



PROFILES IN COMPASSION

PROFILE #3 Ram Yogev, MD

Dr. Ram Yogev has dedicated his career to helping children and families affected by HIV/AIDS and other infectious illnesses. A physician at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago since 1977, Yogev began treating kids with HIV/AIDS in the earliest days of the epidemic.



The HIV/AIDS crisis created a bleak situation by the late 1980s. Babies and young children were falling through the gaps. Mothers were often too sick to care for them and infants languished in hospitals with nowhere to go. Many of these children were orphaned or abandoned. Families with no resources were sometimes forced from their homes because of the fear and stigma that surrounded AIDS.

Yogev quickly recognized that these children and families needed greater support than medicine alone could provide...and began to envision a different reality for them. He imagined "a home away from home" for those with no place to go and no one to turn to for support – an idea that eventually manifested itself as Children's Place Association.

He sought out caring people who could help make his vision a reality. This small group of compassionate individuals became the Founding Board of Children's Place Association. They formed a nonprofit, raised \$1 million and then purchased and renovated a greystone house on Chicago's west side.

The program they created – a residence with 24-hour nursing care for children with HIV/AIDS – was one of the first of its kind in the nation. Opened in 1991, it became a safe haven for sick children. More than 500 kids received care in the residence during its first decade of operation.

While Children's Place has grown over the years – adding more programs and expanding its mission to serve those facing other health issues – we have remained true to Dr. Yogev's dream: reaching out to Chicago's most vulnerable children...helping them overcome challenges so they can lead their best lives.

We are proud to continue making this visionary doctor's idea a reality each day.