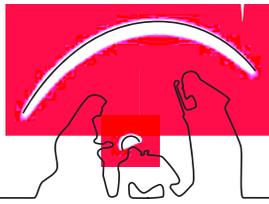


Journey to
BETHLEHEM

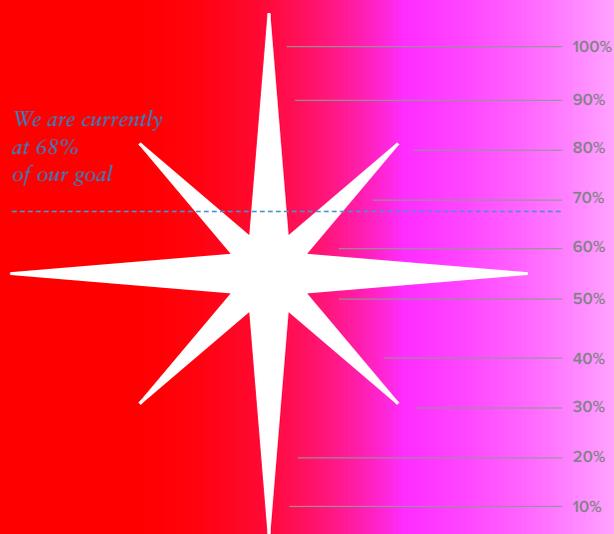


HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL
of Bethlehem Foundation

TOGETHER WE MAKE AN **IMPACT**



Together we have reached 68% of our annual fundraising goal. Please help us fill the star and save the lives of thousands of babies at Holy Family Hospital. The next generation of families in Bethlehem is counting on you.



*Thank you
for joining us
in delivering life,
peace, and
hope to the
Holy Land.*

Please help us with your generous gift today.

letter from the president

AMBASSADOR MICHELE BURKE BOWE

Dear Friends,

Next week Bethlehem! Yes, we are traveling to the Holy Land on pilgrimage with friends of Holy Family Hospital Foundation. Following in the footsteps of the Holy Family, we will journey to Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and beyond. We will pray at the original sites of the Order of Malta and visit Holy Family Hospital.

Since the days of King David and the birth of Jesus, Bethlehem has been overlooked, overshadowed by Jerusalem. Today, this holds true. Few pilgrimages stay in Bethlehem, favoring Jerusalem. Economic activity is only 15% of what it was in 2019. Since 90% of the economy relies on pilgrimages, most remain unemployed. Bethlehem has slipped deeper into a persistent economic crisis. Mothers arrive to the hospital in labor and hungry. The babies are born small and more fragile. The nutritional status of both mothers and babies is compromised. Vitamin D and Iron deficiency are pervasive. A growing poverty is entrenched in the town.



Please send us your prayer petitions to place on the altar at each of our Masses. Let us know if you want to join us next time!



The social workers are busy providing psycho/social care, determining sliding scale fees and ascertaining the needs of families. Times of great stress require holistic care. Thus, we now partner with the local parish ensuring access to food, diapers, medication and electricity monthly. This approach restores dignity improving the health of the women and children of Bethlehem.

Recently in Jerusalem President Biden announced \$100,000,000 in support for East Jerusalem Hospitals. Jerusalem rejoiced, while Bethlehem remained overlooked. Sadly, none of this funding is designated for Bethlehem or Holy Family Hospital.

For 25 years Holy Family Hospital Foundation has elevated the status of women and children by ensuring the best care without regard for need or creed. Accompanying the staff and patients, we are committed to keeping the spotlight on Bethlehem. We share their joys, sorrows and accomplishments through the care we provide. We share the “good news” across our country and beyond. The Foundation is committed to keeping Bethlehem in the forefront. We work to create a better future — one woman, one child at a time, **lest the world forget Bethlehem.**

Kindest regards,

Ambassador Michele B. Bowe, DM
President of Holy Family Hospital Foundation



Ambassador Michele Bowe signing a partnership agreement with the local parish

Growing for the MILLENNIUM

1985 Pope St. John Paul II entrusts Holy Family Hospital to the Order of Malta. The Order rededicates the Hospital as a maternity and neonatal critical care center.

1990 893 babies are delivered at Holy Family Hospital.

1997 Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation is incorporated in the United States.

1998 The new NICU opens with 10 beds.

2000 3,112 babies are delivered.

2001 The first Hospital expansion brings the total number of beds to 47 and adds a second operating room. 3,415 babies are delivered.

2007 A new seven room labor and delivery ward was added, bringing the total number of beds to 63.

2010 The Diabetes Clinic opened to provide vital care for women with gestational diabetes. The Hospital celebrates its 50,000th delivery.



Christian women in the courtyard



A Bedouin mother with her baby



Hospital Then and Now

2012 The new Mobile Outreach Clinic van went into use, providing gynecologic, obstetric, and pediatric care to remote communities and isolated villages daily. The Well Women Clinic was launched to address the healthcare needs of menopausal women. This Clinic is the first of its kind in the region.

