

# A Response to Israel's Youth Crisis



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On behalf of the Israelis you help . . .  
*Thank You!*



“On behalf of all the citizens of Israel—and particularly on behalf of the children of Israel; I’d like to express my gratitude and deep thanks to all of you for the help that you provide to the needy children in Israel.”

—Ehud Olmert, Israeli Prime Minister

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## WHO WE ARE

The **Love for Israel Relief Fund** is a non-profit humanitarian organization working in cooperation with Israeli leaders across the political and social spectrum to help young Israelis in need.

### BEIT NETANEL

Three hundred fifty thousand Israeli children live at risk of abuse and neglect according to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. In 2006, over 2,400 of these precious little ones needed emergency room treatment due to abuse and neglect. For every bed in an adoptive or foster home in Israel, 16 children live in potentially life-threatening situations. Since the need is so great, the **Love for Israel Relief Fund** opens the doors for Israel's supporters around the world to participate directly as partners in our projects.



These Jewish children need a safe and loving home.

### THE NEED AT HAND

When the court system intervenes, caseworkers must place over 90% of the children in shelters and institutional care facilities. Many of the children are immigrants and have special needs. About 80% of these children would thrive in less restrictive environments such as adoptive or foster homes. There are currently 150 such licensed homes in the country—many lack special training and diverse cultural backgrounds the children need. With such limited resources, Israel is in a youth crisis.

Israel desperately needs to develop a continuum of child welfare services that sufficiently meets the needs of the children in state custody. These children have

absolutely no voice to advocate for themselves, and need caring people to speak up on their behalf. Many simply need safe and nurturing homes. They can thrive to their maximum abilities if given a fair chance.

We believe it is in the best interest of most children in state custody to place them with loving and safe families. Some can go to Israeli families across the country. Others will need community-based group homes where we can bring in loving parents for them.

We believe each one of these children is a gift from G-d.



### COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTION

We believe each one of these children is a gift from G-d. Therefore, we want each child to prosper in the most natural and least restrictive environment possible. We shall build our entire infrastructure upon this foundation.

Beit Netanel is a strategy to develop a network of safe homes in Israeli communities for at-risk children. The plan is to integrate as many children as possible into local Israeli communities. This means we need qualified parents sensitive to the diverse cultural needs of the children. We will provide training and support for Israeli parents to care for these children in the homes.

*Beit Netanel* means "Home of a Gift from G-d" in Hebrew. Each child is a gift from Heaven. Whether a child is with us short term or long term, our goal is to treat each one like a treasure from Heaven. We shall build our entire infrastructure upon this understanding.

When children can safely return to their biological families, we shall be happy to do so. Those children will live in our community short term. Others will need a place to call home in our care long term. Those children will also experience loving parents and a safe environment within our community-based care. We need to raise an estimated

\$495 per month average per child to create and build the infrastructure.



### LONE SOLDIERS

Approximately 2,000 youth serve in the IDF without families in Israel. We cooperate with base commanders and officers across the country to identify the needs of lone soldiers under their supervision. We send these kids care packages, clothes, backpacks—whatever the average 18 year-old would usually receive from his or her parents. Every \$100 sponsors a lone soldier.

New in 2007—donors who sponsor

one or more soldiers may write letters to the soldiers you sponsor. While the **Love for Israel Relief Fund** makes a good-faith effort to deliver letters to the soldiers, we cannot guarantee delivery of all letters we receive from donors.

### BACK TO SCHOOL . . . WITH DIGNITY

Pencils, paper, crayons and backpacks. One out of five school children in Israel cannot afford proper school supplies. Too many Israeli parents must choose between school supplies and food for their children.



We stuff backpacks full of supplies to last the school year. This Fall we will deliver

these backpacks to impoverished Israeli school children in cooperation with our network partners. For every \$25 received—we can send an impoverished child back to school with dignity.

