

INSIDE

YAD SARAH

FALL 2018

ISRAEL AT 70

BUILDING THE
FUTURE



FriendsOfYadSarah.org

INSIDE YAD SARAH

FALL 2018



Honoring Fallen Builders
Yad Sarah takes the lead in honoring the fallen military builders of Israel.



Branching Out
More stories from Yad Sarah's branch managers.



For the Next 70
Yad Sarah is there for those who built Israel.

Yad Sarah's impact is wide-ranging, from **providing basic and vital health supplies** to those living in the periphery, to helping elderly and disabled people access medical care. This rating is confirmation that Friends of Yad Sarah supports those services with purpose, trust, and integrity, and demonstrates strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.



Bringing help and hope to the people of Israel.

executive director's letter

FROM ADELE GOLDBERG



Dear Friends,

Generations of people in Israel - soldiers, farmers, rabbis, nurses, engineers, teachers, and so many other remarkable men and women - have devoted lifetimes to building a strong and thriving Jewish state.

But after decades of building this remarkable country, too many people in Israel have been left behind. They need outside support.

Like the elderly mourners who need help visiting graves to honor the memories of fallen soldiers who built Israel.



Visit [FriendsOfYadSarah.org/Planned-Giving](https://www.FriendsOfYadSarah.org/Planned-Giving) to learn about a wide range of options for including Yad Sarah in your will or trust, and establishing a Friends of Yad Sarah Charitable Gift Annuity.

Like Melany Abramovich, an IT teacher during Israel's early years who now suffers from MS and credits Yad Sarah with a "deep sense of emotional security" at this vulnerable time in her life.

Like Zeev Bukur, who raised a family of four children and 13 grandchildren in Israel and now would have no sustaining social life if not for Yad Sarah.

Whether they need physical rehabilitation, legal services, dental treatment, medical equipment, or friendly visitors to brighten their days, **Yad Sarah is there** for more than 420,000 people in Israel each year.

And not only for those who built Israel - but for those who *will build* its next 70 years too.

In this newsletter, we will explore the stories of those who made Israel what it is today, and motivate us to help both them and the next generation of "them."

Israel's second 70-year era is underway. It is more important than ever to keep building the Jewish state by supporting its builders, and Yad Sarah could not carry out that mission without your partnership and generosity. Together, we will work to create an even more inspiring story along the path to Israel's 140th birthday.

Adele Goldberg, ACSW



YAD SARAH HONORS
THE MILITARY HEROES WHO MADE

The Ultimate Sacrifice FOR ISRAEL

Israel's fallen military heroes gave the most precious gift to build and secure a vibrant Jewish state. Their courage, conviction, and sacrifice enabled Israel to grow and flourish.

As Israel's largest volunteer-staffed social service organization, Yad Sarah takes the lead in honoring the fallen military builders of Israel by empowering their friends, relatives, and colleagues to visit their graves. For the elderly, such visits are often daunting or impossible without assistance. Yad Sarah provides the support to make these simple, yet powerful gestures that pay homage to the legacies of their loved ones.

"How would I ever visit the grave without you?" asks Levy Carmi, 92, addressing a Yad Sarah volunteer. For Carmi, visiting the grave of his late wife's cousin, Captain Oded Chai, who fell in battle during Israel's 1948 War of Independence, meant traveling from Petach Tikva

“
**Supporting and honoring
builders of Israel fuses
past, present, and future**

to the Mount Herzl national cemetery in Jerusalem – at least a one-hour trip by car.

”
“I would encourage my father and sister to visit Oded's grave,

but they have also died. I walk very slowly, and Yad Sarah helped me by lending me a wheelchair,” Levy said.

In a complex logistical operation each Yom HaZikaron – Israel’s Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terror – 50 of Yad Sarah’s youth volunteers lead hundreds of senior citizens to the graves of their loved ones on Mount Herzl as well as in Tel Aviv’s Kiryat Shaul cemetery. The steep inclines and high temperatures on Mount Herzl make it challenging to locate specific graves, according to Eitan Dahari, head of the Logistics Department at Yad Sarah. But the Yad Sarah volunteers persist with the task at hand.

The effort is not lost on the participants.

Fanny Suissa, 74, has difficulty walking and used a wheelchair from Yad Sarah when she visited

the grave of her brother, Yitzhak, who was killed in Israel’s War of Attrition. “He was rushing to rescue an officer in the Bethlehem area, his APC (armored personnel carrier) turned over, and he was killed,” she says. “He was only 22.”

