In the beginning of the 1950’s, as the population in Ashkelon and the surrounding area grew, it was obvious that there was a general lack of health services in the area. Ashkelon hospital or Ashkelon Health Unit, as it was called in 1961, was planned towards the end of the 50’s and began operations between the years of 1961-1971. The hospital quickly became a building block for the growing community, while working under a motto that the Medical Center still abides to: “The patient and his family are one unit”.

Today, Barzilai Medical Center is one of the 2 main hospitals in Israel’s southern region, serving a population of 500,000, including a large number of Ethiopian and Russian immigrants.

The Medical Center provides healthcare in a peripheral region which includes the cities of Ashkelon, Ashdod, Kiryat Malachi, Kiryat Gat, Sderot and the settlements around the Gaza Strip. Barzilai houses 534 inpatient beds, 65 daycare beds and 40 neonates’ cradles and it employs 700 nurses, 350 physicians, 150 medical technicians and 350 administrative employees.

Despite working in sub-par conditions in terms of infrastructure and capacity, Barzilai has succeeded in providing the citizens of the area the modern, state of the art treatment they deserve.

The medical center staff includes many leading physicians and our facilities include cutting edge technologies that enable us to provide the community with a wide range of medical services.

Located less than 6 miles from Gaza trip, Barzilai medical center is constantly on high alert because of potential rocket fire from the Gaza Strip. The hospital is the main medical center responsible for the medical treatment and health care of the many citizens which are injured or are evacuated to the medical center during missile attacks, as well as treatment of combat soldiers injured in the combat arena during conflicts.

The hospital also provides healthcare for citizens of the Gaza strip in times of peace as well as during times of conflict.

Despite its proximity to the conflict zone, the majority of Barzilai is not shielded and the hospital itself has sustained considerable damage by missiles fired from Gaza Strip.
Barzilai’s Community Involvement and Outreach Program

One of Barzilai’s greatest achievements is our wide ranging outreach programs which are aimed at improving public health, through preventive medicine and education of the community of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. In addition, Barzilai prides itself in being one of the pillars of the community and initiating many communal activities.

Following are some examples:

- **Barzilai School of Nursing, Program for the Bedouin Population**: This unique undergraduate program is aimed at integrating the Bedouin Population into the Israeli Health care system. This is the only program of its kind in Israel and dozens of participants have already graduated and become registered nurses.

- **Barzilai in the Community**: In this program Barzilai initiates and conducts public health events in the community, in which various healthcare subjects are presented in a “user-friendly” manner to the public.

- **A wide ranging Pro-Bono Program** which includes free treatment to refugees without legal status and under-privileged members of the community.

- **Barzilai’s Screening Program**: Regular screening for diseases and tumors amongst risk groups defined by the Ministry of Health, in order to identify abnormal conditions as early as possible and begin treatment.

- **Workshops for the public in various health issues** such as: smoking prevention, prevention and treatment of diabetes, prevention and treatment of hypertension, nutrition and weight management.

- **Barzilai in the Schools**: Barzilai doctors and staff regularly visit the local schools and give lectures to teachers and students on health issues. In addition, many classes make “field trips” to Barzilai Medical Center where they are given a tour of the facilities and are educated on scientific and technological processes.

- **Doctors of the Future**: A program that “adopts” and educates high school students with a special interest in medicine and healthcare in hope of cultivating the next generation of doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals.

- **The Children’s Dental Clinic Outreach Program**: The program is aimed at educating the public about the importance of dental healthcare starting at a young age. The clinic staff visits kindergartens and schools all across the region, explains and demonstrates to children about teeth & gum and the ways in which the children can prevent dental problems. The clinic also hosts organized groups of kids at the hospital, on a regular basis, where they get a free dental inspection.

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Barzilai Medical Center Project List

In order to bring Barzilai’s vision to fruition, there remains an underlying need for improved infrastructure, facilities and equipment.

After methodically formulating a long term Strategic Plan, Barzilai Management has highlighted several major projects which will be the backbone in bringing to fruition the vision of Barzilai Medical Center becoming one of the leading health care providers in Israel:

- Establishing Fortified Shielded Operation Theaters
- Creation of a Shielded, Advanced Neonatal Dept. and ICU
- Establishing a modernized holistic Rehabilitation Center
- Establishing a technologically advanced state of the art Heart Center wing
- Establishing a Women’s Health Center and a modern IVF wing

Equipping 10 new Shielded Operation Theaters:

The New Surgical Building lies at the heart of Barzilai’s vision of becoming one of the leading hospitals in Israel, capable of providing state of the art treatments to all its patients and attracting leading surgeons and outstanding students from around the country.

