

# No place like the Four Homes . . .



*“I’ve been at the Four Homes of Mercy since 1993 and I’ve worked as a practical nurse, a staff nurse and a nursing supervisor. During my time here I’ve experienced the compassionate and pure soul that every resident has.*

*“From these compassionate souls my colleagues and I earn our inner motivation to keep working with such severe disabilities that residents of the Four Homes have.”*

MARWAN, A STAFF MEMBER AT THE FOUR HOMES OF MERCY

*Sharing food is an important part of life together at the Four Homes of Mercy.*

**T**he Four Homes of Mercy grew out of one woman’s vision and her response to a need. In 1940 Katherine Siksek, a Palestinian Christian in Jerusalem, was called to the bedside of a dying woman who had two disabled children. This woman entrusted her children to Katherine’s care – and so began her

lifetime’s work. The work expanded to include a home for orphans, care of the elderly and a maternity hospital, in four different buildings – hence the name. In 1964, the Four Homes moved to a single site in Bethany.

Today the Four Homes of Mercy provides shelter and care for 90 children and adults with

physical and/or mental disabilities, most of whom are from very poor families and cannot afford to pay for the treatment and care they receive. It is the only residential care home of its kind in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Home is divided into different living areas to suit the residents’ individual needs. Residents of a similar age live together, in a children’s, men’s and women’s section. The Home offers therapeutic activities such as music, games, cooking and swimming, and recreational activities are encouraged. Several residents are given jobs around the Home to develop their confidence and self-esteem.



*Two residents enjoying the fresh air.*

**Case Study:** Solomon is 46 years old from Nablus, in the West Bank. He was admitted to the Four Homes of Mercy in summer 2007. Since birth Solomon suffered from moderate mental disabilities and severe physical disability.

He was admitted to the Four Homes because no one at home or in his family could take care of him. He has four sisters and three brothers but they are unable to cope with his situation and care needs – Solomon can eat by himself but he needs help to wash and dress.

When he was examined on admittance the medical examination showed severely decreased levels of haemoglobin (Hb) in his blood – his level was 5.1g/dl (grams per decilitre) while the normal range is 12-16g/dl.

They increased his Hb level by giving him a high protein diet and medical therapy, and then more tests were performed.

After seven weeks Solomon’s haemoglobin level had risen to 11.4 g/dl and his pale face and weakness had disappeared. ■

- housing
- refugee centres
- revolving loan schemes

## FOUR HOMES



### Four Homes:

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