Tziona Levy’s brother, Avi Mizrahi, was killed in 1959 defending Israel.

A teen volunteer checks in with the women he’s helping

This year will be her 60th visit to his grave, she told the volunteer helping her reach the site.

With Yad Sarah’s help, Mordechai Mizrahi travels to Mount Herzl to visit the grave of his former commander, Captain Yosef Algamis, who was



Ready and waiting to help



Paying tribute to fallen heroes

killed on the first day of the 1967 Six Day War. “I was the medic of the company,” Mizrahi recalls. “He was killed when a bullet was fired from the village of Abasan.”

These stories bring the past to life for the youth volunteers.

“By the end of the day, I was everyone’s grandson.”

Supporting and honoring builders in this way – fusing past, present, and future – is at the heart of Yad Sarah’s mission to bring “help and hope to the people of Israel.”

“
**These stories
bring the past to life**
”

“I heard a lot of people’s ups and downs. I know I’m making a vital contribution,” said one volunteer, Oded.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH YAD SARAH

Stay informed on how Friends of Yad Sarah brings help and hope to more than 420,000 Israelis each year, and learn how you can get involved. Please visit FriendsOfYadSarah.org or find us on Facebook.

 facebook.com/yadsarahfriends

BRANCHING OUT

Yad Sarah has more than 100 branches throughout Israel, serving more than 420,000 people every year. The organization relies on caring, dedicated volunteers – who are led by an inspired group of volunteer branch managers. Here is a glimpse into the experiences of these branch managers and the lives they have transformed.



REBBETZIN ESTHER LANDMAN
Holon

The spirit of giving has now guided my life for more than 30 years because of my involvement with Yad Sarah. I was one of the founders of the Holon branch in 1985, and have managed it ever since. We now have a dedicated team of 150 volunteers, who serve about 21,000 people a year. My goal is to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere in our branch, and to make sure we are devoted and attentive to the needs of every single client and volunteer. We have pioneered unique services for the elderly such as the “Garden of Idanim,” a corner of grace and relaxation at the branch. For me, giving back is not limited to the branch. My home is open at all hours for

distressed women who need someone to talk to and emotional support.

* Read more about Esther in sidebar



REUVEN SHECHTER
Ramat Gan

At my core, I am a survivor. I was just four years old when I was sent to Transnistria, the “Romanian Auschwitz.” Most of my family was murdered, but I got to start life anew in Israel. From that experience, I have a deep desire to help people. This is why I am so grateful for the opportunity to give back through Yad Sarah.

I often say that Yad Sarah is in my blood. I have been running the Ramat Gan branch for almost 20 years. We work 300 days a year. Even if it is only for a few hours, we open the branch. There is no shift with less than three volunteers on duty. Their devotion to this work is contagious. Our 20 volunteers understand that we need shifts on the eve of Jewish holidays, and we do not even need to ask them to sign up. On Yom Kippur eve, we provided crutches for a patient who wanted to attend Kol Nidrei. On Rosh Hashanah eve, we lent an oxygen tank.



AVRAHAM FELDMAN
Jaffa

When I was a driver for the Dan Bus Company, working the Tel Aviv-Jaffa-Holon route, Yad Sarah volunteers were regular passengers. I volunteered as a Yad Sarah driver for five years, until I was asked to run the Jaffa branch. We are open every day, and serve 10,000 people in a year. In 2017, we repaired 1,306 items.

Our branch reaches all kinds of people from so many different backgrounds. Whether they

are Jewish, Arab, drug addicts, homeless or neglected, we never leave anyone on their own. We offer a place of refuge and assistance for anyone in need. Our 23 volunteers are one big family. When someone has a birthday, I buy them a gift. Every volunteer has a specific job. I care deeply about my volunteers and treat each one of them as my equal.



NAFTALI TZUBARAH
Rosh Ha'ayin

Twenty-four years ago, our family doctor called to say that Yad Sarah was looking for volunteers to open a branch in Rosh Ha'ayin. We accepted the challenge. Ever since, my wife and I have given our whole soul to make this branch thrive. We volunteered three days a week, then five. We put our phone number on the front door so that anyone in need of help could find us. It is particularly gratifying to give back because I myself was once a vulnerable member of society.

I was born in Yemen in 1937 and immigrated to Israel in 1949. My family arrived at a refugee camp in Ein Shemer, and from there we wandered from place to place until 1953, when we finally reached Rosh Ha'ayin. Volunteering for Yad Sarah gives me strength, inspiration, and a powerful sense of purpose. It is so exciting to see a person come to our branch, ask for assistance, and leave satisfied – and even happy. There is nothing like that feeling.

