

## VFI REGIONAL OFFICES

**For: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT**

VFI New England  
P.O. Box 67532  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467  
Phone: 617-571-7373  
Phone: 866-512-3255 (Toll free)  
Email: boston@vfi-usa.org

**For: NY**

VFI New York  
330 West 42nd Street, Ste. 1618  
New York, NY 10036  
Phone: 212-643-4848  
E-mail: new-york@vfi-usa.org

**For: DE, NJ, PA, WV**

VFI Philadelphia  
c/o Jeanne S. Schachter  
P.O. Box 2891  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004  
Phone: 610-617-4048  
Phone: 888-473-6527 (Toll free)  
Email: philadelphia@vfi-usa.org

**For: DC, MD, NC, SC, VA**

VFI Mid-Atlantic  
c/o Marian Sacks  
13801 Bonsal Lane  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
Phone: 301-603-9300  
Email: mid-atlantic@vfi-usa.org

**For: AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, TN**

VFI – South  
c/o Leon Rechtman  
5288 Winters Chapel Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30360  
Phone: 770-328-4573  
Fax: 866-514-1948

**For: IL, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE**

VFI Chicago & Midwest  
c/o Charlotte Kaplan  
P.O. Box 4992  
Skokie, IL 60076-4992  
Phone: 888-246-3037 (Toll free)  
Email: chicago@vfi-usa.org

**For: IN, MI, OH, WI**

VFI Midwest & Great Lakes  
c/o Ed Kohl  
7275 Danbrooke  
West Bloomfield MI 48322  
Phone: 248-420-3729  
Email: michigan@vfi-usa.org

**For: CO, ND, OK, SD, TX, WY**

VFI Colorado & Mountain States  
c/o Ed Koplin  
1122 Monaco Parkway  
Denver, CO 80220  
Phone: 303-394-9700  
Email: colorado@vfi-usa.org

**For: AK, HI, ID, MT, OR, WA**

VFI PacificNW  
c/o Josef Herz  
13705 SE 144th Street  
Renton, WA 98059  
Phone: 425-235-8280  
Email: pacific-nw@vfi-usa.org

**For: Northern CA, NV, UT**

VFI San Francisco  
c/o Kay Warren  
6975 Thornhill Drive  
Oakland, CA 94611-1337  
Phone: 510-339-0183  
Phone: 866-380-6464 (Toll free)  
Email: san-francisco@vfi-usa.org

**For: AZ, Southern CA, NM**

VFI Los Angeles  
c/o Carol Hananel  
23710 Kivik Street  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
Phone: 866-345-3352 (Toll free)  
Phone: 818-347-5464  
Email: los-angeles@vfi-usa.org

**For General Inquiries:**

Toll free – 866-514-1948  
NY office – 212-643-4848  
Email: info@vfi-usa.org

# The Best Gift You Can Give Israel Is Yourself.

---

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

---

Join Volunteers for Israel,  
and you'll understand.



Telephone: (866) 514-1948 • Fax: (866) 514-1948 • info@vfi-usa.org • www.vfi-usa.org

## VFI Then And Now

Volunteers for Israel (VFI) is a non-profit, non-political, non-denominational organization which provides aid to Israel through hands-on, civilian volunteer work. It takes its basic ideology from Zionist precepts.

VFI's history and growth are impressive. In the summer of 1982, during the Peace for Galilee Operation, Israeli General Aharon Davidi conceived of a way to help relieve the critical manpower shortage in Israel. He sent emissaries to the United States to enlist volunteers to help harvest crops on kibbutzim and keep the economy going while thousands of workers were away serving in the army.

More than 600 Americans responded immediately to that first call for help. These idealistic "pioneers" endured primitive accommodations and laborious fieldwork in a chaotic situation. Nonetheless, the tremendous spirit, the feeling of belonging, and the sense of accomplishment and purpose they experienced made the hard work and any inconvenience worthwhile.

General Davidi's experiment was such a rousing success that the program continued after the crisis passed. Today, it is administered in Israel by Sar-El, which arranges work placement of volunteers. It has expanded to include volunteers from all 50 states and more than 35 countries, and it offers a variety of civilian, non-combatant work assignments, most often on military bases or in hospitals. To date, well over 100,000 volunteers have participated.

Volunteers made a vital difference then... and they still do today.

