DVI celebrates 30th anniversary

By Fred Michmershuizen, Online Editor

Dental Volunteers of Israel (DVI), an organization that provides oral health-care services to the children of Jerusalem regardless of background, celebrated its 30th anniversary during the recent Greater New York Dental Meeting with a gala celebration at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Lower Manhattan.

Dr. Nedal Alayyan was named DVI Volunteer of the Year. During his remarks, Alayyan recounted his experience as a child growing up in Jerusalem and being treated at the DVI clinic. Inspired by that early experience, Alayyan became a dentist himself and now gives back to today’s children of Jerusalem through DVI.

Stanley M. Bergman, chairman and CEO of Henry Schein, delivered the evening’s keynote address. In remembering the late Trudi Birger, founder of DVI, Bergman said, “Trudi was a humanitarian, a visionary and an entrepreneur. She realized that a healthy smile enables a child to eat, sleep, study and grow without the distraction of pain associated with poor oral health.”

Since its founding in 1980, DVI has been providing free dental care to Jerusalem’s most underprivileged children. At the state-of-the-art Trudi Birger Dental Clinic, children of all faiths referred by the Department of Social Welfare are treated by dentists from around the world.

Volunteering services range from routine to complex dental procedures. DVI also runs a comprehensive preventative dental care program to help young patients develop good, long-term oral health habits.

This worldwide work is made possible not only by the dentists who come to Israel and donate their time and expertise, but also by businesses and individuals who donate supplies, equipment and financial resources for DVI’s operating budget.

DVI treats thousands of these children each month at the clinic, yet there are still thousands more who need help. There is no other organization that provides comprehensive free dental care and education to disadvantaged children in Israel.