'ONE-WOMAN ENTERPRISE' ESTHER LANDMAN NEVER STOPS BUILDING IN HOLON

It is no exaggeration to say that Rebbetzin Esther Landman has built the community of Holon.

“Esther is a one-woman enterprise who serves as a bridge for community resources, who leads circles of dialogue and activity between different communities, who helped establish a volunteer organization in Holon, and who aims to create understanding and cooperation for the city’s residents,” says the Holon Mayor’s Award for Volunteerism in 1989, which Esther received as manager of the Holon Yad Sarah branch. One of the founders of that branch in 1985, Esther has managed the site ever since.

“Volunteering is a way of life,” Esther says. “There are so many ways we can give to others, in speech or in action.”

Born to Holocaust survivors in 1945 in Czernowitz, Ukraine, Esther moved to Israel with her family in 1949, settling in Bnei Brak.

She began teaching at the Beit Yaakov High School in Netanya in 1964. A year later, she married Rabbi Natan Neta Landman and moved to his hometown of Haifa, where she taught at a religious high school. In 1970, she moved to Holon, where her husband became the city’s chief rabbi.



Esther receives an award for her service from the President of Israel, Reuven Rivlin

“When we recently celebrated my 51st anniversary, the questions my children had for me weren’t about marriage. They asked: ‘Mom, what would you do without Yad Sarah?’” Esther says. “They know that Yad Sarah is in my soul.”



ISRAEL AT 70

Building the Future

When Zeev Avni – an IAF veteran and retired logistician – suffered a stroke, his doctors recommended that he visit Yad Sarah for physiotherapy and its communications clinic. After more than a year of treatment, he’s discovered that Yad Sarah’s services provide benefits that are wider than he ever could have imagined.

“Yad Sarah understands that recovering from a stroke is about much more than physical rehab,” he says. “The organization has helped to heal not only my body, but also my mind, my heart, and my soul.”



Zeev Avni as a young builder of Israel

Zeev is one of the “builders of Israel” – someone who made the state of Israel what it

is today, but now needs help. Caring for these builders is some of Yad Sarah’s most meaningful work.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Zeev’s contributions to Israel, for example, went above and beyond. He graduated from Haifa’s famous Air Force Academy high school, then served as a radar technician in the Israeli Air Force. After demobilization in 1971, he found work in logistics at Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), where he remained for 30 years. His logistical prowess was put to good use during the 1973 Yom Kippur War and the 1982 First Lebanon War.

He proudly says, “I saved a great deal of money for the country through my work in logistics. I always looked for creative solutions to solve problems we faced. Yet, after my stroke severely limited my physical abilities, the tables were turned. I’m now the one who needs help overcoming challenges.”

And that’s exactly what he’s found at Yad Sarah.

“I get the type of assistance you’d receive from a logistician,” he says.

“A complex, organized plan encompassing all aspects of my treatment: speech therapy, emotional therapy, and socialization. Only Yad Sarah provides this type of all-encompassing care.”

When he was working, Zeev was charged with finding subcontractors that could manufacture mechanical parts that both met IAI’s high standards and were more cost-effective than producing in-house. His personal goal was to stay “blue and white” and outsource only to Israeli manufacturers. Yad Sarah is proud to repay him in kind, with Israeli services at the highest level.

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

With Yad Sarah’s help, Melany Abramovich refuses to let multiple sclerosis (MS) stand in the way of her socially active lifestyle. She has been wheelchair-bound for the past 12 years and requires assistance from a caregiver for nearly everything she does.

This is why she cherishes visits to Yad Sarah’s Rishon LeZion branch twice a week, where she participates in drawing classes, works with a physiotherapist, and does individual bodywork “to maintain what I’ve got.” In fact, she would squeeze in more trips to the Rishon LeZion branch if she had the time.

“I’m busy,” she says. “There aren’t enough days in the week!”

Without pioneers like Melany, Israel might not be known as the “start-up nation.” Now 81, she made Aliyah from Romania in 1974 as a 26-year-old electrical engineer and helped train an entire generation of Israeli high-tech workers just at the moment when the global IT industry was poised for exponential growth. Among her students: the CEO of a major Israeli hospital, a brigadier general, and other high-ranking military officers.

