

WHEN SECONDS MATTER, A SHELTER MAKES THE DIFFERENCE



ISSUE #0526

“HE WHO DWELLS IN THE SHELTER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL REST IN THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY. I WILL SAY OF THE LORD, ‘HE IS MY REFUGE AND MY FORTRESS, MY GOD, IN WHOM I TRUST.’” — PSALM 91:1-2

Dear Friends,

As the spring harvest ripens across Israel, we approach one of the most meaningful seasons on the biblical calendar. Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks, begins the evening of May 21. It is a time when the Jewish people honor the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and the offering of the firstfruits of the harvest to God.

The firstfruits offering was an act of faith. The people brought the very first and best of their harvest to the Temple, not knowing what the rest of the season would bring. And woven into that offering was a powerful command: do not forget the widow, the orphan, or the stranger among you. Let your abundance become their lifeline.

This Shavuot, that ancient call takes on an urgency we feel in our bones.

The war between Israel and Iran continues to touch every corner of daily life. Sirens send families running for shelter at all hours. Indiscriminate missile attacks, including cluster munitions, are striking populated areas, putting innocent men, women, and children at immediate risk. Picture a mother rushing her toddler down a dark hallway at two in the morning, or an elderly woman with a walker trying to reach shelter before impact. This is daily life in Israel right now.

And here is the reality many outside the country do not fully grasp: not every home or neighborhood has access to a secure shelter. When a missile is inbound, there may be only seconds to find cover. For those who have nowhere to run, those seconds carry an unbearable weight.

That is why Vision for Israel has committed to building and installing reinforced bomb shelters in high-risk, underserved

communities across the country. Each shelter is designed to withstand the force of missile strikes and can protect multiple families at once, providing physical safety and the emotional reassurance that comes from knowing there is a place to go when the sirens sound.

To date, thanks to your donations, Vision for Israel has installed over 500 safety shelters in northern and southern Israel. Dozens of communities where families now have somewhere to run. But the need continues to grow. As the conflict persists, more communities are being targeted, and more neighborhoods remain without protection. Each shelter costs \$14,000 to build and install, and every donation brings us closer to placing the next one where it is needed most.

The firstfruits offering was never about giving from leftovers. It was about giving from the first and the best, trusting God to provide the rest. When you give to this project, you become an active partner standing in the gap for families who cannot protect themselves.



This Shavuot, dedicate your gift to Medical and Disaster Relief and help us place the next shelter where it is needed most. Please give today at www.visionforisrael.com/en/give.

Every gift counts. Every shelter saves lives.

Chag Shavuot Sameach!
Barry & Batya Segal

“MY PEOPLE WILL LIVE IN PEACEFUL DWELLING PLACES, IN SECURE HOMES, IN UNDISTURBED PLACES OF REST.” — Isaiah 32:18

ON EVERY FRONT: VISION FOR ISRAEL'S Q1 2026 IMPACT

“AFTER MANY DAYS YOU WILL BE VISITED. IN THE LATTER YEARS YOU WILL COME INTO THE LAND OF THOSE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE SWORD AND GATHERED FROM MANY PEOPLE ON THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL, WHICH HAD LONG BEEN DESOLATE; THEY WERE BROUGHT OUT OF THE NATIONS, AND NOW ALL OF THEM DWELL SAFELY.” — Ezekiel 38:8

Dear Friends,

The first three months of 2026 have tested Israel in ways few could have imagined. Even as families were still recovering from the toll of prolonged reserve duty and displacement, a new chapter of conflict opened in March with the outbreak of the Israel-Iran war, Operation Roaring Lion. Through it all, Vision for Israel has remained on the ground, responding with urgency and compassion to the needs of soldiers, families, children, and survivors.

This quarterly report offers a window into the work your generosity has made possible. From couples' processing evenings that strengthen marriages strained by war, to hot meals delivered to soldiers on the border lines, to Passover gift cards distributed under the sound of sirens, every act of service described here was carried out because you chose to stand with the people of Israel.

We invite you to read these stories and know that your partnership is making a tangible, life-changing difference.

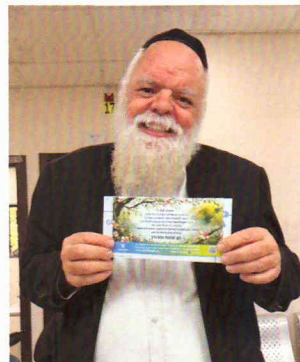
SAFETY SHELTERS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF THE SHARABI FAMILY



Brothers Eli and Yossi Sharabi z"l were taken hostage on October 7, 2023. Eli was released after 491 days, only to learn that his wife, Lianne, and their two daughters, Noya and Yahel, had been murdered. Yossi was killed in captivity. Thanks to donor support, VFI dedicated two safety shelters in their memory. Yossi's shelter in Tekuma was painted with a sea-inspired theme honoring his love of surfing. The shelter for Lianne, Noya, and Yahel was adorned with red poppies and butterflies, symbols of remembrance, life, and hope. Family members, including Eli, attended the dedications.



BRINGING RELIEF TO FAMILIES IN THE SOUTH



Our team traveled to a southern city to provide gift cards to families in urgent need. One elderly, visually impaired man made the difficult journey despite limited support. Social workers shared how deeply these families are struggling, each gift was more than groceries; it was dignity, relief, and a reminder that someone cares.



