

THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY, HONOR THOSE WHO SACRIFICE

“HE WHO SCATTERED ISRAEL WILL GATHER THEM AND WILL WATCH
OVER HIS FLOCK LIKE A SHEPHERD.” — JEREMIAH 31:10

Dear Friends,

As Israel marks another Independence Day, the celebrations carry a bittersweet edge. Yom Ha'atzmaut honors the miracle of a modern Jewish state and the courage of those who fought to build it. But this year, the cost of that freedom is written on the faces of families across the country.

Israel has entered another major war with Iran, dramatically escalating tensions across the region. The conflict has triggered a national state of emergency, closing schools, restricting travel, and calling up tens of thousands of reserve soldiers. These reservists are not career soldiers. They are fathers, husbands, students, and professionals who left their homes and families with little notice. And the toll on those they leave behind is something few people talk about.

Shelli (name has been changed for privacy) is a mother of four from Jerusalem, including twins who are now four years old. Her husband has been called up seven or eight times. After an appreciation evening we held for wives of reservists, she approached our team and simply said: Thank you. Thank you for one evening in which I was able to breathe.

She spoke honestly about the worry that never lets up, the thoughts that come at night after the house finally falls asleep, and a fear almost no one talks about: she wonders what kind of man will come back to her. When he returns for short breaks, she sees the change in his eyes, in his silence. One of his



commanders was killed during an operational activity, and the weight of that loss sits heavily on him. After one long round of duty, he came home and could not tell the difference between their little twins. The girls had grown so much in the months he was away. He simply had not been there to see it happen.

At the appreciation evening, surrounded by other women who understood exactly what she was going through, there was no need to explain. No need to apologize. She told us it was the first time she did not feel alone in what she carries. It was a reminder that someone sees her, that what she is going through is real, and it gave her the strength to keep going.

Shelli's story represents so many women who keep homes running, children cared for, and life moving forward while their hearts are on the battlefield. Vision for Israel has been hosting reservists and their wives at the Millennium Center for therapeutic sessions, providing practical help, encouragement, and space to heal.

On Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel celebrates its freedom. But freedom has never been free. On Israel's Independence Day, will you honor the sacrifice of these families by standing with them? Your gift provides therapeutic care, practical support, and a message of love to those who feel unseen. Give today at visionforisrael.com/en/give and help bring relief to those who need it most.



Yom Atzma'ut Same'ach!
Barry & Batya

“THE LORD YOUR GOD IS IN YOUR MIDST, A MIGHTY
ONE WHO WILL SAVE; HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH
GLADNESS; HE WILL QUIET YOU BY HIS LOVE; HE WILL EXULT
OVER YOU WITH LOUD SINGING.”

— Zephaniah 3:17