“**Only Yad Sarah provides this type of all-encompassing care**”

“I very much enjoyed my career because it allowed me to give – and to give deeply – to so many students, shaping the rest of their lives,” says Melany. “Yad Sarah’s people bring that same sense of caring to their work. They give me a deep sense of

emotional security, that someone is always there for me, and that I will not be left behind no matter how serious or complicated my needs become.”

A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Wheelchair-bound at 81 from a stroke, Zeev Bukur has been visiting Yad Sarah since 2004 – a tremendous gift for both himself and his wife, Noa.

“After the stroke, I constantly worried that Zeev would never be himself again,” she says. “He’s a very social person but had no outlet for meeting up with friends. Now, he describes Yad Sarah with a word: ‘chevri’ (my friends). Yad Sarah helped us meet this challenge.”

And that’s what the Bukurs are used to – overcoming. Zeev, in particular, would expect nothing less. He arrived in pre-state Israel in 1947 at age nine-and-a-half. He had already survived World War II, a long separation from his parents, internment in a Cyprus detention center, and many long months in the absorption camp at Karkur. He then served in the IDF during the War of Independence, and moved to Jaffa in 1958, working as a machine operator in a textile factory during the heyday of Israel’s flourishing textile industry.

He and Noa also raised a “real Sabra” family who all contribute to Israel today: four children and 13 grandchildren.



As Noa says, “Our family is our legacy – and now, it’s Yad Sarah’s too.”

ONLY THE BEGINNING

Yad Sarah understands that it is never too late for a new beginning. For the next 70 years and beyond, Yad Sarah will be there to ensure that no vulnerable person in Israel is left behind, and that Israel continues to inspire the world, one builder at a time.



“
Because of Yad Sarah, I will not be left behind no matter how serious or complicated my needs become
”



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
Man in wheelchair: Zeev Bukur at Yad Sarah; Man holding photo: Zeev Avni at Yad Sarah; Wedding: Melany Abramovich on her wedding day; Woman in wheelchair: Melany Abramovich, holding her wedding photo – herself as a young builder of Israel.

LESSON LEARNED: GIVING BACK TO ONE OF ISRAEL’S FIRST TEACHERS

Yael, 77, began coming to Yad Sarah in 2013 after suffering a severe stroke. Five years later, she and her husband, Rafi, rave about the care she receives from Yad Sarah’s day rehab in Netanya, which improves and enriches her life on physical, social, and emotional levels alike.

For example, participating in trivia games and doing crossword puzzles with staff has helped her quick mind to stay in shape.

“This place keeps my mind and body as strong as possible. I could never do it alone – and I’m so happy that Rafi doesn’t have to shoulder the full burden either,” says Yael.

Rafi agrees, saying, “Yad Sarah is like an angel that fell out of the sky to redeem us. We were not very familiar with the organization until a hospital nurse told us about it. Before Yad Sarah, I was so overwhelmed by Yael’s needs, but I wanted us to remain together at home. Now we can.”

Yael’s Yad Sarah experience is a meaningful parallel to her own decades providing a caring environment that shaped the lives of multiple generations of Israelis.

She was a teacher in Tnuvot, a moshav settlement near what was then Israel’s border with Jordan. She would wake up at 5 a.m. each weekday, taking three buses or hitchhiking from her home in Petach Tikva. After the school day ended, Yael would stay overtime to tutor children who needed special attention. Later in her career, she taught Hebrew to adult immigrants from Russia and at-risk youth.

“Israel is a great country because of institutions like Yad Sarah,” says Yael. “The famous Jewish expression says ‘Kol Yisrael arevim zeh lazeh,’ that all the people of Israel are responsible for one another. Nobody understands that better than Yad Sarah.”

A QUINTESSENTIAL BUILDER OF ISRAEL RECEIVES A LIFELINE FROM YAD SARAH

Miriam Peer is an accomplished architect, a loving mom, and an all-around busy bee. Yet in 2007, she suffered a stroke. For eight years thereafter, she received general rehab services, but struggled to attain the independent and active lifestyle that she had enjoyed before her stroke – and didn’t want to burden her husband, who is also getting older, or her one son, busy with his family.

Miriam was stuck – until she heard about Yad Sarah from an old acquaintance.

In 2015, Miriam started attending the day rehab program at Yad Sarah’s Rishon LeZion branch three times per week. The program not only provides services like physical therapy that helps her to improve her physical condition, but also her social life, and provides a much-needed outlet for her creative abilities.

“I sculpt, paint, practice physiotherapy, talk to friends, and attend lectures,” she says. “Yad Sarah is a lifeline like no other.”

