

INSIDE

YAD SARAH
SPRING 2022

PROVIDING
COMPASSION
AND CARE
TO THE PEOPLE
OF ISRAEL



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YAD SARAH

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INSIDE

YAD SARAH

SPRING 2022



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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



As Israel emerges from the pandemic, we're proud to report that we're back to business as usual— helping individuals and families, often at a time of great crisis in their lives. These are individuals from every community across the State of Israel coping with illness, injury, and frailty, and families struggling with often overwhelming caregiving responsibilities.



Yad Sarah's programs and services, including accessible transportation, adaptive home care equipment, and day rehabilitation services, are just a few of the resources made possible by the support of our friends here in the United States.

We're proud to partner with the organization's dedicated volunteers and outstanding professionals. Their deep commitment to their communities, neighbors, and friends, is a signature of Yad Sarah's approach.

This issue of Inside Yad Sarah features stories from volunteers working in diverse communities and settings, including Herzliya, Emanuel, and a branch located at one of Israel's largest and busiest hospitals in Tel Aviv. With travel and tourism opening up, we speak with Yakov Slaney, a volunteer who both drives an accessible van in the Raanana area and coordinates Yad Sarah's Tourist Services. Yes, Tourist Services are back in operation, helping to reunite families celebrating joyful milestones or ensuring a traveler

has a much-needed wheelchair, a CPAP machine, or an oxygen tank throughout their stay.

We also hear from Ira Greenspun in Beit Shemesh, who recently made Aliyah with his wife Eileen. Yad Sarah was proud to help this American couple realize a lifelong dream of making Aliyah, despite the challenges posed by Ira's debilitating physical illness.

Yad Sarah's 122 branches rely on deeply devoted volunteers, led by an incredible team of volunteer branch managers, to provide essential services to 800,000 people annually. Similarly, those volunteers count on the continued financial support of their American friends. Your involvement continues to help make Yad Sarah's vital work possible and enables the organization to plan new initiatives, programs, and services that are not only life-sustaining but also life-enriching.

Thank you so much for being a part of the Yad Sarah family.

Adele Goldberg

Adele Goldberg



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 about establishing a **Friends of Yad Sarah Charitable Gift Annuity**.

BRANCHING OUT

Yad Sarah's volunteer branch managers are vital in providing health and home care services for people of all ages. One in every two people in Israel has—or knows someone who has—been helped by Yad Sarah. Volunteers and branch managers support our clients during moments of joy—including wedding celebrations and births—and during trying and challenging times. Thanks to your support, our volunteers help more than 800,000 people in Israel each year.



TZIPI TANAMI
Manager, Herzliya Branch

Life is about helping others. I have a strong passion for giving back—a value which I work to pass on to the rest of my family. For 38 years I worked in the educational system at a high school for at-risk youth in Netanya. Now, I am proud to run Yad Sarah's branch in Herzliya, a role I assumed four and a half years ago when the branch was established.

I constantly strive to improve the Herzliya branch, with the help of our volunteers. For example, I deliver equipment to those who are physically unable to come into the branch and will pick up donated equipment.

Our branch is known for going above and beyond to service our clients. In fact, people

travel from Tel Aviv and Ramat Hasharon to borrow equipment and get help from our branch due to our exceptional service.

A defining feature of our branch is excellence. Our wonderful team of 12 volunteers is a small but mighty group. I am proud of the strong relationships between volunteers, the positive atmosphere within the branch, and the close relationships we develop with our clients.

We are all human beings, and no one knows what each day will bring. Volunteering gives air to breathe—it gives meaning to life. I recommend everyone volunteer. It gives a lot—both to the giver and the receiver.

“I deliver equipment to those who are physically unable to come into the branch”



ZION YATIV
Manager, Ichilov Branch,
Tel Aviv

Upon retiring from a 43-year career at the Standards Institute of Israel, I was offered a volunteer position to run Yad Sarah's Ichilov Medical Center. I gladly accepted and have since enlisted my beloved wife to volunteer with me.

