



Showing That We Care: Keshet for Lone Immigrant Soldiers

PROGRAM BRIEF

JULY 2008





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There are 2,500 lone soldiers serving in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). These soldiers serve in units along the northern border, in Judea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip and other high-risk areas throughout Israel. Many of these young soldiers have not had the opportunity to see their parents since they immigrated to Israel, in some cases as many as eight years. This is typically due to the families' financial situations and their lack of resources to afford a plane ticket.

For the parents of these young soldiers, one can only imagine the anguish and concern of being that far away from your child and not having the opportunity to see for yourself that they are all right. Phone calls connect, but cannot supplant for even a minute the opportunity to hold your son or daughter and look into their eyes.

For the soldier, one can only imagine what it must feel like to see all of your friends go home to their families, and have nowhere of your own to return. The feelings of loneliness, separation, and longing begin to amplify over time, in some cases driving the soldier into a state of deep depression. The power of a hug from Mom or Dad is worth more than one million phone calls, pictures or emails, and is priceless to a lone soldier thousands of miles away from home.

As we celebrate 60 years of a Jewish state, let us not forget those who put their lives on hold to ensure a strong and stable Jewish future, in Israel. Please join us in showing these lone soldiers and their parents that we care. Together we can provide these brave soldiers with the support for which they yearn, a hug from Mom or Dad.

This proposal is an invitation to become a partner in Keshet.

Each parent who visits their child in Israel as part of Keshet costs \$1,200. We welcome donations of variable amounts to support individual parents as well as groups. Please join us in showing lone immigrant soldiers in Israel that we care.