

## About American Friends of ALYN

American Friends of ALYN Hospital (AFAH) is a nonprofit organization based in New York that is dedicated to financially supporting ALYN Hospital and raising awareness of its lifechanging work. AFAH works to increase ALYN's global impact in various ways including international partnerships, grants and more.



[www.alynus.org](http://www.alynus.org)



New York City, New York



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## About ALYN Hospital

ALYN Hospital is Israel's only pediatric and adolescent rehabilitation center and a global leader in pediatric rehabilitation. A state-of-the-art facility, the hospital provides a multidisciplinary and holistic approach to treat children facing a wide range of physical challenges, both congenital and acquired.

ALYN is focused on providing children with the tools they need to live with the greatest possible amount of independence and mobility, both within their own families and the community.

With 75 inpatient beds and more than 100 day-patient beds, ALYN's pediatric rehabilitation services cater to children with different conditions, ranging from those who need respiratory support or are recuperating from severe injuries to those recovering from elective surgeries.

ALYN works with children of all backgrounds, regardless of nationality, religion, race or any other factor. ALYN strives to be a center for cultural competency.

## History

The rehabilitation center was founded in 1932 by American orthopedist Dr. Henry Keller, who dedicated himself to voluntary work with children who had physical disabilities in Jerusalem. It is the only facility of its kind in Israel and a global leader in innovative pediatric rehabilitation.

In 1971, thanks to matching funds generously donated by Malcolm and Dorothy Woldenberg, the ALYN Woldenberg Family Hospital, a modern hospital and rehabilitation facility opened its door in the Kiryat Yovel neighborhood of Jerusalem. The Woldenberg Foundation continues to generously support the hospital annually.



## American Friends of ALYN Hospital Mission

American Friends of ALYN Hospital's mission is to enhance and grow our platform to serve the challenge of raising funds for ALYN Hospital, while concurrently raising visibility for ALYN as a premier global institution for pediatric rehabilitation, improving the lives of children with disabilities worldwide through innovation and best-in-class treatments.

## Space

ALYN Hospital, located in Jerusalem, Israel, is a 150,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility offering an innovative multidisciplinary approach to medical, paramedical and educational programs under one roof.

**Inside the facility there are a variety of dedicated spaces including:**

- 5,400 square-foot Innovation Space, a one-stop shop for assistive technology entrepreneurship
- Respiratory Rehabilitation Wing, the only medical center in Israel offering rehabilitation to ventilated children
- The first Motion Analysis Laboratory in Israel which uses biofeedback for performing clinical gait analyses
- Virtual reality room used for assessment and intervention

**Dedicated specialty clinics include:**

- Spina Bifida and Spinal Cord Injury Clinic
- Acquired Brain Injury Clinic
- Cerebral Palsy Clinic
- Pediatric Feeding Disorders Clinic

## ALYN Hospital Mission

ALYN's mission is to provide the highest quality of medical and rehabilitation treatment for children with physical challenges, both congenital and acquired, enabling them to function to the best of their ability and integrate into their family life within the framework of a supportive community.

## Staff

In addition to physicians and paramedical therapists, ALYN staff members include physiotherapists, hydrotherapists, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists. Throughout their rehabilitation process, the children and their families receive support and guidance from ALYN's nursing staff, social workers and psychologists.

## Patients

The hospital treats over 3,000 children annually, through combined inpatient and outpatient services.

ALYN believes that the optimal place for a child's development is in the home and community and is moving towards a model involving more day treatments and outpatient services. However, ALYN's facility is designed to provide best-in-class, intensive inpatient care for patients with the most severe cases who require continuous and expert treatment. On an annual basis, ALYN cares for approximately 600 hospitalized children on an inpatient level.

## Innovation Space

The Innovation Space within ALYN Hospital was established in 2017 and is dedicated to developing assistive technology innovation. It is comprised of two tracks:

### ALYNnovation and PELE.



**ALYNnovation** serves as the track for development and global distribution of pediatric assistive technologies. ALYNnovation offers clinical guidance, beta site testing, clinical trials and pilot opportunities, a cutting-edge prototyping lab, a coworking facility and a global network of hospitals, influencers, innovators and distributors.



The **PELE** track of ALYN Hospital's Innovation Space, made up of professional staff and volunteer "makers," provides case-driven, personalized, affordable solutions for children of all backgrounds and all parts of Israel who face physical challenges to independence in their day-to-day activities such as eating, dressing, maintaining personal hygiene, communicating, studying and mobility.