Yad Sarah's Ichilov branch is unique, as it is located inside Ichilov Medical Center – Israel's largest acute care facility, with 1,500 inpatient beds, treating about 400,000 patients annually. The Yad Sarah branch at Ichilov is one of 11 hospital-based branches, and our volunteers work with individuals to plan for and secure home care equipment prior to discharge.

People come to the Ichilov branch in Tel Aviv not only to borrow medical equipment but also to receive support and a sympathetic ear. We regularly encounter highly emotional and distressed clients. For this reason, each volunteer undergoes training to learn how to handle complex situations and emotional outbursts.

For example, a woman recently came to the branch, obviously in emotional turmoil. I spoke with her and learned that both of her children were ill, and her husband had committed suicide 20 years ago. The woman simply needed a shoulder to cry on. Our volunteers and I provided the support that she desperately needed, and the woman has continued to come in for support and consolation.

I commend our branch volunteers for their resilience and commitment to helping our clients, despite the many challenges of working with emotionally distressed people. We must not overlook the great value of providing comfort and support to the people of Israel.



NURIT ABRAHAMS
Manager, Emanuel Branch

I moved to the city of Emanuel in 1995 and began volunteering for a local charity organization. Eight years later, my path changed. Yad Sarah's Emanuel branch was looking for a new manager, and the charity recommended me, and I gladly accepted the position. I genuinely enjoy helping others and creating positivity.

The population of Emanuel consists primarily of ultra-Orthodox families. Many of these families do not own cars, making the delivery of medical equipment from Yad Sarah essential. A number of times family members have sent one of their children to our branch to pick up a wheelchair for their parents or an oxygen generator for their grandparents. However, these items are quite heavy for an adult, let alone a child. In these instances, a volunteer from our branch takes the child and the equipment in a Yad Sarah vehicle back to their home.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, there has also been a high demand for oxygen generators. I personally suffered from post-COVID symptoms and was in the hospital for three weeks, receiving treatment in the intensive care unit. While this experience was far from enjoyable, it made me appreciate the services Yad Sarah provides – from equipment lending to emotional support.

While the branch volunteers support the local population, I strive to support the volunteers with encouragement, strength, and understanding. This creates a sense of community and connection within the branch which, in turn, is passed along to our clients.

G-d gives us so much – life, health, knowledge, and more. To bring value into our lives, we must use these gifts to help others. Giving is not just a technical matter—it shapes people for the better. 🙏

TOURING ISRAEL

AN INTERVIEW WITH YAKOV SLANEY

Yad Sarah's Tourist Services

YS: HI YAKOV, IT IS GREAT TO MEET YOU! CAN YOU TELL ME A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?



SLANEY: I was born in London, made Aliyah in 1978, and settled in Herzliya. I stayed very busy with work, and at age 60 I was able to retire. Instead of a full-time job, I was looking for an opportunity to give back to the community. I knew about Yad Sarah, having used their services in the past to borrow equipment for elderly relatives, so I went down to visit one of their branches. While visiting, I met Yaron Aviv, the manager of the vehicle department in Ra'anana who, within a week, got me driving a wheelchair accessible van. I'm now starting my fourth year as a volunteer.

YS: WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INVOLVED WITH YAD SARAH?

SLANEY: My mother, Lottie Slaney, volunteered for over 40 years in hospice for the terminally ill. She not only volunteered her own time, but also encouraged her friends to get involved. It became her life's work, and she did it all without any expectation of thanks or recognition. I wanted to follow her example and I knew that Yad Sarah was an organization with a large volunteer network, so it seemed like a good place to start.

YS: WHY IS THE YAD SARAH TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IMPORTANT TO INDIVIDUALS WHO USE WHEELCHAIRS?

SLANEY: The primary reason is that the program is a safe, comfortable, and reliable means of transport. Aside from that, the program allows people to get out of their houses and have essential human interaction.





