

JERUSALEM INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND NOW OFFERS PUBLIC TOURS OF ITS FACILITIES

As the late summer/holiday tourist season gets underway, the Jerusalem Institute for the Blind (JIB) announced today that it will officially open its impressive Kiryat Moshe facilities for public tours. Founded in 1902, the Jerusalem Institute for the Blind provides a wide range of educational, vocational, rehabilitative, and health/social welfare resources for blind and visually impaired children and youth throughout the Jewish State.

The JIB guided tour, which will be free of charge through the autumn season, is an incredible opportunity for people visiting Israel to see the Institute and its many innovative facilities and programs, hear about new technological weapons to combat blindness, learn about how the blind are gaining independence, vocational skills and confidence at JIB, meet the people who run the Institute, and, most impressively, experience the love and commitment of the staff to the children.

The Jerusalem neighborhood of Kiryat Moshe, which houses the Jerusalem Institute for the Blind, is within walking distance of Jerusalem's Central Bus Station, near the western entrance to the city, and easily accessible by public transportation. The 60-90-minute tour, which is available Sunday-Thursday, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, can be booked by calling 212-532-4155 or sending an email to ny@jewishblind.org.

Visitors will see the JIB's community center, which enables the blind and visually impaired to learn handicrafts, woodworking, home economics, and sports, as well as the JIB library, which hosts a large array of texts in a variety of formats including Braille, computer screens that magnify text for the visually impaired, and Braille printers that allow students to take data with them for further study. Visitors will tour the National Sports Center for the Blind, one of the campus' most popular venues, which includes an indoor, heated swimming pool, an Olympic sports stadium, a well-equipped weight room, and additional space with specialized, state-of-the-art equipment for blind and multi-handicapped children and adults. In addition, visitors will experience the JIB's Snoezelen room, which offers individuals a safe and comfortable, yet provocative environment to engage and challenge their own senses through the latest technology with stimuli of light, color, touch, aroma and movement.

"As the first center of its kind in the Jewish world, the Jerusalem Institute for the Blind is a home, school, social outlet, sports center, respite provider, confidence builder, and networking enabler for the many blind and visually challenged individuals throughout Israel," said Leo Brandstatter, the Executive Director of the JIB's New York office. "We are excited to be able to open up the doors of the Institute and invite the public in to get a firsthand look at this amazing facility and enable people to gain a new perspective on the world of the blind and visually impaired. Touring the JIB will be a meaningful, memorable and eye-opening experience for every one of our visitors."