2014 Holy Family Hospital Foundation raises over \$1 million for the first time.

2020 The pandemic shuts down the Bethlehem region. Holy Family Hospital remained open and delivered 4,360 babies.

2022 Construction resumes after a hiatus due to the pandemic. **97,977 babies** and counting have been born at Holy Family Hospital.



Mother with her daughter in the Hospital today



Nurse with a newborn baby



Mobile Outreach today



A Daughter of Charity with the Mobile Outreach Clinic



Daughters of Charity in the Hospital pharmacy



Laboratory employee today

Growing for the Next Millennium

Jesus was born in Bethlehem two millennia ago. The Order of Malta was founded in Jerusalem to serve the sick and the poor one millennium ago. In 2000, Pope St. John Paul II named Holy Family Hospital as a church priority for the new millennium. Holy Family Hospital resumed construction in 2022 to ensure the highest quality of care for this third millennium.

8 *Eight is the Perfect Number*

“HAPPINESS FILLED MY HEART”

Mariam’s Story



Asma is a busy stay-at-home mom, who wakes up before the sun rises to care for her seven children. She and her husband Wael feel blessed with the life they have built together. Everything changed in Bethlehem with the pandemic and ensuing economic crisis. Wael lost his job but was grateful to find work as a day laborer. With a four hour commute each day for Wael, life is difficult but manageable.

When Asma’s doctor told her that she was pregnant with her eighth baby, she immediately wept. The doctor feared she was worried, but instead Asma was overjoyed. “God has chosen to bless us with one more gift, a source of joy when life is hard,” she exclaimed. The whole family was excited and decided that number eight would be their perfect number.

Asma diligently prepared for the birth of her baby. She attended each prenatal appointment, took her vitamins, and chose her meals carefully. On August 8, Asma and Wael arrived at Holy Family Hospital, and Asma delivered via repeat C-section.

Immediately after birth, the neonatologist diagnosed Baby Hur with several complications, placed her on resuscitator and administered supplemental oxygen. Asma was heartbroken as Baby Hur was taken to the NICU. The doctors reassured her that Baby Hur would receive the best care and would likely only stay in the NICU a short time. The social work team assured the parents not to worry about the additional costs and that the NICU care would be covered by the Poor Case Fund. Asma and Wael visited Baby Hur in the NICU daily until she was strong enough to go home and meet her seven excited siblings.

“My baby will grow up and have a good life because of Holy Family Hospital. We are grateful for the good care, the moral support, and the financial aid from the Poor Case Fund.”

— Asma

“I had saved money to contribute to the delivery, but had not counted on a NICU stay. The Poor Case Fund helped us, and one day I will return the help for another father with a baby in the NICU.”

— Wael

“My name is Mariam and I married my husband, Anwar, three years ago before the pandemic was even a thought. We always dreamed of having a big family, with Sunday dinners and a large group of cousins. When we found out we were expecting in late 2019, I was overjoyed! However, as the pandemic progressed a few months later, I grew more and more scared and anxious. I did not know what to expect delivering in a world of lockdowns, increased checkpoints, and isolation.

I felt safe and protected at Holy Family Hospital. I received the most professional care when I delivered my daughter, Sedra in May 2020. I was shocked that the Hospital was completely open and fully staffed when I had heard that many others were

barely functioning. I had a wonderful experience there and planned to come back in the future to deliver my next baby.

At the end of 2021 Anwar and I found out that we were expecting again! Sedra was going to have a sibling! I cannot describe the happiness that filled my heart as I started prenatal care at Holy Family Hospital. The nurses were especially helpful managing my nausea throughout this pregnancy.

We came to the hospital four weeks early and Baby Marwan was born in late August, only a short time ago. The team welcomed me with compassion and support. When I cried, they wiped

my tears. They touched my heart with kindness. I will never forget those moments.

When the doctor placed Baby Marwan in my arms, I felt like I owned the world! I will never forget the wonderful care I received at Holy Family Hospital.”



Mariam with her mother (left) and mother-in-law (right)



the INNKEEPER'S corner

ON PILGRIMAGE

Madeline and Philip Lacovara have been lifelong supporters of Holy Family Hospital Foundation since it was incorporated in the United States in 1997. The Lacovaras have been present for every crucial moment in the Foundation's history since its incorporation. Madeline served on the Board of Directors from 2003–2012 and both she and Philip have visited the Hospital many times.

It was a dream of theirs to share the joy and hope of Holy Family Hospital with their loved ones. Madeline visited the Hospital on one of the last pilgrimages in March 2020. Two years later, Madeline and Philip were boarding a plane with their children and grandchildren on one of the first pilgrimages to return to the Holy Land since everything closed.



The Lacovara family on the steps at Holy Family Hospital



The Lacovara family outside the NICU

After 25 years of service to the mothers and babies of Bethlehem, the entire Lacovara family was able to witness Madeline and Philip's legacy in Bethlehem. Now that pilgrimages have returned in full swing, consider your own pilgrimage to the Holy Land with your parish or with our foundation.