I used to drive an elderly gentleman to Yad Sarah's Shikumon [Day Rehabilitation] program in Ra'anana. This is a once-a-week morning program which provides a hot meal, companionship, expert physiotherapy for those who need it, pastimes like arts and crafts, and much more. This man lived with a caregiver and had lost the ability to speak after suffering a stroke. Over time I came to learn that this outing in Yad Sarah's van and the morning spent at the Shikumon was the only time he left his apartment – and it was the best part of his week.

YS: I ASSUME THAT DRIVING INDIVIDUALS IN WHEELCHAIRS CAN BE A BIT DANGEROUS. WHAT SAFETY MEASURES ARE IN PLACE FOR YAD SARAH'S VANS?

SLANEY: We secure wheelchairs inside the vehicle using a system approved by the Ministry of Transport. The wheelchair is tethered to the floor at three points to ensure it's as secure as a regular car seat, and the passenger is fitted with a standard lap and shoulder seat belt, just as if they were in a standard car seat. This keeps both the passenger and driver safe during the ride.

YS: CURRENTLY, WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE COORDINATOR OF THE TOURISM SERVICES AND A VOLUNTEER DRIVER AT YAD SARAH?

SLANEY: I assist people visiting Israel who are interested in receiving services from Yad Sarah. Prior to their trip, visitors submit an inquiry online about the services Yad Sarah offers. I call all visitors to understand exactly what they are looking for, make a plan to deliver these services as smoothly as possible, and – wherever possible – follow up to be certain that they are satisfied.

YS: WHAT KINDS OF AID DOES YAD SARAH'S TOURIST SERVICES OFFER?

SLANEY: Yad Sarah's Tourist Services loans out medical equipment, ranging from walking canes to special beds, and wheelchairs to oxygen containers. This equipment can be pre-delivered to one's accommodations prior to their arrival, or visitors can visit a Yad Sarah office to collect their equipment in person. Also, for anyone who needs it, Yad Sarah offers wheelchair accessible transportation to and from the airport.

YS: THAT IS GREAT! HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES THE TOURIST SERVICES DEPARTMENT ASSIST PER YEAR?

SLANEY: Prior to the pandemic, we serviced hundreds of people per year. With COVID restrictions in place, I am assisting a couple of people per week. Since tourists are able to enter Israel again – without any restrictions or conditions – we expect this number to increase in the near future, because many people have not visited their families in Israel in over two years.

YS: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING IN THE TOURIST SERVICES DEPARTMENT?

SLANEY: In my job, I have the opportunity to meet many new and interesting people every day. I truly enjoy speaking with my clients and hearing the excitement in their voices when they explain why they are visiting Israel. Many are coming to Israel for a wedding, bat mitzvah, or just to connect with family and friends they haven't seen for a few years.

YS: DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF THE HELP THAT YAD SARAH'S TOURIST SERVICES HAS PROVIDED?

SLANEY: The Tourist Services Department makes a huge difference in helping people make the most out of their visit to Israel.



Yakov Slaney behind the wheel in an accessible van, taking clients to medical appointments and rehab programs



Delivering equipment in advance of a tourist's arrival

For one individual who needed mobility assistance, Yad Sarah's services not only allowed her to attend her family member's wedding, but also to participate in the big day. She received a wheelchair on loan and a special ramp to access the chuppah – this was very special for both her and her loved ones.

In another instance, a visitor who suffers from sleep apnea and relies on a machine to help him breathe when he sleeps required assistance. Upon arriving at his hotel, he discovered that his machine wasn't working, causing a great deal of stress. The Tourist Services Department was able to locate a comparable device at a Yad Sarah office and transport it to the individual, allowing everyone to have a good night's sleep.

YS: WHY DO YOU THINK THAT YAD SARAH IS SUCH A SPECIAL ORGANIZATION?

