

PROGRAM FEATURES

- 1-, 2- & 3-week army base programs and 4-week programs at nursing facilities are available year-round.
- Free kosher meals, lodging, and work clothes are included on IDF bases.
- Volunteers pay for transportation to/from Israel and weekend expenses.
- Army base programs may include trips and cultural events, and some offer *Ulpan* (Hebrew language) classes.



BY THE NUMBERS

30,000+ The number of U.S. volunteers who have participated in VFI programs since 1982.

600 The approximate number of Americans who decide each year to become part of the VFI family.

30+ The number of countries that Sar-El volunteers call home when not helping out in Israel.

15 The number of dining opportunities you'll have each week to get your fill of *(the best)* tomatoes, cucumbers, and humus.

6 The number of Volunteers with whom you'll share quarters — if you're lucky!

5 The number of work days on a Sunday–Thursday VFI program.

2 The number of young IDF soldiers (*Madrichim*) serving as guides, aides, translators and counselors, and charged with making your stay in Israel the best it can be.

1 You – the person who can decide *right now* to help the Jewish homeland with your hands and your heart.

Now is the time to back your beliefs with action and embark on a life-changing journey you'll treasure for the rest of your life.

To learn how you can be part of Volunteers for Israel, visit www.vfi-usa.org.

VFI Regional Offices

General Inquiries & Questions

Email: info@vfi-usa.org
or call **1-866-514-1948** (toll-free)

New York

330 West 42nd Street, Ste. 1618
New York, NY 10036
Phone: 212-643-4848
Fax: 866-514-1948
Email: new-york@vfi-usa.org

Long Island NY

c/o Eric Steinberg
Cell Phone: 631-816-3530
Fax: 631-588-7438
Email: esteinberg@vfi-usa.org

New England

(Covering: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)
P.O. Box 67532
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
Phone: 866-512-3255
Fax: 866-512-3255
Email: new-england@vfi-usa.org

Philadelphia

(Covering: DE, NJ, PA, WV)
c/o Beverly Cohen and Carol Stein
P.O. Box 693, Skippack, PA 19474
Phone: 610-584-0468 or
215-646-6381
Fax: 866-514-1948
Email: philadelphia@vfi-usa.org

Mid-Atlantic

(Covering: DC, MD, NC, SC, VA)
c/o Marian Sacks
13801 Bonsal Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20906
Phone: 301-603-9300
Fax: 866-514-1948
Email: mid-atlantic@vfi-usa.org

South

(Covering: AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, TN)
c/o Leon Rechtman
5288 Winters Chapel Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30360
Phone: 770-328-4573
Fax: 866-514-1948
Email: atlanta@vfi-usa.org

Chicago & Midwest

(Covering: IL, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE)
c/o Charlotte Kaplan
P.O. Box 4992
Skokie, IL 60076-4992
Phone: 888-246-3037
Fax: 888-246-3037
Email: chicagovfi@msn.com

Midwest/Great Lakes

(Covering: IN, MI, OH, WI)
c/o Ed Kohl
7275 Danbrooke
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
Phone: 248-420-3729
Fax: 248-671-5007
Email: michigan@vfi-usa.org

Colorado & Mountain States

(Covering: CO, ND, OK, SD, WY, UT)
c/o Stephen Kapnik
950 South Cherry Street #900
Denver, Colorado 80246
Phone: 303-489-9740
Fax: 866-514-1948
Email: colorado@vfi-usa.org

Texas & Southwest States

(Covering: TX, AZ, NM)
c/o Valerie Carlone
3012 Lisa Lane
Arlington, Texas 76013
Phone: 817-213-7333
Fax: 866-514-1948
Email: valcarlone@yahoo.com

Northern California & Pacific Northwest

(Covering: N. CA, NV, WA, ID, HI, OR, AK, MT)
c/o Kay Warren
6975 Thornhill Drive
Oakland, CA 94611-1337
Phone: 866-380-6464
Phone: 510-339-0183
Fax: 866-380-6464
Email: san-francisco@vfi-usa.org

Southern California

(Covering: Los Angeles & Southern CA)
c/o Renee G. Bassell
3029 Risdon Drive
Union City, CA 94587
Cell: 510-508-0861
Fax: 866-380-6464
Email: rgbassell@vfi-usa.org



THE BEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE ISRAEL... IS YOURSELF

Why would anyone on vacation rise at 6 a.m., work all day on an IDF base, endure Spartan accommodations and army food – and pay to do it?

