

Securing the Jewish future.

Connecting the next generation.

Transforming risk into opportunity.

Partnering with purpose.

Ensuring Jewish Continuity:

Areivim- Young Volunteer Shlichim

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הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
Jewish Agency for Israel

Ensuring Jewish Continuity: Areivim- Young Volunteer Shlichim (Hebrew emissaries)

Jewish identity in the USA is declining sharply.

According to the Council of Jewish Federations' 1990 National Jewish Population Survey:

- Of 5.6 million Jews, 2 million American Jews live in households identified as non-Jewish.
- Before 1965, 10% of Jews who married did so outside the faith; since 1985, the percentage has risen to 52%.
- One million or 54% of all American Jewish children under the age of 18 are being raised as non-Jews or with no religion.

The situation in other countries follows similar trends.

Ensuring a Jewish future for the next generation is a challenge that must be faced head on. Areivim Shlichim do just that.

Areivim shlichim are dedicated young Israeli volunteers who work in Jewish communities and organizations worldwide. Stressing recognition of each Jew's responsibility for the continuity of Jewish community and family, Areivim shlichim work in cooperation with existing organizations to develop, promote, and implement a variety of cultural, educational and social activities for assorted local groups.

All activities are designed to develop a positive Jewish identity. They are geared towards increasing Jewish awareness, knowledge and pride, bridging the gap between Jews from different backgrounds, and promoting an understanding of Israel and its ideals. By ensuring the development of a positive Jewish identification among Jews from the global Jewish community. **Areivim shlichim help stem assimilation and guarantee continuity of the Jewish community.**

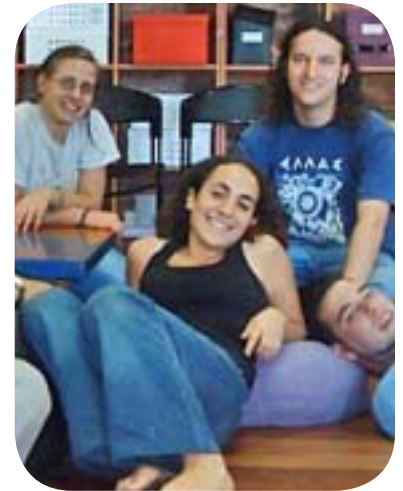
The Organization

The Jewish Agency is committed to ensuring the future of a connected, committed, global Jewish People with a strong Israel at its heart.

To ensure accomplishment of this mission, Jewish Agency programs focus on: Aliyah and Absorption; Jewish Zionist Education; and Partnerships to provide for Israel's needy through education.

The Program

Jewish communities and organizations interested in developing their educational and communal resources, in a cost efficient manner often recruit Areivim shlichim. Areivim shlichim are strongly committed to the Jewish People and have a background in Jewish History, Judaism and Zionism. Areivim Shlichim have the willingness to reach out and involve the unaffiliated and an ability to work with a range of different populations. Before taking up their position overseas, the Areivim shlichim undergo a stringent screening process and complete a comprehensive three-week training course.



All Areivim shlichim endeavors aim to:

- Awaken a sense of responsibility amongst all Jews for continuity into the future - for their family, their community, and the Jewish people
- Coordinate activities and workshops centered around the Jewish calendar, and to facilitate cultural and social programming
- Involve youth and young adults in Jewish life
- Help stem assimilation through Jewish education and identification
- Serve as a catalyst in the creation of new institutions and programs, and to build a community infrastructure that will continue to develop and grow
- Develop local youth leadership
- Work with all sectors of the Jewish community, regardless of religious or political affiliation
- Generate commitment to the State of Israel, by focusing on the centrality of Israel in the life of the contemporary Jew
- Encourage and facilitate travel to and study in Israel (and Aliyah, where that is a realistic option)
- Provide an opportunity for dialogue between Israeli and Diaspora Jews
- Motivate youth and adults to learn about issues affecting other Jews
- Provide young people with a role model of a committed, involved Jew, and to inspire others to integrate Jewish values and ethics into their own lives
- Build a core group of a future Israeli leadership who will have a better understanding of Jewish life in the Diaspora.

The program is implemented through three parallel venues – community, youth movement and college campus.

Community shlichim are selected by the communities from the candidates they are offered. The community is responsible for providing the Shaliach with air fare, shipping costs (for shaliach's possessions to and from the destination) medical insurance, food and board and basic living expenses for the duration of the mission. Total cost per community is between \$30,000 and \$50,000 annually (dependent upon local costs). Youth movement shlichim deployment is decided by the Jewish Agency taking into account the existing needs of the target community and abilities of the prospective shaliach. The Jewish Agency provides two thirds of the cost while the Youth Movement is in charge of completing the extra third. The Youth Movement shlichim are recruited by either the youth movement or the Jewish Agency to work within the specific sphere. College campus shlichim work in cooperation with the local university and "Hillel", funding of the program is also a three-way partnership between the Jewish Agency, "Hillel International" and the local "Hillel" on campus.

The intense preparatory element of the young shlichim program that includes recruitment, screening, training and provision of educational aids is covered mostly by the core budget of the Jewish Agency. The \$30,000 - \$50,000 annual cost for implementation of the program (and part of the initial training described) must be covered by the community or by a funding partner.

Many of the communities that need shlichim most are those unable to pay for the program on their own. To confront this challenge, some communities receive a subsidy of up to 50% of the program cost at the discretion of the Jewish Agency.

Cost

To ensure that funds are available to subsidize young shlichim's stay in communities at need, and to ensure our ability to provide growing numbers of college campuses with the shlichim that are so necessary, the unmet financial need for 2007 is \$500,000.