SLANEY: Yad Sarah is a great organization because it provides a wide range of services to all, regardless of religion or location. We have an impressive number of devices available at dozens of branches around the country, emergency medical care at the main Jerusalem office, legal advice, emergency alert devices, and programs for individuals with disabilities. And there's no doubt that the spirit of volunteerism also invigorates everything our volunteers do. 🙏


YAD SARAH'S HOSPITALITY CENTER

SUPPORTS FAMILIES CARING FOR LOVED ONES

A woman recently gave birth to two beautiful babies at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. Unfortunately, the babies were born prematurely and promptly placed in the neonatal intensive care unit as doctors monitored their health. The lives of the new parents came to a standstill, filled with concern for their babies' well-being and stress about a lengthy stay by their sides.

The couple was introduced to Yad Sarah and was offered a room to stay in Yad Sarah's Hospitality Center in Jerusalem, a new service providing much-needed support to family caregivers. Located down the street from Shaare Zedek Hospital, the Hospitality Center provides a convenient and comfortable place for families to stay, rest, and recharge while their loved ones receive care at Shaare Zedek.

The proximity of the Hospitality Center allowed the new parents to nurse, hold, bond with, and care for the babies. "Thanks to you [Yad Sarah] we could sleep at night and enjoy a short break in the afternoon, so we had the strength to support our babies in their medical journey. For that, we are very grateful," the couple said.

Yad Sarah is committed to helping families stay close to their loved ones receiving care at Shaare Zedek, enabling them to provide emotional support to a seriously ill family member, feed a fragile newborn, or advocate on behalf of a patient with hospital professionals. Due to the high volume of need, Yad Sarah is expanding its Hospitality Center, adding fully furnished guest rooms and communal areas. 



ALIYAH FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

“Yad Sarah alleviated Ira's uncertainty and created possibility.”

Ira still vividly remembers the first time he met a Yad Sarah volunteer — they were essential to his transportation, he says. This was twenty years ago when he was visiting Israel to see his daughter at Yeshiva for the first time. The very act of going to Israel was a hurdle for Ira. As someone with a physical disability, international travel can be a challenge.

During that trip to Israel, “my rabbi arranged Yad Sarah transport for me.” Ira says. He was picked up directly from the airport, and a friendly volunteer was available to take him wherever he desired.

Ira lives with progressive Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a neurological disorder that affects motor function and worsens over time. Twenty years ago, when Ira flew to Israel from New York to visit his daughter, he could get around in a wheelchair with help from an assistant. Today, Ira’s mobility has decreased to the point where he needs a Hoyer lift and a motorized sling to help him move from his wheelchair to the bed.

Impaired movement can make simple tasks complicated. Physically, Ira is paralyzed, but mentally and emotionally, he is excited to live a fulfilling life surrounded by people and places he loves.

In November 2021, Yad Sarah’s customized care helped make his dream of making Aliyah become a reality.

The dream started decades ago. “I wanted to make Aliyah because I felt like I could become a more observant Jew in Israel,” Ira explains. For people like Ira, physical issues can often delay or derail travel plans — even when the plans are based on faith.

“**For people like Ira, physical issues can often delay or derail travel plans.**”

One major consideration was the equipment that Ira required to be comfortable. As a person living with paralysis, Ira is no longer mobile on his own and has a nearly constant need for mobility support. Ira and his wife, Eileen, had to anticipate



Eileen and Ira in their home in Beit Shemesh

every situation before their move to ensure that accommodation would be available— this is where Yad Sarah came in.

Yad Sarah allowed the couple to rent equipment for Ira’s basic needs. Yad Sarah volunteers in Israel ensured that a hospital bed, a Hoyer lift, and a wheelchair were delivered and properly set up at the couple’s residence before their arrival.

Ira’s needs are very specific. For example, Ira’s specialized bed and lift are essential to maximizing independence in his daily routine.

In the United States, Ira and Eileen had time to make their house fully accessible. Over 30 years, the couple renovated their space to be wheelchair-friendly, from the office to the living room to the bedroom.

