



Bring Israel into your Home!

We are looking for families interested in learning more about hosting a Shinshin in 2026/2027!

Who are the Shinshinim?

The Westchester Shinshinim are 18 year old Israeli emissaries, whose mission is to bring Israel culture to our community. They create a living bridge between Westchester and Israel.

For more information contact Karen Avneri at:
917-355-4359
KarenA@jafi.org

Requirements to host:

A private room, food and a nurturing environment.

Duration: 4-5 months

****Each Shinshin is provided with an insured car, a cell phone plan, health insurance and a financial stipend**

Participation in our community

They take part in Israeli education and engagement programs at over 40 partner institutions.

Host Family Q&A

Why become a host family?

Hosting a Shinshin(it) brings Israel into your home in the most meaningful way—through a personal, ongoing relationship with an incredible young Israeli. Your family will share in their journey and gain a deeper connection to Israeli culture, society, and everyday life. As one of our past host families shared, “It’s the best gift you can give your family.”

What happens when we go on vacation?

We have backup host families that are available to host the shinshin for shorter periods of time.

What happens when we need the room because my child is home from college or someone is coming to visit?

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Do Shinshinim have a curfew?

Yes. All Shinshinim, regardless of community, have a curfew of 11:00pm as set by the Jewish Agency. Exceptions can be made in conversation with the coordinator.

Can Shinshinim babysit?

No. Shinshinim are in the U.S. on volunteer visas and are not allowed to make any kind of taxable income for babysitting or other work. Their downtime should be respected for rest and personal time.

Can empty nesters host a Shinshin?

ABSOLUTELY! Some of our most successful host family matches are with empty nesters. The most important trait for a host family is for the Shinshin to feel welcome and safe. Your home should feel like a ‘home away from home’.