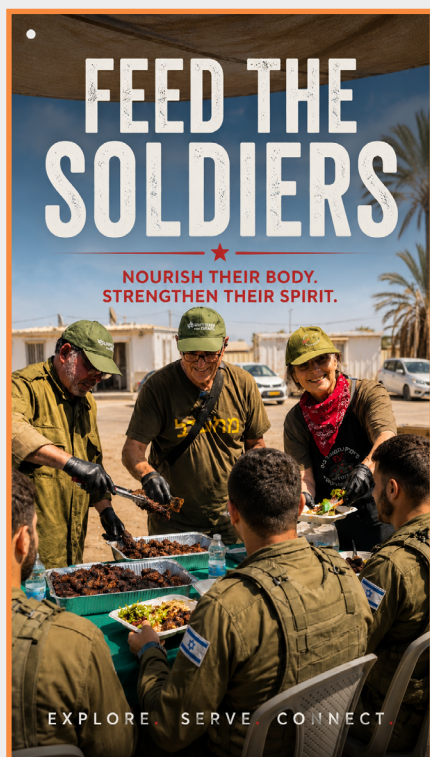


THE VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

ISSUE 40
FALL 2026

REAPING REWARDS WITH VFI VOLUN-TOURING



**SCAN CODE
TO WATCH VIDEO**



<https://youtube.com/shorts/YYbElniRZW8?si=2pmpKzEn7VEhV3de>

SERVE WITH PURPOSE. STAND WITH ISRAEL.

Since 1982, **Volunteers for Israel** has been a non-political 501(c)3 organization offering English speakers the chance to volunteer directly in Israel. Our Volun-Tour programs provide structured, impactful volunteer experiences that strengthen ties to Israel and support essential partners on the ground.

Find your program at www.vfi-usa.org



INTRODUCING VFI'S ARCHAEOLOGY ENTHUSIASTS VOLUN-TOUR PROGRAM

Volunteers For Israel is pleased to introduce our new **Archaeology Enthusiasts Volun-Tour Program**, an 11-day program combining hands-on archaeology, volunteer service, and exploration of Israel's history and landscapes.

The itinerary includes visits to many of Israel's most important archaeological, biblical, and historic sites. Highlights include the City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Caesarea, Megiddo, Beit She'an, Safed, the Galilee, Tel Aviv, Old Jaffa, and the Israel Museum's Archaeology Wing.

Participants will take part in the Temple Mount Sifting Project and the Beit Guvrin "Dig for a Day" excavation under professional supervision, providing a unique opportunity to help recover and examine artifacts from some of Israel's most significant historical sites. No previous archaeological experience is required.

In keeping with VFI's mission of service, participants will also spend time volunteering in support of the people of Israel. Service opportunities may include assisting Israeli farmers, serving at Chamal Ben Yehuda 86, and supporting other community projects as needed.

The program includes hotel accommodations, daily Israeli breakfasts, professional English-speaking guides, transportation, and admissions, with participation limited to 15 travelers.

The inaugural Archaeology Enthusiasts Volun-Tour Program is scheduled for October 7-17, 2026, and offers participants the opportunity to explore Israel's past while serving its people today.



For more information on the program, please visit our website or contact
Larry Alssid, Archaeology Program Manager at vfiarchla@gmail.com

VFI FEED THE SOLDIERS PROGRAM

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE ISRAEL

Spend an immersion week with multiple IDF units providing delicious meals to thankful IDF soldiers.

Through our partner, Emergency Volunteers project (EVP), you will be transported from your home base each day to a different IDF base where you will prepare, serve and enjoy the mid-day meal with the men and women of the IDF. They will be amazed that you journeyed—at your own expense—from your comfortable home to do this work and bring joy and good food to their day. During your touring time off the base, strangers will greet you with "Kol HaKavod" and tell you how grateful they are for your support.

If you would like to make a meaningful difference and make a soldier's day happier, please consider enlisting in our Feed the Soldiers program. **We especially need volunteers for December 11-19, 2026.**

Beverly Cohen, Program Manager • vfibevey@gmail.com

Check our website for registration details, pricing, and 2027 dates
www.vfi-usa.org



“I volunteered because I love Israel. Knowing that I helped this wonderful nation and its people is reward enough. I guarantee you will learn the meaning of *Kol HaKavod* (good job!) because you'll be hearing it so often.”

About Volunteers for Israel

Founded in 1982, Volunteers for Israel is a non-profit, non political 501(c)3 organization whose goal is to provide opportunities for volunteer service for English speakers in Israel.

To learn more visit www.vfi-usa.org

Message from VFI President Lemor Warzman

Dear Valued VFI Volunteers, Supporters and Friends,



As the High Holy Days approach, we reflect on a challenging year and the steadfast commitment of volunteers who continue to serve Israel despite the ongoing conflict.

Our eight Volun-Tour programs—led by tour director Julia Newman—blend meaningful service with guided touring. We remain committed to offering high-quality, affordable experiences.

Thank you to our board, program managers, team members and partners for their tireless work supporting Israel and growing our volunteer community.

Wishing you a sweet, healthy, and peaceful new year. L'shana tova!