But in Israel, the couple is anticipating a new house in Beit Shemesh without a van. It takes time to retrofit a space to best serve a person with disabilities, and there are many unknowns to navigate.

One of Ira’s primary concerns about the move was accessibility. Thankfully, “Yad Sarah helped ease this concern.” Ira continues, “the equipment is wonderful, and the people are timely—everything is top of the line.”

Yad Sarah ensured that Ira had access to all necessary medical equipment inside his and Eileen’s new residence. The personalized care helped make Ira and Eileen feel truly at home in Israel.

Volunteers at any of Yad Sarah’s 122 branches are available for attention and support. The volunteers quickly made their way into Ira’s heart. “I saw that Yad Sarah was a great organization because they provided the equipment I needed at the right time and the right place,” Ira says.

Yad Sarah alleviated Ira’s uncertainty and created possibility.

“I know people in America who want to be buried in Israel when they die, but I want to be there when I am still alive,” Ira says. Thanks to Yad Sarah, he was able to move his life closer to his loved ones and a beloved country. 🇮🇱

SHARE your STORY

Yad Sarah has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in Israel, and we’re honored to share their important stories.

NOW WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Have you or someone you know received assistance from Yad Sarah? What do you value most about the organization? Please share your story using the web link below to help people understand the varied ways that Yad Sarah helps people in need and celebrate the compassion of our volunteers.

In exchange for your story, you’ll receive a **free gift** as a thank you.



Scan this code with your mobile device, or visit bit.ly/ShareYourYSSStory

ALL ABOUT YAD SARAH

Thanks to your continued support, Yad Sarah provides a vital array of compassionate health and home services for people of all ages and backgrounds. As Israel's largest volunteer-staffed organization, Yad Sarah's 7,000 members work around the clock to assist more than 800,000 people in Israel each year.

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 more than 500,000 items to be loaned out at no cost to the borrowers.

Conversations with the Homebound: Phone conversations to activate minds and raise morale of people isolated at home.

Medical Equipment Repairs: The medical equipment that Yad Sarah lends are repaired and renovated by skilled volunteers and people with disabilities.

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.

