



Photo: Dan Forgas

EACH  
DAY **A NEW  
VICTORY**

# How did it all begin?

In 1952, during the polio epidemic in Israel, a group of concerned doctors united to establish ILANSHIL-Polio. The organization was at the forefront of developing and operating programs to assist polio victims and their families, recruiting many supporters and volunteers. Its activities soon expanded to include branches throughout the country. During the same period, parents of children with cerebral palsy founded their own organization, SHATLAM.



In 1964, more than a decade after the polio epidemic was contained; the second conference of ILANSHIL-Polio was convened, where it was decided to expand the organization to include children with cerebral palsy. Out of the merger of ILANShil-Polio and SHATLAM was born **ILAN – ISRAEL ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**. Since that time, the organization has been the leading body in Israel for children and adults with physical-motoric disabilities: cerebral palsy (CP), muscular dystrophy, and other impairments of the muscular and nervous systems.



## And the work continues . . .

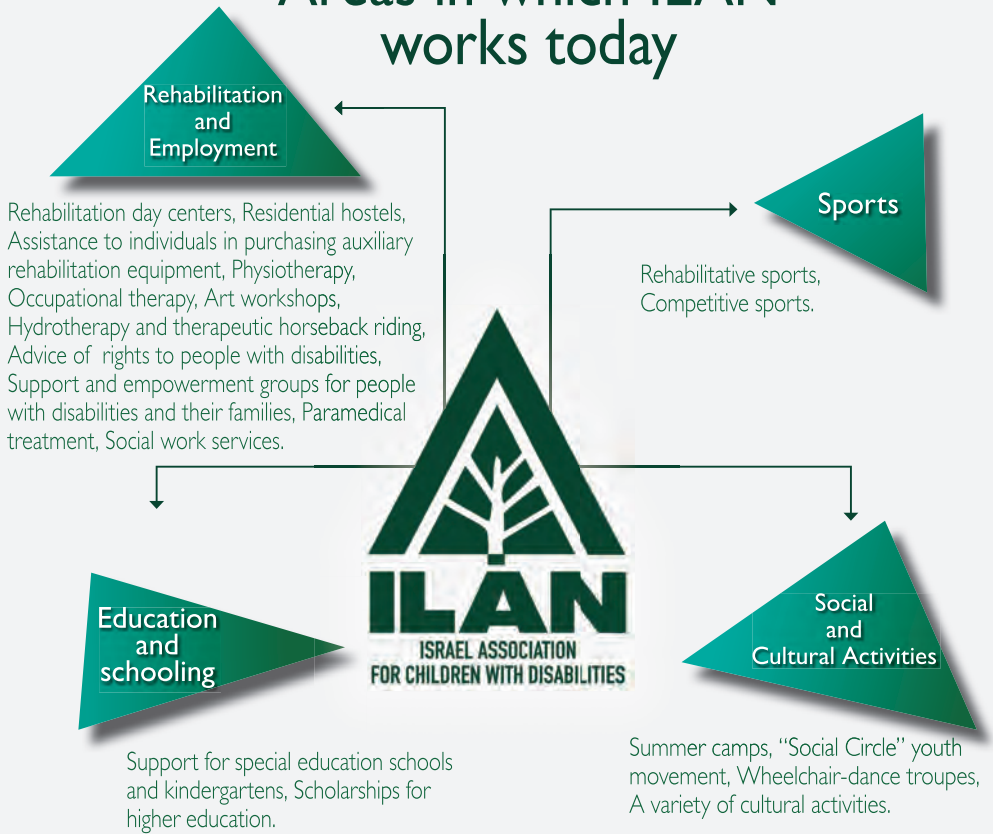
Today, ILAN provides its services through 39 branches and facilities spread throughout the State of Israel – from Metula in the north to Eilat in the south – assisting people with disabilities from all sectors: the general population, the Ultra-Orthodox, and the Arab populations, in cities and towns, in kibbutzim and moshavim. In addition, the organization stands by its clients at every stage of their lives, providing them with a continuum of services from the moment their disability is identified and throughout their lives. ILAN supports child development centers, kindergartens, special education schools, and provides individual assistance to children attending regular education schools.

For adults with disabilities, ILAN offers activities in adult day service centers aimed at advancing their rehabilitation, training, and employment. In addition, it operates hostels in Jerusalem and Kiryat Haim to provide a solution for people with disabilities who have reached adulthood and whose disabilities prevent them from taking advantage of regular housing in the community. ILAN also established a special hostel in Jerusalem for children with severe disabilities.

ILAN initiates many projects throughout the country meant to improve existing facilities. It supports the establishment and operation of new frameworks for people with disabilities, as well as the development, upgrading, and equipping of ILAN facilities.