## Here's What You Give

### Economic

Volunteers serving on IDF bases enable Israeli reservists to stay on their jobs or in university classes. Israel saves millions of shekels each year by not having to pay salaries of reservists whom volunteers relieve.

### MORALE

Volunteers boost the morale of Israeli soldiers and civilians. They are seen as hard-working, generous benefactors who give not only money but themselves.

### SOLIDARITY

The program is a celebration of unity. Volunteers come from various locations, vocations, backgrounds, religious affiliations, political bents, and lifestyles – all to demonstrate solidarity with Israel. Working together helps strengthen their commitment and identification with Israel.

### SUPPORT

Israel's need for worldwide support and understanding is even greater today than in 1982. VFI plays a vital role by enabling Diaspora Jews and other friends of Israel to work side by side with Israelis, showing solidarity by their presence. Volunteers soon understand and appreciate Israel's people and culture, and they return home as enthusiastic ambassadors.

## Here's What You Get

For volunteers, VFI meets the need to pitch in and help a country they love. Most feel they come away with more than they have given.

### PRIDE

Volunteers experience a sense of pride and purpose that they rarely find elsewhere. On the job and throughout their travels in Israel, they are frequently greeted with expressions of appreciation ("kol ha-kavod"). There is no substitute for this rewarding, hands-on Israel experience.

### FRIENDSHIP

Countless lasting friendships have formed with Israelis and among volunteers, surmounting any social, economic, educational, or language barriers. A remarkable 20% of volunteers return to rejoin their friends and to share again in one of the most gratifying experiences of a lifetime. More than 7% of alumni have made aliya. Others have married people they met on the program.

### ADVENTURE

Where else could you paint a bus, package lifesaving medical supplies, or help prepare a meal for 300 people? If you think life is becoming too routine and predictable, you'll be thrilled by the fun and adventure awaiting you when you join Volunteers for Israel.

## Answers To Frequently Asked Questions

- The program is administered by Sar-El in Israel. Each participant must file an application and complete all other requirements, including a personal interview. A nonrefundable application fee must accompany all applications. See the list of VFI Regional Offices.
- Your base location is determined in Israel and is dependent on current need. Although most volunteers serve at IDF facilities, you may choose to work at a hospital. Indicate your preference on your application, and we will try to accommodate you. Hospital assignments require a commitment of 4 weeks.
- You will function as part of a group of volunteers from varied backgrounds and locations. On bases, an IDF "madricha" or group leader will coordinate your activities in conjunction with the base commander, serve as a translator when necessary, and do her best to see that your stay is comfortable and problem-free.
- You can expect a five-day week on the base -- Sunday through Thursday evening. Daily work assignments and schedules will vary depending on the needs of the facility to which you are assigned. Lectures, cultural programs, guided excursions, opportunities to interact with soldiers and other volunteers, and time to relax will fill your non-work hours during the week. During your time off base you may travel and enjoy all that Israel has to offer. You will be notified of reasonably priced optional guided tours sponsored by Sar-El on weekends.
- You will work and eat your meals with both Israeli soldiers and other volunteers. Work uniforms and boots will be provided. Sleeping facilities are typically cots or bunk beds in rooms that accommodate 4-10 volunteers. Bathrooms are sometimes located outside the barracks. Men and women are housed in separate rooms.

For the most current information, please visit our website:  
[www.vfi-usa.org](http://www.vfi-usa.org)

## Volunteers' Comments

Volunteers who have been on the program frequently write to tell us about their experiences. Here's what some VFI alumni have said:

One California mother left her kitchen in the States for a kitchen in Israel "for the wonderful feeling I felt inside." The Israeli soldiers affectionately described her as one of "a battalion of Yiddishe mamas."

A young woman from D.C. enjoyed "feeling like one of the boys – accepted. I find myself smiling when I think that somewhere in the Negev or the Golan is a truck with a fender I painted or a gasket I helped replace. I like that thought."

"If a friend got in trouble I would certainly try to help him. Israel is our friend, and I'm trying to help."

Describing the international group with whom he worked, one young man observed that he "felt this tremendous sense of family."

"Finding a uniform that fits is half the fun!"

"I know I am supporting a good and vital cause, unselfishly, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to do so."

"I have never been able to give much money, but I can give me!"