Indeed, activity is something Miriam craves. Trained as an architect in Lithuania, Miriam made Aliyah in 1973, as soon as emigration permits were approved, and quickly joined the whirlwind building industry in Israel. She planned everything from villas in Caesarea to apartment blocks in Kiryat Gat, eventually opening her own business.

Sometimes, the sculpture and art she creates at Yad Sarah reflects her favorite memories – a painted map of her childhood town, a bust of her father, a miniature model of an Israeli synagogue she designed.

“I’ve spent decades building Israel, quite literally,” she laughs, but then grows somber. “Without Yad Sarah, my life would be much darker. I would be a victim to my stroke, instead of a survivor of it. With Yad Sarah, I can continue to be the creative force I’m used to being.”

ALL ABOUT YAD SARAH 2018

Yad Sarah, Israel's largest volunteer-staffed organization, provides a vital array of compassionate health and home services for people of all ages. Yad Sarah's free services are delivered by more than 6,000 volunteers in more than 100 branches.

The people of Israel – and people with special needs traveling to Israel – rely on Yad Sarah to help them remain independent, healthy, and at home.

OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES INCLUDE:

Medical Equipment Lending Centers

An inventory of over 350,000 items to be loaned out at no cost to the borrowers.

Guidance and Exhibition Centers

Displaying equipment and daily living tools available to help people live independently.

Day Rehabilitation Centers

Physical and occupational therapy; computer, art, drama, and gardening therapy; meals and social events for young and old recovering from strokes, surgery, illness, and injury.

Geriatric Dental Clinic

A full range of specialized care for the elderly provided by volunteer dentists and including mobile treatment for the homebound.

Yad Riva Legal Aid

Legal services, legal counseling, legal representation, and social assistance for the elderly provided by volunteer lawyers.

Emergency Alarm Center

Peace of mind for the elderly, 24 hours a day, with two-way transmitters connected to Yad Sarah's national computerized system.

Outreach to the Homebound

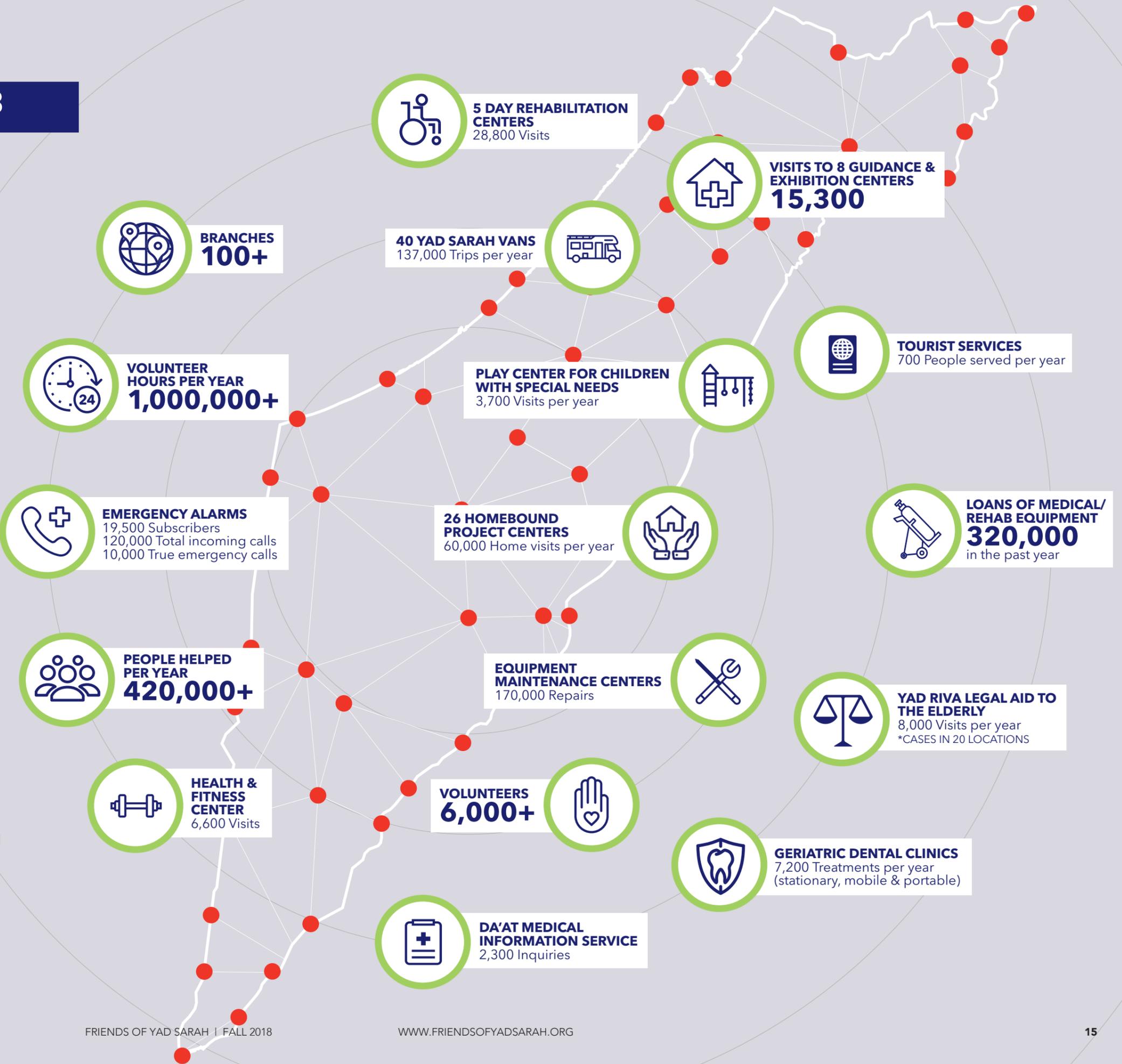
Visits and projects to activate hands and minds and raise morale of people isolated at home.