B'Shalom,

Lemor Warzman, VFI President 2026 • lemorwass@yahoo.com



COMPASSIONATE CARING WITH VFI REHAB VOLUN-TOURING



Among the eight unique Volun-Tour programs that VFI offers, the **Rehab Hospital Program** is of the longest duration and is the only one centered in Tel Aviv. During the 14 days of volunteering in Reuth Rehabilitation Hospital, volunteers interact directly with patients, providing them with non-medical assistance during what is often lengthy in-hospital stays. As in the other VFI programs, professionally guided touring to often-overlooked sites of historical and contemporary events is integrated into the program.

Reuth is one of Israel's largest rehabilitation hospitals, with 356 inpatient beds across divisions for general, geriatric, and respiratory rehabilitation. The hospital depends on a large cadre of volunteers for various tasks such as helping patients reach their health care treatments and serving them meals. At the same time, the program offers volunteers the satisfaction of helping and socializing with patients. Training in healthcare and knowledge of Hebrew are not required, and physical demands on the volunteers are minimal.

Jim Ultman, Program Manager • jsu@psu.edu

Helping others while experiencing Israel creates memories that last a lifetime.

**Now is the time to back your beliefs with action and support
the Jewish homeland with your hands and your heart.**

DISCOVER ISRAEL THROUGH SERVICE: JOIN THE VFI VOLUN-TOURING EXPERIENCE

VFI VOLUN-TOUR FARM PROGRAM

Discover Israel in the most meaningful way possible with the 9-day VFI Volun-Tour Farm Program—a unique blend of hands-on agricultural volunteering and unforgettable touring across Israel's cultural and historical treasures.

You'll enjoy five immersive volunteer days, three private touring days, and one travel day, all designed for a small, close-knit group. Our custom tours highlight both iconic landmarks and hidden gems, giving you a richer, more personal connection to Israel.

*Israel has your heart,
now lend a hand on the farms.*

Each morning, you'll depart from your comfortable Tel Aviv hotel to plant, pick, prune, harvest or pack—supporting farmers who feed the nation. Volunteers may work with a variety of crops and tasks, depending on the needs of Israel's agricultural sector. The work is moderately active, deeply rewarding, and open to participants of all ages.

This is more than a trip. It is purpose, connection, and impact—wrapped into an unforgettable Israel experience.

Ira Jacobson, Program Manager
dpmrph1@gmail.com

HOLY LAND VOLUN-TOUR PROGRAM

Whether you're drawn to history, service, or cultural immersion, this 9-day journey delivers an unforgettable experience.

4 Part-Time Volunteer Days. Give back through hands-on service—supporting families, environmental projects, or archaeological efforts. These meaningful days offer real connection and impact.

5 Days of Sacred Exploration. Walk Israel's most treasured biblical paths—from the Sea of Galilee and Nazareth to Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Stand where prophets preached and miracles unfolded, and watch Scripture come alive in vivid, soul-stirring ways.

You will experience comfortable, seamless travel and stay in welcoming hotels. Enjoy breakfast each morning, and travel effortlessly to each volunteer project or sacred site. All logistics are fully handled.

More than travel, this journey is about transformation, connection, and spiritual discovery.



Robyn Wittenberg Dudley, Program Manager
vfirad18@gmail.com

VFI VOLUN-TOUR ODYSSEY PROGRAM

Step into Israel's vibrant history and culture on a 9-day journey immersive experience designed for adult and senior explorers—whether it's your first visit or your fifteenth. You'll make a real impact through meaningful volunteer projects that connect you directly with local communities.



A New Adventure Every Day

As you serve, you'll also experience Israel's rich tapestry of sites—from ancient landmarks and cultural treasures to modern marvels and hidden gems. It's your chance to learn, grow, and give back, all in one transformative adventure. And with all logistics fully handled, you can simply arrive and immerse yourself.

Diane Kremin, Program Manager
Dianelivfi@gmail.com

All information about volunteering can be found on our website at
www.vfi-usa.org

VFI EDUCATES

VFI EDUCATES brings Israel to America via live Zoom meetings held on Thursdays at 2:00 pm ET (7:00 GMT to international attendees). Learn from Israeli subject-matter experts about various topics. Participants hear firsthand from someone living in Israel, get clear, up-to-date context on recent developments, enjoy a thoughtful, carefully curated educational talk, and time for live Q&A and discussion with the speaker. See a library of 280+ episodes at tinyurl.com/vfieducates5 JOIN LIVE SESSION – THURSDAYS AT 2:00 PM ET (7:00 GMT) USING TINYURL.COM/VFIEDUCATES4

Ilana Blumenthal, Program Manager

PRIVATE GROUP VOLUN-TOUR PROGRAMS

VFI's Private Group Volun-Tour Program provides an immersive way to experience Israel's rich history while making a meaningful impact. Designed for adults and seniors, each customized itinerary blends a week or more of hands-on volunteer service with private, full-day guided touring of Israel's most compelling historic and lesser-known sites. No Hebrew is required—just a willingness to engage. The result is a comprehensive group volunteering and learning experience that creates lasting memories.

Robyn Wittenberg Dudley, Program Manager
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EXPERIENCE AMAZING MOMENTS / DISCOVER NEW FRIENDS / BUILD AWESOME MEMORIES