Join Volunteers for Israel and you'll understand.



866-514-1948 | info@vfi-usa.org
www.vfi-usa.org

© 2003–4/2010
Volunteers for Israel®



IN THE BEGINNING

It was the summer of 1982 and Israel was once again at war. Israeli reservists were being called up to defend the country just as the first crops of the season were ripening throughout the Jezreel Valley. The soldiers were needed to protect the country's northern flank, but without their help in the fields the crop loss could be disastrous.

To ease the problem, Israeli General Aharon Davidi sent emissaries to the United States to enlist volunteers to help with the harvest. But would Americans leave their comfortable homes and travel half-way around the world to literally *lend their hands* to a foreign land in a troubled region?

THE MIRACLE

The response was immediate and overwhelming. More than 600 idealistic men and women signed on. Working the fields like pioneers, they ignored long days and harsh living conditions, helped save the harvest, and freed up reservists to battle Israel's enemies.

The volunteer experiment proved so successful that it was continued and expanded. Nearly 140,000 people from around the world have taken part in the program administered in Israel by Sar-El, an organization whose acronym means "Service for Israel."

TODAY

Volunteers for Israel (VFI) is an outgrowth of "The Miracle." Our mission is to strengthen American ties to Israel and its people through hands-on, civilian volunteer service and to assure Israel that she doesn't stand alone. We enable volunteers to work alongside Israelis on **military bases** and to assist residents of **nursing and retirement homes**. VFI also offers the **International Youth Program (IYP)** each summer for young adults 17-25; an add-on to **Taglit-Birthright tours**; and other opportunities. VFI is a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political U.S. organization.

"It was a great opportunity to participate in Israeli culture in a way that you can't as a tourist. I'm not sure I have ever learned so much in such a short time. It was also a cool opportunity to give back and show my support."

—NICOLE CRABTREE, EUGENE, OR

WHY VOLUNTEER?

Threatened by increasingly hostile neighbors, Israel needs our support more than ever. Some points to consider:

WHAT YOU GIVE

- **Economic aid:** VFI makes it possible for Israeli reservists to continue their education and remain at their jobs, saving Israel millions in work hours and salaries.
- **A boost in morale:** Volunteers are a diverse group of men and women ages 17 to 80+; students and retirees; Jews and non-Jews; first-timers and VFI veterans. On the job and throughout their travels, their presence lifts Israelis' spirits and earns them an appreciative "*kol hakavod*," an Israeli pat on the back.
- **Boots on the ground:** It's one thing to talk the talk. But VFI volunteers walk the walk. Their willingness to go anywhere in Israel they might be sent, to carry out whatever duties they might be assigned, is a powerful, visible demonstration of their commitment.

"It was hot; it was exhausting; it was dirty; it was frustrating; it was wonderful...an experience of a lifetime. I have rarely, if ever, felt more useful or appreciated. Do it again? YOU BET I WILL!"

—MICHAEL PECULLAN, WOODBROOKE, VA

WHAT YOU GET

- **Pride:** The sense of pride and purpose that comes with knowing you're making a personal difference for a country and people you care deeply about is one of the most gratifying feelings you will ever experience.
- **Friendship:** Volunteers may first meet as strangers, but most become good friends. Many stay in touch with their new buddies from around the world; some serve together again; some make *aliyah*; and a special few have met their *besht* — thanks to VFI.
- **Fun and adventure:** Tired of the routine and predictable? Come out of the tourist bubble and experience the *real* Israel. You might work on a bustling base near Tel Aviv or a remote camp in the desert. You might pack life-saving medical supplies, hang barbed wire, repair equipment, or help an elderly Israeli with meals. You might be tired and dirty at the end of the day. But this much we can promise: You'll never be bored and you'll have memories to cherish forever.



"My wife and I go together, and we love the experience. We talk about it to everyone who will listen. And if they're not listening, we keep on talking."

—MORRIS AND JOYCE SHOR, TELFORD, PA