

# INSIDE

## YAD SARAH

FALL 2024

STORIES OF  
SURVIVAL  
AND  
SUPPORT  
AMID THE WAR  
IN ISRAEL

Photo: Dror Farkash



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YAD SARAH**

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# INSIDE

## YAD SARAH FALL 2024



### Branching Out

Explore the inspiring tales of three caring and compassionate Yad Sarah volunteers, each of whom embodies resilience in the face of adversity.



### Yad Sarah's Vital Role in Providing Critical Aid Amid the War in Israel

Amid the ongoing war in Israel, Yad Sarah serves as a crucial force of support. From evacuating families to delivering essential medical equipment for soldiers, Yad Sarah's compassionate response has been a lifeline for thousands.



### Yad Sarah Provides Compassionate Care During Times of Tragedy

Nearly a year after Bar Kupershtein's kidnapping at the Nova Music Festival, Yad Sarah continues to support his family during this painful time.



### Interview: Yad Sarah's Southern Regional Manager

Golan Lamenzteach shares his experiences managing Yad Sarah's operations in Israel's southern region, reflecting on the aftermath of Oct. 7th, and the critical support Yad Sarah provides to impacted communities.

Yad Sarah's impact is wide-ranging, from providing basic and vital health supplies to those living in the periphery to helping elderly and people with disabilities 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



During this period of darkness in Israel, Yad Sarah—Israel's leading volunteer-based social service organization—is a source of strength and light. The organization's more than 7,000 volunteers provide essential health and home care support services to soldiers, travelers, and civilians.

As the war continues to unfold, Yad Sarah's services become increasingly crucial. The organization is working quickly and adjusting to meet the urgent needs of the people of Israel. From orchestrating evacuations and launching a soldier rehabilitation program to expanding the capacity of its home hospital program and initiating an emergency oxygen campaign, Yad Sarah has been at the forefront of providing vital support to those impacted by the war.

In this edition of "INSIDE Yad Sarah," we reflect on the profound impact the organization has had on countless lives across Israel. Read about three dedicated volunteers, who,—despite experiencing evacuations of their own—are working tirelessly to assist with everything from supporting displaced individuals to an increase in demand for essential medical equipment.



Then, explore the many ways Yad Sarah is supporting the people of Israel during the war. With tender care and a smile, Yad Sarah volunteers go out of their way to urgently provide low-cost equipment to injured soldiers. They also work to meet the needs of all people of Israel—regardless of background or age—including those impacted by the attack on Majdal Shams.

Finally, dive into an interview with the manager of Yad Sarah's hard-hit Southern region, Golan Lamenzteach, and learn about the urgent need for medical equipment in the area.

Since its inception, Yad Sarah has remained unwavering in its commitment to standing as a beacon of help and hope for the people of Israel. During this period of war, our work has expanded to meet the urgent needs.

I am proud to share the extraordinary stories of resilience and hope that have emerged during these difficult times. None of this would be possible without your continued support and the dedication of Yad Sarah's compassionate volunteers, helping others to heal and cope. Your partnership enables us to respond to the critical needs of the people of Israel and ensure they receive the care they need and deserve. Thank you so much.

With heartfelt prayers for peace,

Adele Goldberg



Visit [FriendsOfYadSarah.org/pg](https://www.FriendsOfYadSarah.org/pg) 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

**Y**ad Sarah's 126+ branches support almost every family in Israel. Each branch is managed and operated by volunteers.

Today we focus on the Kiryat Shmona, Netanya and Tel Aviv branches to learn about the men and women volunteering their time to provide compassionate care to the people of Israel.



**ZVIK GLIDAI**  
Branch Manager, Kiryat Shmona

I have been volunteering at Yad Sarah for 38 years and am deeply dedicated to the community in Kiryat Shmona. On October 20, 2023, I had to evacuate my home for the first time due to the war.

In the first few months of the war, my wife and I lived with my daughter in the Galilee region while her husband was called to reserve duty. I was also called up and served more than 40 days in the IDF's Casualties Center.

However, I want to continue serving my local community so I have recently been staying in the Western Galilee community of Sde Ilan. While the area is relatively safe, I often travel 45 minutes from my temporary home to the Yad Sarah branch in Kiryat Shmona.