To learn more about pilgrimages and visiting Holy Family Hospital, please contact Kate Robinson, Foundation Director, at kate@hfhfoundation.org or 202-785-0801.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Our Angel Tree program is heading into its fourth year this Advent and growing rapidly. In 2021, over 35 parishes participated, from all across the United States, even Hawaii.

There are many ways to get involved in our program, whether that includes **recruiting your parish** to participate in the program or lending a helping hand to assemble the tags.



Holy Family Hospital Foundation Board Member Peter-Anthony Pappas welcomed generous volunteers to his home for our Christmas in July party — an event dedicated to assembling the Angel tags that will be used in parishes this Advent.

Looking for a new way to get involved? Host an Angel Tag party with your friends and family and be part of our Advent ministry! Since it's always Christmas in Bethlehem, these tags can be used throughout the year. Contact Olivia Leaman, Development Associate, at olivia@hfhfoundation.org or 202-785-0801.

YOUR PLANNED GIFT TODAY Ensures Her Tomorrow



Holy Family Hospital has been a beacon of life, peace and hope in Bethlehem to expectant mothers, their babies and families for more than 30 years. Your support — at any giving level — will help us provide lifesaving medical care for generations to come.

There are many options for making a planned gift to Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation:

- * Annuities
- * IRAs
- * Stock
- * Life Insurance
- * Outright gift of cash

To learn more about how you can help future generations in Bethlehem, please contact Kate Robinson, Foundation Director at 202-785-0801 for more information.

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

Holy Family Hospital trains the majority of the nurses in the Bethlehem region. More than 220 nurses and midwives come through the Hospital each year for continuing education, entry level training, and practicums. Nurses receive ongoing training in multiple departments, including pediatric, surgical, labor and delivery, and midwifery.



Holy Family Hospital maintains strong relationships with local universities, where nursing students receive four years of education in their field. Holy Family Hospital Foundation offers a scholarship for those with financial need in partnership with the local Catholic parish. It currently funds eight nurses' education at the university. As they approach graduation, they will have the opportunity to apply to work at Holy Family Hospital. Two of the eight scholarship recipients plan to become midwives.

In a region with few advancement opportunities, Holy Family Hospital offers opportunities for all. Women become doctors, nurses, department chairs and men become nurses, doctors and pharmacists. Education and subsequent employment at the Hospital provide the next generation with hope for a strong future.

IN THEIR WORDS

Scholarship recipients share what becoming a nurse at Holy Family Hospital means to them

“Given the difficult political and economic circumstances in my country, I chose nursing because there is such a great need. Being a nurse is the best service I can give to my country. I want to care for people and save them.”

— Joyce

“I want to study midwifery because I love little kids and newborns. Since I was a child, I loved health sciences and hoped to work in medicine. I am not scared of emergency situations. I want to help welcome the littlest new angels into the world.”

— Talene

“I live with my parents and my sister. My dad used to work in tourism and lost his job because of the pandemic. His health suddenly declined, and he had open heart surgery. He needs another surgery that is not available here, but we don't have the funds for a surgery in Israel. I want to be a nurse to help others like my dad to receive the best healthcare possible.”

— Selena



24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR



The laboratory at Holy Family Hospital never closes. Under the careful eye of Abir, the lab is a beehive of activity. The Lab staff has a combined total of 124 years of experience at Holy Family Hospital. Abir, George and Luai have been working together since the Hospital was reopened as a maternity hospital in 1990. Charlie and Michael joined the team a little later. As the number of deliveries increased, Ghadeer, Jameel and Marcel took turns at the night shift to provide the best care around the clock.

The doctors and midwives depend on the lab results to provide diagnoses and determine the best course of treatment for patients. The lab does much more than collect samples; they also coordinate with the Infection Control Department as the frontline of defense to ensure that the Hospital remains clean and infection free.

“In May 1998 the Hospital offered me a scholarship for a practical training course at The National Maternity Hospital in Dublin, Ireland. This course was my starting point towards organizing, acting and supervising the Laboratory Department.” — Abir

The Infection Control team swabs daily to detect and stop infection immediately. All surfaces are checked for microbes that can cause sickness after delivery or in the NICU. The lab analyzes results and works with the Infection Control team to determine the course of action. Nonstop teamwork keeps the women and children at Holy Family Hospital safe from infection.

The lab is equipped with the machinery and technology to do every sample analysis right here at Holy Family Hospital. Each team member is highly trained and an expert in the field. Most importantly, the lab is a happy place to work, and the employees know that their work is invaluable when it comes to providing the highest quality healthcare to the mothers and babies of Bethlehem.

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HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL of Bethlehem Foundation

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A Primary Work of the Order of Malta

Holy Family Hospital is a primary hospitaler work of the Order of Malta. Its U.S. Foundation is a shared work of all three U.S. Associations. The Grand Master has asked all Knights and Dames throughout the world to share in its support.

We encourage you to share the good works of Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation by passing this newsletter along to a friend!