Play Center and Toy Library

Providing a safe and supportive environment for children with special needs to learn and develop through play.

Transportation Services

Wheelchair-accessible rides to work, school, medical appointments, and social occasions.



LEAVE A LEGACY FOR ISRAEL – AND RECEIVE HIGH, FIXED-RATE, LIFETIME INCOME



FRIENDS OF YAD SARAH
 445 Park Avenue, Suite 1702
 New York, New York 10022
www.friendsofyadsarah.org

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Friends of
 Yad Sarah

Providing for **Yad Sarah** is providing for Israel. Improving the lives of more than 420,000 people in Israel every year, **Yad Sarah** represents what is best about Israel and its people.

A YAD SARAH GIFT ANNUITY - GET INCOME FOR LIFE

A **Yad Sarah** Gift Annuity pays high, fixed-rate, lifetime income for one or two individuals. May we calculate the annuity rate, tax deduction and **tax-free** income portion for you? For many individuals, a gift annuity is an especially valuable retirement planning vehicle.

A SAMPLE OF YAD SARAH'S HIGH GIFT ANNUITY RATES

Age	Rate	Tax Free*
65	6.0	63.4%
70	6.5	67.2%
75	7.1	70.6%
80	8.0	73.8%
85	9.5	78.4%
90	11.3	81.2%

*A final calculation of the tax-free portion will be made for the month of the gift, based on IRS rules.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ISRAEL AFTER YOUR LIFETIME

Leaving a bequest in your will or trust for Yad Sarah provides much needed funds for the important work of Yad Sarah in Israel. You might also consider including Friends of Yad Sarah as a beneficiary of your IRA or of your life insurance policy. Your after-lifetime gift may be designated for programs of Yad Sarah in Israel that are dear to you or entrusted to Yad Sarah for use where most needed to assist in helping Israel's most vulnerable people.



LET US SHOW YOU HOW

We can provide you and your advisors with language for your will or trust. We can help you set up a fund to benefit Yad Sarah in Israel. We can show you how to memorialize your gift.

TO BE A YAD SARAH PARTNER

Please contact Adele Goldberg, the Executive Director of Friends of Yad Sarah, at 1-866-YAD-SARAH or by email at adele@friendsofyadsarah.org.

UNITED STATES OFFICE:

445 Park Avenue, Suite 1702
 New York, New York 10022
 Tel: 212-223-7758
 Fax: 212-223-7759

Toll Free: 1-866-YAD-SARAH
shalom@friendsofyadsarah.org
 Skype: friends.of.yadsarah
 Adele Goldberg, Director

CANADA OFFICE:

788 Marlee Avenue, Suite 314
 Toronto, Ontario M6B 3K1
 Tel: 416-781-6416
info@canadianfriendsofyadsarah.com
 Arlene Weisbart, Director

YAD SARAH HOUSE:

124 Herzl Boulevard
 Jerusalem, Israel 96187

To receive your next copy of Inside Yad Sarah by email, write to us at: subscriptions@friendsofyadsarah.org