A NIGHT OF HEALING FOR RESERVIST COUPLES



At the Millennium Center in Modi'in, reservist couples gathered for an evening of connection and healing despite stormy weather. After a short talk, couples moved into private spaces for guided conversations with support from a therapist. The evening included dinner, laughter through a medical clown session, and thoughtful gifts. Many described it as one of the most meaningful nights they had experienced.

A DAY OF STRENGTH FOR COMMANDERS' WIVES



Twenty-five wives of battalion commanders gathered at the Millennium Center for a day of renewal and support. Carrying the strain of long absences and leadership pressures, they met in small, guided groups led by professionals, followed by lunch and a creative workshop. Deeply moved, the women expressed heartfelt gratitude to the VFI team.



NOURISHING ISRAEL'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN



Through our Nutritional Security Project, VFI partners with the Warm Home initiative to provide daily hot lunches for 15 to 17 at-risk children. For many of these children, this is the only hot meal they receive each day. But it is far more than food. It is a moment of calm, stability, and care in the middle of a complex young life. A consistent, nutritious meal gives a child's body strength and their soul a sense of security. It is a daily reminder that they matter, they are seen, and someone is looking out for them.

AN EVENING OF APPRECIATION FOR RESERVISTS' WIVES



Fifty-eight reservists' wives gathered at the Vision for Israel Center for an evening of connection, love and care. Through shared conversations, a meaningful workshop, and a special dinner, they found support among women who understand their reality. Each received a personalized gift, and their deep gratitude reflected how vital this investment in their wellbeing truly is.

ISRAEL-IRAN WAR: OPERATION ROARING LION

SHABBAT DINNER ON THE FRONT LINES



On the first Shabbat of the Israel-Iran war, VFI provided a nourishing home cooked Shabbat dinner and very special hot breakfast for reserve soldiers serving on the northern border. These soldiers had already completed four intensive combat tours in Gaza and Lebanon before being re-enlisted. In challenging field conditions, the Shabbat meal was far more than sustenance.



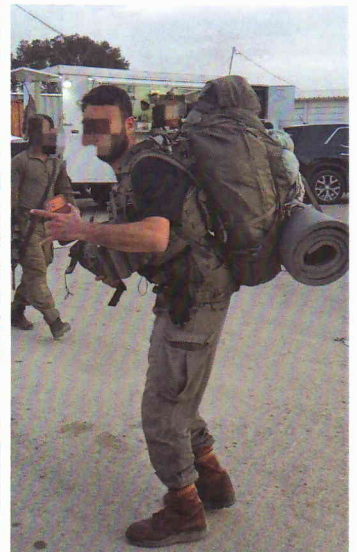
It was a moment of feeling at home, a reminder that the home front stands behind them. The abundance of food was enough to share with another battalion. Command staff expressed deep gratitude for VFI's support during Operation Roaring Lion.



WARM GEAR FOR SOLDIERS IN ENEMY TERRITORY



VFI responded quickly to reconnaissance soldiers from the Paratrooper Brigade operating in Lebanon's cold, mountainous north. Supplying essential winter gear, sleeping bags, fleece jackets, and thermal clothing, brought both physical relief and a strong sense of support from home. The company commander expressed deep appreciation for the rapid response.



WARMING THEM THROUGH THE FREEZING WINTER



When we're approached on behalf of elderly individuals in need of warm blankets for cold winter nights, our hearts are filled with joy knowing they are wrapped in warmth and care. It is a great privilege to keep them warm with down blankets during the cold winter days.

SUPPORTING EVACUATED FAMILIES



In a single moment, entire families are left with nothing but the pajamas they wear.

They run to shelters at night as sirens sound, and within minutes hear an explosion. When they emerge, they discover their home has been severely damaged and is no longer safe to enter. Forced into temporary housing, they face an uncertain reality. We responded immediately. A full truck of diapers, clothing, and toys was prepared and delivered by a dedicated volunteer who stepped forward on his own initiative. This is the privilege of being ready to support the community, especially in moments like these, when families need it most.



**"IN PEACE I WILL LIE DOWN AND SLEEP,
FOR YOU ALONE, LORD, MAKE ME DWELL
IN SAFETY". - Psalm 4:8**

PASSOVER GIFT CARDS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SIRENS



Over two weeks leading up to Passover, VFI distributed gift cards across central and southern Israel, reaching 1,282 families for a total value of 462,900 NIS. The distributions took place against the backdrop of active conflict. In Rishon LeTzion, a siren sounded moments after a distribution ended. In Petach Tikva, shrapnel reports and constant sirens kept many families from coming. In Gedera, the team sheltered with anxious residents who expressed both fear and amazement that our team had traveled so far under such conditions. In addition to centralized distributions, gift cards were provided to Holocaust survivors, terror victims, and soldiers.



SAFETY SHELTERS PLACED ACROSS THE NORTH AND SOUTH



During the first quarter, VFI placed 19 safety shelters in communities across northern and southern Israel. Shelters were installed in high-traffic and vulnerable locations, including soccer fields, bus stops, parks, kindergartens, a military base, settlement entrances, a swimming pool complex, a greenhouse area, a playground, a grocery store, and a parking lot in a new neighborhood. Since the project's inception, a total of 502 shelters have now been placed, providing life-saving protection for families, children, and communities across the country.