

For Israeli society, and for Jewish communities around the world, this may be one of the clearest obligations we still share: to be there for Holocaust survivors - not only on Holocaust Remembrance Day, not only in ceremonies, but in their homes, through medical care, personal attention, and dignity.

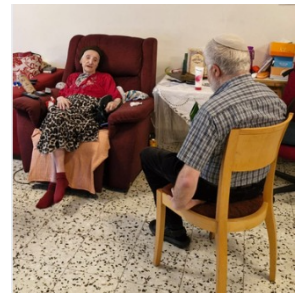


Prof. Henry Trau, a dermatologist and retired physician, has been volunteering for the past three years with Lema'anam - Physicians for Holocaust Survivors, bringing specialist medical care directly to Holocaust survivors in their homes.

“For them, it is not only about the medical care,” says Prof. Trau. “It is also about personal attention — speaking with them, listening to them, and showing them that someone cares. The fact that I speak Yiddish

makes them very happy, and sometimes it opens the door to a more personal conversation. They share how they came to Israel after the Holocaust - many of them as small children, even babies.”

In Israel today, many Holocaust survivors are in their 80s and 90s. Some live with chronic illness, limited mobility, loneliness, or difficulty navigating an increasingly digital and overloaded healthcare system. Others live in buildings without elevators or struggle to travel to specialist appointments, especially in Israel's geographic periphery, where access to specialist care can be more limited.



For a frail or homebound Holocaust survivor, even a routine medical appointment can become a major obstacle. Sometimes, the journey to care becomes the very reason treatment is delayed - or abandoned altogether.

This is where Lema'anam steps in.



Lema'anam operates as a volunteer-based social medical clinic, with more than 1,500 specialist doctors from across Israel. Its goal is simple but powerful: to bring specialist medical care to Holocaust survivors, wherever they are.

The organization provides home visits, mobile clinics, medical case management, physiotherapy services, and personal support throughout the process of accessing treatment.

“It gives an enormous sense of fulfillment,” Prof. Trau says. “And this is also personal for me. Part of my family perished in the Holocaust. When I first saw an advertisement looking for doctors to volunteer for Holocaust survivors, I immediately called. I assume the personal element played a meaningful role in that.”

Over time, volunteering became a steady part of his routine - and eventually, part of who he is.



“There were periods when I volunteered at least once a week,” Prof. Trau says. “It became a real routine in my life. After a while, I felt that it had become part of who I am. Beyond being a privilege, it became a duty in my life.”

In 2025, Lema’anam provided approximately 10,000 medical treatments to Holocaust survivors, including around 1,550 home visits and mobile clinic appointments. Behind those numbers are thousands of quiet moments: a doctor entering a survivor’s home, listening, examining, explaining, reassuring - and sometimes simply reminding them that they have not been forgotten.

Lema’anam’s work is carried out with the support of philanthropic and community partners, including the Claims Conference and the Danieli Foundation, alongside doctors, healthcare professionals, and volunteers who choose to devote their time to a generation whose time with us is growing shorter.

For Prof. Trau, that commitment is expressed in a simple act: entering a survivor’s home, offering medical care, speaking in a familiar language, and giving them the respect they deserve — while we still can.

To learn more about Lema’anam and support its work, visit: <https://lemaanam.org.il/en/>

Photo credits: Courtesy of Lema’anam