

Saint Vincent Ain Karem works in coordination with the Israeli Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and is overseen by the Handicapped Services Division.

Founded in 1964, it is under the ownership and management of the Daughters of Charity, a Catholic congregation created by St Vincent de Paul, whose motherhouse is in Paris, France.

Jewish, Arab, Muslim and Christian lay people work and live together at Saint Vincent Ain Karem. They are physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, social workers, various caregivers... Also, volunteers from around the world generously help and support the staff in their work.



Saint Vincent Ain Karem

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You can contribute to our work through a financial gift; please visit our website where you can find a donation link.



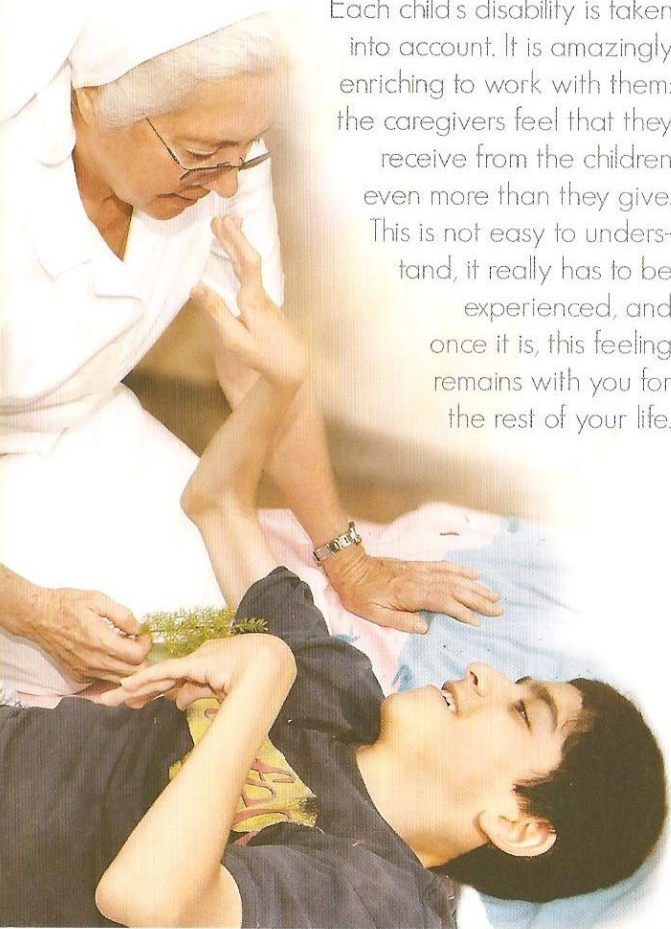
*Saint Vincent
Ain Karem*

Home for Children
with Special Needs

Saint Vincent Ain Karem cares for approximately 60 Jewish and Arab children. They range from one year old to their early twenties, and they come from all parts of Israel. They are children with special needs: this means that their motor skills (sitting, walking, eating, control of movements, etc.) as well as their cognitive skills (talking, recognizing people and objects, understanding situations, etc.) have been delayed or is very slow.

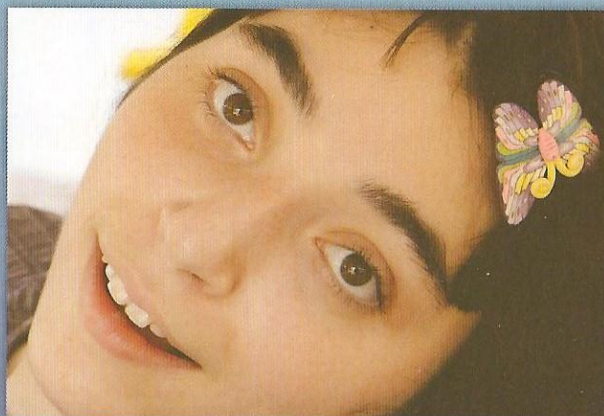
For most of the children, the disabilities are the consequence of brain damage (before or after birth), others present with genetic problems, and there are some for whom the cause is unknown.

Each child's disability is taken into account. It is amazingly enriching to work with them: the caregivers feel that they receive from the children even more than they give. This is not easy to understand, it really has to be experienced, and once it is, this feeling remains with you for the rest of your life.



Our Child...

Our daughter Dafna is a special girl. She is living in a special place surrounded by love, compassion, and good care.



She cannot walk, talk, or even sit without support. But she can smile and speak with her big beautiful eyes. It is her way of saying "I exist and I am part of your life". We speak to her with words, we tell her what is going on with us; and she answers with a deep glance, serious at times and sometimes full of joy.

Dafna's smile teaches us an important lesson: it is possible to be happy and give peace to others with a little smile and a penetrating look. Her expression accompanies us through life and gives us strength.

Our son Rabia suffers from cerebral palsy, we have always been concerned about his well-being. He was 6 years old when social services offered us various institutions that would welcome him. We visited them all. Saint Vincent, in Ain Karem, was the very last institution on our list.

Upon entering the gate of the home, my husband and I were attracted to the peaceful atmosphere that emanated from the site. After visiting the place we felt that Saint Vincent was the most appropriate institution for Rabia.



We visit our son as often as possible; we are always mindful of him, for us, he never left our family.