The building will be completely shielded so as to allow unaltered care to patients during times of unrest and even during missile strikes.

The construction of the building has been funded by the government but it is the hospital’s responsibility to raise funds for the equipment which will make the building a true “game-changer” in the health-care it provides. Most importantly, the hospital must raise funds for equipping 10 new state-of-the-art operation theaters.

The planned operation theaters will provide Barzilai surgeons with the most modern surgical complex in Israel, that will also boast the state of the art equipment. The new surgical complex will enable up to 20,000 operations per year (50% more than today) and will attract top surgeons and interns from around Israel, that under other circumstances would not consider coming to a peripheral hospital.

More importantly, the rooms will ensure that the hospital patients will get the best possible care and ultimately save many lives.

The total project cost of constructing and bringing the new surgical building to full operational mode is approx. 125 Million U.S. dollars.

The Israeli Government has funded a major portion of this project, however there remains a funding gap that consists of 5 major needs:

- Equipping 10 state of the art operating theaters
- Completing the funding of the Intensive Care Unit
- Equipping the Sterile Supplies Institute
- Funding of 3 surgical departments consisted of 36 surgical beds each
- Medical Equipment for all departments in the building

Total Funding Gap: 56 million U.S. Dollars. Of these funds, approx. 40 Million US dollars are for equipping ten state of the art operating theaters and the completion of the Intensive Care Unit.

Our Vision

• Providing excellence in healthcare and medical services for the population we serve.
• Taking an active part in promoting awareness to issues of public health and to practices that can improve our populations well-being, while being a leader in initiating preventive healthcare measures within the community.
• Becoming a full scale trauma center, able to give the best possible care, and carry out all needed procedures, to victims of missile attacks as well as soldiers injured during conflicts. Creating a shielded environment that will enable the hospital to carry out all its services during times of conflict and even under fire.
• Being recognized as a state leader in several fields of excellence in which our hospital will become the industry standard.
• Being a pillar of pride and a rallying point for our community, while proving the strength of the periphery.

CEO Chavi Levy Presenting the Hospital Vision
Barzilai Medical Center Project List

Establishing a Shielded, Advanced Neonatal Dept. and I.C.U:

The Barzilai Neonatal ICU currently was designed and constructed during the mid 1980’s and since has not been refurbished, in spite of a blessed increase of 15% in baby deliveries which is expected to continue.

The department’s high density and subpar infrastructure create a relatively high risk of infections for the newborns, thus endangering their lives. The main problem the department must deal with is the fact that it is not shielded against missile attacks. Since February 2008, the department has been evacuated 4 times to an improvised shelter that does not meet the basic standards for appropriate medical treatment.

Our aim is to Create a modern, shielded Neonatal ICU, that meets professional standards and the rising demand created by a steady increase in baby deliveries in the hospital community.

The project will include enlarging the Neonatal ICU, modernizing the infrastructure and procurement of necessary modern equipment such as: integrative incubators, a central monitoring and communication system and modernized respirators.

Total Project Cost: 6 Million USD

Establishing a modernized holistic Rehabilitation Center:

This project aims to create a modernized rehabilitation center that would ensure hospital patients, and outpatients, the greatest possible care and support, in a serene and positive environment. The rehabilitation process is one that engages entire families for weeks and months. Thus, a state of the art rehabilitation center, that would service patients and families in this great time of need, would create a strong and unique bond between Barzilai and the community. The use of the centers facilities by outpatients will enhance this bond even further. The Proposed Center would be approx. 12,000 feet and include the following units:

- Neurological and Orthopedic Rehabilitation Ward
- Cardiac rehabilitation center
- Pulmonary rehabilitation center
- Aquatic therapy pool for various rehabilitation hydrotherapeutic techniques
- Physical and occupational treatment centers

The total project costs for the rehabilitation center is approx. 15 million U.S. Dollars. Of this, 11 million U.S. dollars has already been funded.

Funding Gap: 4 Million USD

Establishing a technologically advanced State of the Art Heart Center wing:

The cardiology department of Barzilai Medical Center provides diagnostic and treatment services for patients referred with actual, or suspected, heart disease. The clinical work of the department encompasses all aspects of cardiology. However, the work is limited and far from optimal due to insufficient space, lacking infrastructure and the need for modernized equipment.

The projects objective is to create a united and comprehensive heart center that combines all the facilities of cardiac and cardiovascular treatment, while utilizing the most up-to-date and stand of the art technologies and equipment.

