



FACT SHEET 2013

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The DVI Clinic is the largest and longest running free dental clinic in Israel. Established in 1980 by the late Trudi Birger, the clinic provides state-of-the-art dental care at no cost to Jerusalem's underprivileged children and at-risk youth, between the ages of 4 and 26 years. The clinic's emphasis on "dental home", including dental education and prevention, has been lauded by the professional dental establishment.

- DVI is the only free dental clinic in all of Israel for children in need.
- The clinic treats children referred to DVI by Jerusalem's Social Welfare Service and at-risk youth departments. Over 200,000 children in Jerusalem – according to Israeli government statistics – live under the poverty line. These are DVI's potential patients. Since its inception, tens of thousands of children have been treated at the clinic. These include children from shelters and children's homes. The clinic treats all disadvantaged children and youth, without regard to race or religion.
- Volunteer dentists from around the world, together with their Israeli colleagues, perform 1,000 treatments each month. During the past 33 years, over 4,500 dentists have volunteered at DVI.
- DVI receives no funding from the Israeli government. The clinic's operating budget is, therefore, totally dependent upon contributions from individuals, foundations and organizations.
- DVI's non-profit clinic is the only means by which Jerusalem's underprivileged children and at-risk youth can receive completely free oral health care – including a six-month recall program.
- Before treatment, children and parents must participate in the Donald Berman Preventative Oral Health Care Program provided on-site by the dental hygienists, to learn about oral health and how to take care of their teeth properly. This DVI program – the only one in the country – serves 600 children and parents each month.
- During the last year alone, 127 volunteers from 19 countries provided more than 12,000 treatments on 3,041 children.
- DVI is an authorized training facility for post-graduate Pediatric Dentistry interns. Its high level of dentistry makes it a preferred venue for post-graduate training.

The clinic's outstanding contribution to children's dental health has been recognized by the Israeli government, as well as by international professional dental associations. Over the years, the clinic has received numerous awards from Israel's Ministry of Health, the Jerusalem Municipality, the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity, and many others, including the prestigious President's Award for Volunteerism for 2009 – the highest recognition for Israeli volunteer organizations.