Space, formerly the Biomechanical Laboratory, was endowed by Eng. Guido and his wife Adriana Montel. Their daughter, Maria Luisa Montel Norsa, the President of Amici di ALYN, has made a generous contribution to supplement the substantial grant from Israel's National Insurance Institute for the construction and equipping of this new expanded area.