The new wing will be dedicated as the Barzilai Heart Center and will require a building of approx. 5600 square meters. The following units will be part of the center:

- Hospitalization ward (Intensive coronary care Unit, Intermediate Coronary Care Unit, Cardiology Department);
- Invasive Cardiology / Cardiovascular Unit;
- Electrophysiology Unit;
- Non Invasive Cardiology department;
- Nuclear Cardiology Unit (including a rehabilitation center).

Total Project Costs: ~46 million U.S. Dollars

Establishing a Women’s Health Center and a modern IVF wing:

The department of Obstetrics and Gynecology encompasses all modern aspects of obstetrics and gynecology. Alongside the hospitalization wards and High Risk Pregnancy Unit, the dept. includes the following units a Gynecology Day Care Unit, the I.V.F. Unit and an Ultrasound Unit.

These units work in small and crowded conditions and with sub-par facilities. The units are spread around the hospital and not centered in one central area. Within these conditions, the department has had to deal with a pike in demand for its services: In the past year there has been a 15% increase in the number of deliveries in the department. In addition, there is an increase in the number of patients referred to the high risk department.

The available facility lacks enough space for women delivering and recovering from delivery in the maternity ward. There is an urgent need to improve the conditions of the day care & I.V.F. units, as well as all our women’s health facilities.

The projects aim is to answer these needs through the creation of a Women’s Health Center that will provide high quality services in a state-of-the-art building that will also provide comfortable rest & waiting areas for patients and their families.

The center will be located in a convenient location within Barzilai and will significantly improve the patient access to its various facilities. Our proposal will create an integrated center of approx. 12,000 sq. Feet that will include all the women health facilities.

Total Project Costs: ~12 million U.S. Dollars
Short Term Projects

The projects listed here within are long term projects which require major investments. Alongside these projects, there are several short term projects which can be executed quickly and require less extensive investments. Following are some examples of these projects. A detailed account of these projects and additional short term needs can be found in the attached material:

Expanding and modernizing the IVF unit
The unit provides care for women with a variety of infertility problems. The infertility clinic treats patients with endometriosis, male infertility, and other fertility problems. In addition there are about 450 in-vitro fertilization (I.V.F) cycles performed annually in the unit.
However, the unit’s facilities are lacking in several aspects. These problems would be fixed in the planned women’s health center. However, in the short term there is a more immediate solution: Building a second floor above the current IVF unit. The proposed expansion would include a state-of-the-art laboratory that would enable genetic diagnosis and a modern operating theater. These would greatly upgrade the unit’s capabilities and bring it to the forefront of IVF units in Israel.

New technology for the Gastroenterology Department
The Gastroenterology and Hepatology Department is committed to providing high quality diagnostic and treatment services for patients referred with digestive and liver diseases. Over the last years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of patients affected by digestive and liver diseases. Despite several investments that have been made in improved technology, the department still and does not supply the complete scope of gastroenterological treatments the population in this tense area needs. This is mainly due to lack of funds to acquire the proper updated gastroenterological equipment: An Endoscopic Ultrasound Unit; A ManoScan360 EG Workstation System; a Single balloon Enteroscope. Procurement of this equipment will considerably upgrade Barzilai’s Gastro center, and greatly improve the standard of care given to patients of several department which today are reliant on alternative, sub-par solutions or are sent to other establishments.

Upgrade of equipment for the Radiology Department
The on-going advancements in imaging technology, alongside the growing demand for the imaging services from the many departments that are dependent on the imaging department, have created a need for an upgrade and major expansion of the departments imaging equipment: New Angiography equipment for improved invasive radiology capabilities; 4 DR (digital radiology) systems, for the hospital outpatient ward and for the new surgical building; A Pet CT - Cutting edge technology that will greatly improve the care given to our patients, especially in the oncology department.

Establishment of a new Invasive Cardiology Room
Approx. 20% of hospital patients that are in need of invasive cardiology procedures are transferred to other hospitals due the insufficient capacity in the Invasive Cardiology department. The new room will answer this need and also enable the hospitals core of outstanding Cardiological surgeons to take on much more complex heart procedures, that today can only be carried out in other hospitals.

The purchase of a new State of the art Echocardiography System
Today, the Non Invasive Cardiology Dept. uses an outdated system that does not enable it to answer the high demand for its use.

Establishment of a new Electrophysiology room
The Electrophsiology unit uses state of the art equipment but it is lacking in capacity.