



Update . . .

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Lone soldiers receive care packages at summer party in their honor.

The Lone Soldier

by Adi Friedman, Connections Israel Director

On the battle field every Israeli soldier is part of something much larger than himself: a unit, a platoon, a brigade, and ultimately the Jewish People. Most soldiers, however, are also part of a loving family when they are and are not in the field, training or on active duty. That is, except for the Lone Soldier.

Every soldier comes home exhausted after being in the field. His duffle bag is filled with damp and smelly laundry; his limbs are weary from being pushed to the limit; his taste buds long for food that remind him he is loved. He longs for some much-needed sleep and the warm embrace of family.

While the average soldier, who is merely 18 upon enlisting, receives all of this and much more when he arrives at home, the Lone Soldier is on his own. He must do his laundry, shop for food, arrange for meals, find a computer or; assuming he has a family, must find a long distance phone carrier in order to get in touch with his loved-ones who may be thousands of miles away. He has no one to send him back to the base with cookies; he has no one to send him a text message reminding him he may be gone but not forgotten.

These are the special men and women who benefit from some of our projects. When you adopt a unit, send a goody basket, write a

letter or help provide education, these Lone Soldiers are targeted recipients. We have been told time and time again that long after the goodies have been heartily devoured, it's the personal cards and notes that adorn their barracks and ultimately go back with them to civilian life, which gave them strength during times of crisis. Knowing that strangers have "adopted" them gives these soldiers amazing courage and strength to carry the heavy responsibility which they face. They are truly the sons and daughters of us all!

We would like to invite you to "adopt" a new family member or work with your family, school or community to "Adopt a Unit." Perhaps someone you know is serving here as a Lone Soldier – adopt his entire unit in his honor!

Adi Friedman is the director of Connections Israel. This organization provides educational programs to heighten awareness and foster real connections to Israelis and the Land of Israel. Among some of the projects we have sponsored together are bar mitzvahs for at-risk children and educational programs for lone soldiers. Adi lives in Jerusalem with his wife and three children.

Support Our Soldiers is our project providing care packages for lone soldiers. Our first priority is to help over 150 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.

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