## Partnerships

- In 2020, ALYN Hospital became affiliated with the **Hebrew University Faculty of Medicine**, leading to the joint publication of several research articles in the fields of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy. Several more are in the final stages of preparation for submission. Together, we are raising ALYN's profile as an important research institution in Jerusalem.
- In November 2021, ALYN Hospital and **Philadelphia International Medicine (PIM)**, a hub for 10 medical centers in the Philadelphia region, announced a partnership focused on exchanging research, technology and strategies between physicians that will elevate patient care at both ALYN and Nemours Children's Hospital, which is part of the PIM network. Some of the main focuses of research and collaboration will include novel treatments for neuromuscular diseases, spina bifida, PANS, bone health, brain activity and transition planning for adults with childhood-onset disabilities.
- In 2021, American Friends of ALYN Hospital launched an education initiative, for now being piloted with the **Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County, NJ (SSDS)**. We are following a curriculum based on project-based learning, built around themes of inclusion, empathy and innovation. In collaboration with a team from ALYN Hospital's Innovation Space, 7th and 8th grade students were presented with actual challenges facing individual patients at ALYN and were tasked with creating solutions to those challenges, using design thinking and the resources available to them through SSDS' Innovation Center.
- In October 2021, ALYN Hospital was awarded a donation of \$2.2 million from **The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust**, to establish the first center in Israel dedicated to groundbreaking research that will position Israel as a global leader in pediatric and adolescent rehabilitation development. ALYN Hospital's new research center will focus on several relevant fields, including cognitive, orthopedic and neurological rehabilitation, remote rehabilitation, mobility, and more.

## Fundraising

Donations to American Friends of ALYN Hospital ensure ALYN's long-term financial wellbeing, allowing the rehabilitation facility to continue its mission of providing best-in-class therapies and remain on the forefront of technology-based solutions.

ALYN Hospital is a registered nonprofit facility and only a portion of patient care is reimbursed by the Israeli Health Funds. Funds raised through donations relieve the financial pressures caused by the deficit between reimbursements received and the actual cost of high-level rehabilitation services.

## Accolades

Midot's Non-profit Organization Award of Excellence.

In 2021, Forbes Israel featured ALYN physicians Dr. Maurit Beeri, Director General of ALYN Hospital, and Dr. Emmanuel Kornitzer, Director of Rehabilitation, among the top physicians in the country.

## Special Programs

Cultural Competency Program for hospital staff

Powered Wheelchair Loan Center

Safe Transportation Program for Children with Special Needs

Therapeutic sports classes



## Executive Committee

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The American Friends of Alyn Hospital is a transparent 501(c)(3). Complete minutes of every board meeting are maintained both electronically and in hard copies in the national office located in New York.



In recent years, American Friends of ALYN Hospital (AFAH) has grown and developed, strengthening the organization and its ability to support ALYN Hospital in its mission of caring for children with acquired and congenital physical disabilities.

## AFAH's accomplishments since our leadership shift in 2019 have included:

- Raising \$4.3 million in 2021, an increase of 30% from 2020
- In 2021 alone, acquiring 1,878 new donors and 5 new foundations
- Through a #GivingTuesday campaign, providing funding for over three months to cover the differential between Israel's reimbursements from Israel's Ministry of Health and the actual cost of best-in-class hydrotherapy at ALYN
- Creating a partnership with Philadelphia International Medicine (PIM) to create the ALYN-PIM Health Gateway Initiative, fostering collaboration between our two centers of excellence
- Receiving the Guidestar Gold Seal of Transparency in 2021 and Platinum in 2022, denoting a higher level of clarity and candor for our nonprofit, including comprehensive details about finances, governance and Board of Directors, staff, and overall demographics
- Being recognized as a Top Rated Nonprofit by GreatNonprofits
- Piloting an education initiative with the Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County that is built on project-based learning in collaboration with ALYN's Innovation Space
- Rebranding to align with ALYN Hospital's new look
- Strengthening our relationship with the leadership of ALYN in Israel by following best practice governance protocols for nonprofits
- Diversifying our Board's geographic representation by adding new members from Detroit, Florida and Pennsylvania
- Adding to ALYN's Bricks of Love garden with a purchase of a paver by the members of the AFAH Board
- Purchasing equipment items and funding services with AFAH donations, including:
  - o Services for the Orthopedic-Oncological Rehab Clinic
  - o Kaye walker
  - o Two pelvic stabilizers
  - o Water and shock-proof iPad cover for use in the pool
  - o Assortment of additional protective covers for iPads
  - o Therapeutic toys and games
  - o Assortment of sports equipment for use during physiotherapy sessions
  - o Replacement for the electrical system equipment
  - o Equipment for a new uninterruptible power supply system
  - o Equipment for a powered wheelchair
  - o Two head supports for the Dondolino Standers Physio, a vertical stander that helps children with physical disabilities maintain active participation in everyday activities
  - o Two armchair/folding beds for the Respiratory Rehabilitation Department

### Wheels of Love

- Hosting inaugural U.S.-based Wheels of Love events, beginning with a one-day ride in New Jersey in 2020, followed by the first U.S.-based multi-day ride in Maryland in 2021
- Acquiring 6 new corporate sponsors
- Earning 35 pieces of media coverage, with an estimated viewership of 261,000, for the Maryland Wheels of Love ride

**The future holds even more.  
Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities.  
Our support, their success!**

In addition to being the premier pediatric rehabilitation center in Israel, ALYN Hospital is also a global leader in the implementation of technology and innovation in its approach to rehabilitation. The **newly renovated 5,400 square foot Innovation Space** at ALYN is a one-stop-shop for assistive technology entrepreneurship. The Innovation Space includes two separate, cutting-edge tracks: **ALYNnovation** and **PELE**.