# Areas in which ILAN works today



## Rehabilitation and employment

ILAN's adult day service centers address the social and cultural needs of people with physical disabilities and break the cycle of loneliness and boredom. The centers offer adults with severe disabilities a daily structure with a variety of activities and services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, art, computer and music workshops. They offer the participants the opportunity to complete their education and more. These activities are all adapted to each person individually according to their preferences and abilities.

Special emphasis is placed on imparting skills for independence and developing life skills, with the aim of assisting people to reach maximum integration into the community. For this purpose, a social worker is assigned to each person with disabilities and their family to provide assistance and support in collaboration with relevant bodies in the community.



## Assistance to individuals for purchasing auxiliary rehabilitation equipment

ILAN provides financial assistance on an individual basis to its clients and their families to fund rehabilitation therapies and to purchase auxiliary rehabilitation equipment and accessories such as wheelchairs, treadmills, accessibility-adapted computers and more . . . We focus mainly on funding rehabilitative and welfare activities and addressing needs unmet by the various institutional bodies.



## Rehabilitation through art

ILAN believes that art has the capacity to empower people with disabilities, uncovering their talents and increasing their sense of self-worth. Already in the schools and of course in our adult day service centers and residential hostels, art and creative workshops of various kinds are held through which many of our clients discover their extraordinary skills. The art workshops improve their self-confidence, enable them to contribute to the society in which they live, and receive recognition and appreciation for their work.



## Sports at ILAN

Based on the belief that sports play an important and central role in rehabilitating people with physical disabilities, and that it is an essential factor contributing to improvement of self-image and integration into work and creative life, ILAN operates two large sports centers that place special emphasis on rehabilitative sports activities. In addition, these centers cultivate competitive sports in which our athletes have a long history of success, including winning world championships and Paralympic medals.



## Education and schooling

ILAN has established kindergartens and schools for children with disabilities, and to this day continues to support their activities.

In addition, ILAN provides scholarships for higher education to students with disabilities and continues to support them during their years of study, appreciating that the acquisition of education is the key to integration into the workplace and society.



## Social and cultural activities

ILAN branches hold many rehabilitative and welfare activities for people with disabilities of all ages: swimming and therapeutic riding, animal-assisted therapy, after-school clubs for children, and a wide variety of cultural and enrichment activities like youth groups, social clubs for young people and adults, wheelchair-dancing troupes, choirs, and various enrichment classes. The highlight of ILAN's social activities are the summer camps that take place in kibbutzim and community centers all over Israel for the enjoyment and well-being of children with physical disabilities.



## Recognition and appreciation from the State of Israel

Throughout its existence, ILAN has taken an active and significant role in promoting the welfare of people with disabilities, has adapted itself to changing needs, and has made breakthroughs in developing innovative rehabilitation services and establishing facilities for the people with severe disabilities. In light of the organization's many achievements and its enormous contribution to developing a culture of giving and volunteering in Israeli society, on Israel's 62nd Independence Day (2004), ILAN was awarded the **Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement – Outstanding Contribution to Society and the Nation.**

This prestigious award was an expression of national recognition and appreciation for the scale of ILAN's contribution to Israeli society in general and to people with physical disabilities in particular.



## Friends of ILAN organizations around the world

Friends of ILAN organizations are registered and recognized by governments around the world. They provide support and encouragement for our activities, ensure that information about the organization and its activities is disseminated, and contribute to the expansion of ILAN's professional knowledge through exchange of information with similar organizations abroad. Their primary role, however, is to collect donations and organize events in order to raise necessary resources to advance our goals. Many of the activities and achievements of ILAN over the years have, to a large extent, come about with the help and generous assistance of the Friends of ILAN associations abroad.

## Looking to the future

Since its inception, ILAN has worked diligently to ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of people with disabilities and has maintained the guiding principles set by its founders – raising the level of services, finding rehabilitative solutions, and developing innovative programs that will lead to rehabilitation, advancement, and integration of people with disabilities in society. All of these activities are carried out with great care to preserve people's dignity as "equals among equals."

We continue to be attentive to the unique needs of people with physical disabilities and are working to develop suitable services in cooperation with institutional, governmental, and public bodies in Israel and abroad who share ILAN's vision and path.



During ILAN's summer camp held at Kibbutz Migdal Oz.

ILAN is assisted by its many volunteers. Most of its budget comes from donations and grants from individuals and institutions that identify with its goals. ILAN is a non-profit organization operating in accordance with all appropriate laws. ILAN conscientiously maintains transparency and directs donations to its objectives while minimizing administrative expenses.

**ILAN is a recognized non-profit organization for the purpose of charitable tax deductions in Israel and abroad.**

**ILAN's Israeli charitable organization number: 58-003-6242**

Additional information ILAN's website:

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