



# Update . . .

March 2009

5769 Adar



*Volunteers load our care packages for distribution to lone soldiers.*

## Support Our Soldiers for Passover

*by Richard D. Weisskopf, chairman*

As the smoke clears over the recent war in Gaza, we continue to help those affected by years of conflict - including needy soldiers who served in Gaza. The overwhelming number of soldiers reunited safely with their families. These have countless stories of battlefield miracles and Divine providence that they share with their families and friends.

A few among our soldiers who served in Gaza have not reunited safely with their families. We are keenly aware that a handful of soldiers fell in battle. While we are grateful for the many life-saving

miracles in Gaza, we also grieve with suffering households.

It can be all-too-easy to overlook another group of needy soldiers coming out of Gaza who have not reunited safely with their families. There are approximately 6,000 lone soldiers serving in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) with no families in Israel. Over 90% of these are lone immigrants in mandatory IDF service whose families usually live on other continents. Companies like El Al and organizations like the Friends of the IDF are working hard to facilitate family reunions for such lone soldiers coming out of the Gaza War.

Among the IDF's lone soldiers are "orphan" soldiers or "fatherless" soldiers without biological families to welcome them home. Reunions can only happen with families and communities that "adopt" these soldiers.

The Love for Israel Relief Fund puts highest priority on embracing fatherless and orphan lone soldiers. We also "adopt" lone soldiers coming out of Gaza whose families are on other continents.

Our annual "Support Our Soldiers" Passover Project is coming up in a few weeks. We send care packages to lone soldiers for the week of Passover. We first target fatherless and orphan soldiers. We also send care packages to lone immigrant soldiers depending upon the donations we receive.

This year, the Love for Israel Relief Fund wishes to double Passover care packages given to lone soldiers who served in the recent war in Gaza. Every \$100 can be designated to adopt a lone soldier who served in Gaza last month and every \$50 can be designated to adopt a lone soldier for the week of Passover.

The stress and trauma of war are still fresh in the minds of many lone soldiers coming out of the war zone. While most other soldiers rely heavily on their families for comfort and support, we become part

of a lone soldier's support network at this critical time. This Passover, the Love for Israel Relief Fund welcomes you join us in a double blessing - love for Israeli orphans and love for Israeli soldiers.

**Support Our Soldiers** is our project providing food for lone soldiers during the upcoming Passover season. Our first priority is to help nearly 140 orphans serving in the IDF and also approximately 6,000 lone new immigrants in the IDF. The number of lone soldiers we help depends upon the amount of designated funds we receive.

**Special events**, like weddings and bar mitzvahs, happen year round for hundreds of at-risk kids and needy young adults in Israel. Donations designated "special events" will be set aside for such use.

**Lone Soldiers** video is available online at: <http://videos.love4israel.org/videolarge.php?sel=23>

**You can** donate online at: <http://love4israel.org/donate.html>

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Send checks to:  
**Love for Israel Relief Fund**  
2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 445  
Washington, DC 20006