

Lifegate in April 2025

April is a month with many holidays coming from the three major religions in our country. First of all, the Muslims celebrated Id il Fittr at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. The streets of Bethlehem and the restaurants were packed with people enjoying these days off. Then the Jewish Passover with the special first evening where Jewish families remember the exodus from slavery in Egypt in a special ceremony with the reading of a small booklet (Seder order for Passover) and a very special meal. Many people come from all over the country and abroad to celebrate this festival in Israel. However, many Israelis also use this vacation week to seek relaxation and a break from the tense situation by visiting other countries. "Last but not least", we Christians celebrate the final overcoming of separation from God and the forgiveness of our sins through the death of Jesus on the cross and, after three days, his resurrection from the dead and thus the victory of life over death. ***"Our Lord lives and acts", our good news for the whole world!*** With kind regards Burghard Schunkert

Open day

Twice a year, we invite the parents of our sponsored children, the families of our employees and people from our town to a meeting day at Lifegate. A preparatory team planned many activities for young and old and despite the somewhat chilly spring weather, many people came to visit. ...successful Easter egg hunt.



Easter at Lifegate



...dyeing eggs in the Lifegate courtyard...

The young adults from the training workshop visited a small park in our town to enjoy a picnic in warm weather and sunshine. The Easter story was vividly told by our social worker and the traditional Easter egg hunt was also a lot of fun for the "big kids".

The kindergarten and school also organized this year's Easter celebrations on playgrounds in the countryside outside the Lifegate building.



...listening to the Easter story...

A local theater group from Beit Jala imaginatively combined the story of Little Red Riding Hood, which is well-known to our Lifegate children, with the story of Jesus' resurrection. ***"Evil doesn't stand a chance and death never has the last word"*** is how one could summarize this play in a comical disguise.



Lifegate on the road

People with disabilities should take an active part in society and get involved with other people. Meetings with people from kindergartens, schools and other institutions are part of the annual Lifegate program. Together with a local school, our young adults organized a morning of getting to know each other and playing together. A visit to a local retirement home brought variety and joy to the elderly people who live there. The Lifegate kitchen had prepared a delicious lunch, which we brought along and ate together with the residents.



.. Visit to the retirement home...

Our wheelchair basketball team was invited to a game by the sports club for people with disabilities in Bethlehem. This was an opportunity for our young people to use our new sports wheelchairs.



Our friends from a Dutch organization in Beit Jala set up a **small petting zoo** for children and young people with disabilities. Lifegate is now a "permanent guest" with our different age groups. By interacting with animals, our children and young people can first of all lose their fear of animals and then learn how to treat them with respect and love. An important part of these learning programs (therapy with animals) is the correct keeping of animals and the responsibility to feed, clean and spend time with them.



Preparation for the operation

We are delighted that we have now been able to take two children, Osaïd and Ivan, from our early intervention center to the Israeli Shaarei Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem to prepare for **orthopaedic surgery**. Both children need a correction to their legs. They will then be able to stand stably and learn to walk. Many Lifegate children have already been successfully operated on in this hospital by the examining physician Dr. Lebel.



Friends as guests

Visitors are still rare in the "Holy Land" and we look forward to every person who comes by. Three executives from the YMCA Munich (***Friedhart Reiner, board member on the left, Stefan Nicklas, executive secretary next to me and Hans Martin Lauer, board member on the right***) paid us a visit and got to know Lifegate personally.



Nils Gieskes did his civilian service at Lifegate for two and a half years in 1990 and was already very committed to setting up the Lifegate wheelchair repair department back then. Nils and another Lifegate volunteer founded their own rehab company in Germany in the Düsseldorf area. Nils now joined us for three weeks to support the work of Lifegate and built a beautiful sales trolley from old (unusable wheelchairs) and helped in many other departments. Once again a good Lifegate experience was confirmed: "What (who) is good, comes back"!!!



Joni and Friends

We were able to carry out the first wheelchair distribution at Lifegate in 2025. The wheelchairs and aids donated by our American friends were adapted and distributed to many children, young and old. Our Lifegate team was supported by young volunteers from the Immanuel Church in Bethlehem.