The city is essentially a ghost town, which is a bit disconcerting. However, those unable to evacuate rely on Yad Sarah's services—which are even more essential now that individuals in the region have become isolated from most outside services.

As we face the threat of escalation from Hezbollah and Iran, I remain committed to supporting my local community. I have no intention whatsoever to leave the North, even after the war—it's not even a question.

**“I remain committed to supporting my local community.”**



Yad Sarah client receives crutches.



**ZVI SWERDLOVE**  
Lending Department  
Volunteer, Netanya

I moved to Netanya from Boston in 1968 and opened a second-hand bookshop. Nearly 30 years later, I closed the shop and started working part-time as a translator. I was also looking for volunteer opportunities to give back to the community.

I had been introduced to Yad Sarah a few years earlier when I borrowed home hospital equipment for my father in the months before his passing. While looking for volunteer opportunities, Yad Sarah came to mind. I am proud to say that I have volunteered at Yad Sarah for more than 15 years—mostly in the lending department and the shop where we sell equipment.

Since the war broke out, we have seen increased requests for medical equipment.

For example, a man came in and explained an elderly lady who had relocated from the South was living in his building. The woman used an oxygen generator and had just gotten the tragic news that one of her daughters had been killed in the war. Although the man didn't know the woman very well, he understood that she would need a portable oxygen tank to travel to the funeral. He wanted to care for her, and I was honored that Yad Sarah's lending center could provide the mobile oxygen tank and support him in doing this good deed.

I enjoy interacting with clients and it makes my day when I help someone leave the branch with a smile and the care they need, especially someone who comes into the branch worried and distressed.



**JUDITH JAVOR**  
Volunteer, Kiryat Shmona  
and Tel Aviv

In 1993, I made Aliyah from England with my husband George, and our son. We moved to Metula in Israel's northern region and one of my friends asked me to volunteer with her at Yad Sarah's Kiryat Shmona branch.

I have now been volunteering with Yad Sarah for more than 15 years and have had the opportunity to meet many different individuals with a variety of backgrounds. For example, before there was a Yad Sarah branch in Majdal Shams, members of the Druze community would come in to borrow and return medical equipment. Often, when they returned the equipment, they offered volunteers fruit as a thank you.

When Kiryat Shmona was evacuated on October 20, 2023, George and I moved to our friend's apartment in Tel Aviv. George unfortunately suffered from a stroke and passed away in December.

While my life had been turned upside down, I needed something to focus on and a way to make friends, so I began volunteering at a Yad Sarah branch in Tel Aviv. I started at the branch in Ichilov Hospital, the same hospital that treated my husband after his stroke.

This has allowed me to meet so many amazing people—both volunteers and clients—and I can bond with other evacuees over our shared experience. I think the clients help me just as much as I help them. 🙏



# YAD SARAH'S VITAL ROLE IN PROVIDING CRITICAL AID AMID THE WAR IN ISRAEL



IDF soldiers volunteer at Yad Sarah.

**Y**ad Sarah—Israel’s leading volunteer-led social service organization—is an essential provider of medical, social, and rehabilitative support services to soldiers and civilians in the country. Following Hamas’ attacks on Oct 7 and the subsequent war, Yad Sarah’s role has become even more vital.

When conflict erupted, Yad Sarah adapted to meet the pressing demands of a nation in turmoil by arranging for evacuations from combat zones, initiating a soldier rehabilitation program, increasing the capacity of its home hospital program, launching an emergency oxygen campaign, and much more to provide essential support to those affected by the war.



Now, a year after the devastating attack at the Nova Music Festival and the communities surrounding the Gaza envelope, Yad Sarah continues to support those impacted by the war in an

increased capacity to support the welfare of all people in Israel.

**“Yad Sarah continues to support those impacted by the war in an increased capacity”**

At present, one of Yad Sarah’s key areas of focus is soldier rehabilitation. As of August 2024, more than 10,000 Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers\* have been treated by the Israel Defense Ministry Rehabilitation Department—for conditions ranging from post-traumatic stress disorder to physical injuries.

To support IDF soldiers, Yad Sarah launched a Soldier Rehabilitation program which facilitates the organization’s services to active and reserve soldiers. To date, the department has aided in the rehabilitation and recovery of more than 2,500 soldiers by providing medical equipment and home care support services.

