



Update . . .

November 2007

5768 Kislev



Weisskopf & Major Shaul present a backpack to this lone soldier.

Thank You Friends of the IDF

by Richard D. Weisskopf, chairman

The historic 101st Paratroopers battalion was founded by former prime minister Ariel Sharon in 1952. Since 1956 they have been an elite fighting unit on the front lines of all Israeli wars. This battalion has produced some of Israel's most decorated heroes. Battalion Deputy Commander D'ror Shaul attributes some of this success to the high percentage of lone soldiers under his command.

"They are usually much older than the other soldiers . . . usually they are the best soldiers that we have," states Major Shaul. "I would really like to have as many lone soldiers as I can."

Lone soldiers are those serving in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) with no families in Israel. Most lone soldiers are

new immigrants, but also include those who grew up in state custody. The Love for Israel Relief Fund sponsors these lone soldiers.

You who sponsor lone soldiers through the Love for Israel Relief Fund can consider yourselves Friends of the IDF. This is also the name of the IDF's official non-profit outreach that allows private organizations like the Love for Israel Relief Fund to help Israeli soldiers. They made sure to include the 101st in our Fall 2007 distribution.

Though the Love for Israel Relief Fund has cooperated with the Friends of the IDF since 2005, we have formalized our relationship during the Fall 2007 distribution to lone soldiers. Joining forces more formally substantially benefits everyone - especially the soldiers.

Firstly, our combined efforts have resulted in a 25% increase of what we can offer lone soldiers while ensuring them the best quality gifts. During our backpack distribution this Fall, we also offered extra hygiene supplies, T-Shirts, academic supplies and gift certificates valid at most major Israeli grocery chains.

We put together a fund that helps these soldiers with their basic needs while on leave. A base counselor reports a need at home to the base commander who can access the fund to help a needy soldier under the supervision of the IDF headquarters. "Though you are far away, I think that your heart is here," Major Shaul commented on your compassion for these lone soldiers.

The most exciting development is our new ability to accurately track "orphan" soldiers. While most lone soldiers have no families in Israel - these "orphan" soldiers have no biological families at all. Nearly 30% of our Fall distribution went to lone soldiers with no biological families - neither in Israel nor anywhere else.

The Love for Israel Relief Fund can now make sure "orphan" soldiers get the help and honor they deserve. We are discussing with the Friends of the IDF about identifying and helping army bases carry out humanitarian projects in honor of



Close-up of a backpack distributed to lone soldiers.

"orphan" soldiers from their units who may have fallen in the line of duty. With your help, we can identify and honor these fallen "orphan" soldiers.

Our new address in the USA is only four blocks away from the White House. Correspondences in the USA now go to:

Love for Israel Relief Fund
2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 445
Washington, DC 20006

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

Send checks to:

Love for Israel Relief Fund
2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 445
Washington, DC 20006