

Hesed Eliyahu



in Tbilisi, Georgia

The elderly Jews of Georgia are some of the poorest in the world. The approximately 1,400 Jewish seniors who call the country home struggle to preserve their Jewish pride and personal dignity while facing unimaginable hardship. Georgia's economy, which collapsed following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, still has not recovered. The government does not have the resources to care for the elderly and infirm, who struggle to make ends meet on an average pension of \$54 a month. Increasingly cold winters and rising heating costs have only made the problem worse.

In Georgia's capital, Tbilisi, The Hesed Eliyahu Relief Center provides elderly Jews with food, homecare, medical care and winter relief.



Last year, Hesed Eliyahu provided critical services to 1,376 individuals:

- **122** people received **54,946** hours of help with basic activities of daily living, such as bathing, laundry and house cleaning
- **1,080** were kept warm in the winter thanks to boots, overcoats and blankets
- **1,286** received food cards enabling them to purchase groceries in local supermarkets
- **683** received free or subsidized medications
- **36** homebound people received **10,619** cooked Meals on Wheels
- **79** with limited mobility were loaned **151** pieces of rehabilitative equipment

Those who can visit the Hesed Eliyahu center enjoy communal meals and social activities to help them stave off loneliness, and get access to much-needed resources. For those who are homebound, the center's Meals on Wheels delivery staff often provide the only human contact they have.

These impoverished seniors continue to rely on our services to meet their most basic needs. Together, we are fulfilling one of our most sacred Jewish commitments—the preservation of life.



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