



IMPACT

November 2023

Dear Friend,

It's a joy for me to have an opportunity to again share with you a glimpse into the heart of Nehemiah Gateway. You continue to be part of a special community of compassionate friends and partners. It's an honor to be able to express to you gratitude while conveying a little about the vision we have and the work we're doing to bring meaningful change for many.

In the early days of NG your generosity fueled relief efforts, reaching many Albanians in remote regions who had very little. Today, thanks to you our Social and Medical Improvement (SMI) team is still able to set out on challenging journeys to deliver aid, overcoming harsh conditions and providing essential care to those who need it most.

Your kindness empowers us to adapt and grow. We can also offer specialized services in more urban areas of SE Albania, providing vital physical therapy and reaching those unable to visit our campus through home visits. The Children's Learning Center, continues to thrive, offering specialized education and therapy for children with disabilities.

This is a heartfelt thank you. Through your support and encouragement we are testifying to tangible progress – individuals gaining mobility, children finding their voice, families standing taller in dignity and independence.

I am so grateful for you.

Michelle Mann
NG USA Executive Director



Food parcels for people in Albanian villages



Medical help for the elderly

The Heartbeat of Nehemiah Gateway

For over three decades, Nehemiah Gateway has remained steadfast in its mission to support and empower individuals in their pursuit of dignified and independent lives. With the compelling mission statement, "Helping and empowering people to sustainably shape and determine their lives in dignity and independence," our identity revolves around assisting our fellow human beings.

The methods through which we fulfill this mission have evolved over time, adapting to the changing needs of communities and individuals. When Nehemiah Gateway first embarked on its journey in the early 1990s, much of our work focused on relief efforts. Many people owned very little, if anything at all, and were in dire need of external aid, including food for the hungry, medicine for the sick, and blankets for the cold. Although our efforts have made a positive impact, there are still many individuals in need, not only in Pogradec itself but also in the numerous villages nestled in the mountainous region.

Every day, the Social and Medical Improvement (SMI) program of Nehemiah Gateway strives to be a beacon of hope in the lives of many.



More than just food and clothing - children in remote villages love the attention from our employees, who bring a little light into their hard lives.



Physiotherapy at a bedridden patient's home



Therapy for special needs children

Regularly, groups of dedicated coworkers pack themselves into cars laden with food packages, embarking on day-long journeys to deliver aid, sometimes returning well after dark during the harsh winter months. The challenging conditions of the roads leading to remote villages only add to the difficulty, with deep snow blocking access in winter, heavy rains turning dirt roads into muddy quagmires in spring and autumn, and summertime ground divots created by passing vehicles.

Over the years, we have adapted to these challenges, knowing that there are people in these isolated villages who need our support, and the SMI team remains committed to this mission.

However, the need for assistance is not limited to remote mountainous areas. Often, city dwellers have basic necessities but require a different form of help. Our SMI program is equipped to provide physical therapy to those without alternatives. Many clients visit the NG campus for sessions to address injuries or mobility issues. In cases where clients cannot reach the campus, SMI program coworkers make home visits to ensure access to care.

As time has progressed, our programs have evolved to address emerging needs. We recognized a growing demand in Albania for services catering to children with disabilities and learning differences, such as Down Syndrome and autism. The Children's Learning Center is dedicated to addressing this need through special needs education and speech therapy. Clients of all ages visit the SMI office on our campus every week for sessions with licensed therapists. Throughout the year, events like Christmas parties and summer camps provide opportunities for social interaction and skill development for children with special needs, facilitated by our dedicated social workers.

Through these programs, we have witnessed significant progress in many of our regular clients. The Children's Learning Center has also adapted, offering group sessions to further enhance the social interaction skills of its clients. Nehemiah Gateway remains committed to its mission, evolving to meet the ever-changing needs of the communities it serves.

Nehemiah Gateway's enduring commitment to serving the most vulnerable members of our global community stands as a testament to the unyielding power of compassion and resilience. For over thirty years, we have evolved alongside the changing landscape of human need, driven by our unwavering mission to empower and uplift individuals in their quest for dignity and independence. Our journey has taken us through the depths of winter's unforgiving snows, the muddied paths of spring and autumn, and the summer's persistent challenges, but our determination to provide aid and support remains unshaken. As we forge ahead, expanding our programs to meet new and emerging needs, our promise to those we serve remains unwavering.

Nehemiah Gateway continues to be a beacon of hope, not only in some of the most remote corners of the world but also in the hearts of individuals seeking a brighter and more independent future. Together, we continue to illuminate a path towards a world where every life can be shaped with dignity, independence, and the enduring promise of a better tomorrow.

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