## ALYNnovation



ALYN's core mission is to empower children with disabilities around the world by increasing their independence through multidisciplinary treatment and innovative tech, and ALYNnovation helps to make that goal a reality.

Established in 2017 with support from the Israel National Insurance Social Funds and the Jerusalem Development Authority, ALYNnovation's goal is to help develop and distribute effective pediatric assistive technologies. By combining access to leading medical and research experts in the field and a state-of-the-art facility with strong business acumen and global networks, ALYNnovation has become the ultimate R&D partner for developing accessible and affordable assistive technologies.

**Some of ALYNnovation's success stories include:**

### Cognishine

An **online platform for clinicians** with adaptable, ready-to-use exercises materials that incorporate relevant real-world content that can be tailored to each client's therapeutic goals and fields of interest in just a few clicks.

### Copli

A low-cost **prosthetic leg** that can be properly fit at more accessible points of care, such as at home or peripheral clinics.

### NBEL & Open University

A partnership between the Neuro-Biomorphic Engineering Lab that transforms the powered wheelchair into an **upper-extremity enhancing tool** using a robotic arm.

### Tzora Active Systems

A partnership with a mobility solutions company to develop an APT (active-passive trainer) with **remote therapy capabilities** for pediatric rehabilitation patients.

### Wheelchairs of Hope

A **low-cost wheelchair** made to provide mobility solutions for children in developing countries.

### Wide Therapy

A **digital platform for tablets** designed to address the individual needs of children with developmental delays and their way of thinking to help them learn and practice new behaviors and activities in a safe and calm environment.

## 2021 Collaboration Highlights



ALYNnovation became a fundamental partner of **8200 Impact's Accessibility track**. This partnership with 8200 Impact increases the chances of success for assistive technology startups solving real-world issues. The ALYNnovation team provides consultation during the program's assessment of early-stage startups, elevating ALYN as one of the first health institutions in Israel to recognize promising assistive technology companies.



Through ALYNnovation's new, active **partnership with HealthIL**, Israel's health and medical innovation community, ALYN Hospital launched a proposal searching for solutions that will remotely identify changes in the neurological function of children with cerebral palsy by using advanced voice analysis algorithms.



ALYN has strengthened their partnership with **NeMO Labs** in Italy who focus on developing products for people with neuromuscular conditions. ALYNnovation has initiated several projects with NeMO Labs over the past year, including submitting an advanced research proposal to the EU in conjunction with the University College Hospital in London.







**PELE** provides case-driven, personalized, and affordable solutions for children of all backgrounds who face physical challenges to independence in their day-to-day activities – such as eating, dressing, communicating, studying and mobility. Professional staff and volunteer “makers” think creatively for each specific scenario help to make these assistive technologies a reality.

**In 2021 alone, the staff of PELE received 145 requests and provided 88 solutions to help children with disabilities be more independent in their daily lives. Some of the projects completed include:**

- A handlebar grip for a child without a hand to ride a tricycle
- A safety mechanism for users of powered wheelchairs that prevents collision or falling
- Accessible musical instruments
- Headrest for a child with neck-muscle weakness that can be used beyond a wheelchair
- Feeding-pump backpack that is child-friendly

**Since PELE opened its doors officially in 2018, over 680 solutions in the following areas have been in development:**

- Activities of daily living (dressing, eating, etc.)
- Play, leisure and recreation
- Mobility
- Communications
- Seating

**For more information on the research and development from ALYNnovation and PELE, visit [alynus.org/about-alyn-hospital/innovation-space/](https://alynus.org/about-alyn-hospital/innovation-space/)**

## Helmsley Pediatric & Adolescent Rehabilitation Research Center (PARC)

**In 2022, with funding provided by the Helmsley Trust, ALYN Hospital launched the Helmsley Pediatric & Adolescent Rehabilitation Research Center (PARC). PARC's mission is to conduct evidence-based studies to strengthen standard therapies while also developing novel treatments through onsite access to:**

- Patient populations with diverse congenital or acquired physical disabilities
- Highly experienced, multidisciplinary clinical investigators who ensure studies are conducted safely and held to proper standards
- Laboratory data collection integrated with healthcare services

**ALYN PARC is focused on research and technologies within four domains:**

1. Pediatric Orthopedic Rehabilitation
2. Pediatric Neurological Rehabilitation
3. Technology for Rehabilitation and Independent Performance
4. Motion Analysis and Biofeedback Rehabilitation

ALYN's PARC team leads monthly webinars on various aspects of the use of technology and innovation in pediatric rehabilitation.