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

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

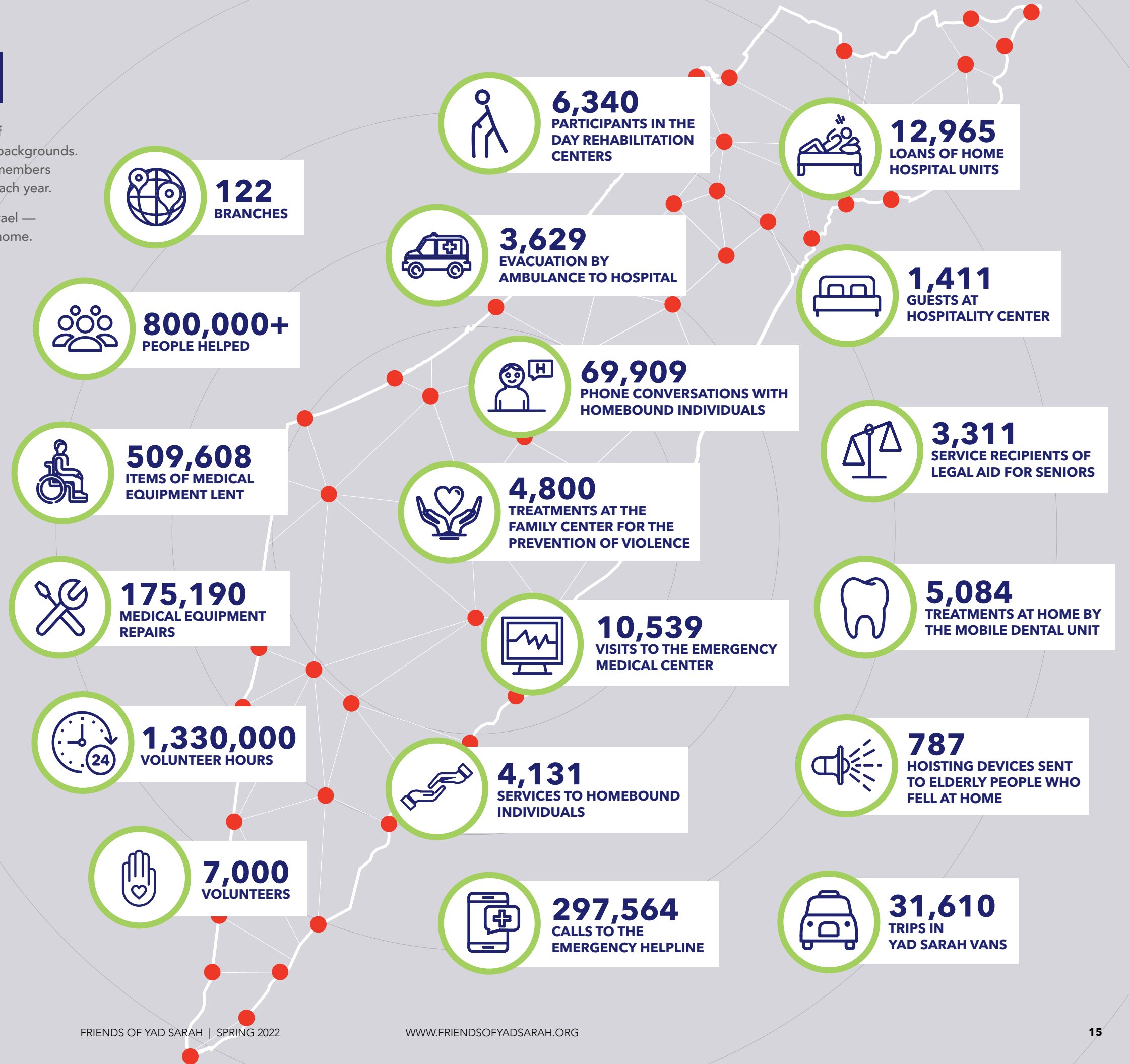
The Family Center: Professional therapy to individuals who have experienced trauma due to violence in the home.

Emergency Medical Center: Expert doctors in a variety of fields, highly qualified nurses, and top lab technicians provide a first-rate medical response to all.

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

Mobile Geriatric Dental Clinic: A full range of specialized care for the homebound and elderly.

Home Hospitalization Service: Lending equipment to create a hospital room at home to allow recuperation among family, avoiding the discomforts and dangers of long-term hospital stays.



GET HIGH FIXED-RATE INCOME FOR LIFE – MOST OF WHICH MAY BE TAX-FREE.

Providing for **Yad Sarah** is providing for Israel. Improving the lives of more than 800,000 people in Israel in the past year, **Yad Sarah** represents what is best about Israel and its people.



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A YAD SARAH GIFT ANNUITY — GET INCOME FOR LIFE, MUCH OF WHICH IS TAX-FREE, AND A CHARITABLE DEDUCTION.

A **Yad Sarah** Gift Annuity pays a 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*
70	6.5	74.0%
75	7.1	76.4%
80	8.0	78.8%
85	9.5	82.5%
90	11.3	84.6%

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

A GIFT THAT IS CHERISHED FOREVER: PROVIDING FOR 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 Yad Sarah programs in Israel that are dear to you, or entrusted to Yad Sarah for use where most needed to help Israel's most vulnerable people.



NEW INHERITED IRA RULES LIMIT DISTRIBUTION TO MOST HEIRS TO 10 YEARS

For families planning to leave IRAs to their children, the "stretch" provision that allowed heirs to take distributions based upon life expectancy factors has been eliminated in favor of a limitation of ten years after receipt. This will increase the tax burden on heirs and entitle them to the full amount of the IRA perhaps sooner than you planned.

There are solutions to this. Let us show you how to take advantage of the tax laws now in place and how to plan for inherited IRAs to work around the 10-year withdrawal requirement.

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.

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