\*<https://www.timesofisrael.com/over-10000-israeli-troops-treated-since-oct-7-says-ministry-rehab-department/>

Ari is a combat soldier who ducked to the ground to dodge bullets while fighting in Gaza. He injured his knee and, despite the pain, continued to fight on the battlefield. Eventually, the pain became unbearable, and Ari was brought back to Israel for a medical evaluation where doctors discovered he had suffered tendon damage in his leg.

He underwent surgery but was unable to stand or put pressure on his leg. Once Ari returned home, he reached out to Yad Sarah for a CPM device to aid in his recovery process, as recommended by his doctor.

"I had heard there was a soldier in Rehovot who needed a home delivery—and I live not far away—so I delivered it to him," said Eitan Dahari, head of Yad Sarah's Logistics Division. "We'll be here if [Ari] needs anything - medical equipment or support during his rehabilitation process, or [anything else] in the future."

Eitan and more than 7,000 Yad Sarah volunteers offer this level of compassionate care to everyone in need.

"Each volunteer we encountered was cheerful and efficient even at the end of the day, expressing a

genuine desire to go above and beyond in helping others," recalls Rivka, whose son, Moshe, and six of his fellow IDF soldiers were injured in a firefight with terrorists in Gaza.

Miraculously, Moshe and his fellow soldiers survived the ordeal and were rapidly transported to the Barzilai Medical Center in Ashkelon where they underwent treatment. Moshe suffered from a severe arm injury and was hospitalized for two weeks. Once released, his mother searched for a wrist brace but was shocked by the high cost. A friend referred her to Yad Sarah, where she received a brand new wrist brace with customized straps for her son, all at a nominal cost.

"In addition to the direct help the brace provides, we received a warm feeling knowing everyone wants to go the extra mile and work as efficiently as possible to help," she remarked.

Yad Sarah's commitment to aiding those affected by the war extends beyond the battlefield.



IDF soldier.



Yad Sarah Majdal Shams branch manager, Mansur, alongside volunteers at soccer field.

While the organization has dedicated significant resources to rehabilitating soldiers like Ari and Moshe, it works to meet the needs of all the people of Israel. Whether on the front lines or in the heart of civilian communities, Yad Sarah is driven by a singular purpose: to provide compassionate care to anyone in need, regardless of age, background, or circumstance. This mission was particularly evident in the aftermath of the devastating attack on Majdal Shams in late July 2024.

After Hezbollah's attack killed 12 young children on a soccer field and injured dozens of others, Yad Sarah's northern division acted quickly to mobilize resources and provide critical support and unwavering assistance to those in dire need.

The Majdal Shams branch opened in March 2024 and is managed by Mansur Said Ahmad, a member of the Majdal Shams Druze community. Mansur first became acquainted with Yad Sarah and its services in 2014 while recovering from a complicated leg surgery. During his extensive rehabilitation, Mansur traveled more than 18 miles to Kiryat Shmona, where the then-closest Yad Sarah branch was located, to borrow the medical equipment necessary for his recovery. This experience sparked his determination to establish a branch closer to home—and his initiative has proved timely.

"A game of soccer was never meant to end like this. The loss and devastation are immense, but it's making our resolve even stronger," said Mansur Said Ahmad of the local attack. "We have the responsibility to extend a hand to help everyone deal with the way life is now. The people who come to us are from all walks of life



Volunteer greets client in Majdal Shams.

and need specific equipment. Anyone who asks for aid, Yad Sarah embraces and supports them—whether they live in Majdal Shams or come from nearby villages or kibbutzim."

**“Yad Sarah is driven by a singular purpose: to provide compassionate care to anyone in need”**

As the war in Israel continues, Yad Sarah stands as a beacon of help and hope for the people of Israel. With the help of generous friends, the organization works to ensure that every person – soldier or civilian, young or old

– receives the care and support they need. This enduring commitment supports the healing of battle wounds and strengthens the fabric of Israeli society, by fostering unity and compassion in the face of adversity. 🇮🇱



## YAD SARAH PROVIDES COMPASSIONATE CARE

**O**n October 7, 22-year-old Bar Kupershtein was working as a security guard at the Nova music festival. When sirens began sounding throughout the country, his family called Bar to check in but did not get an answer.

A few hours later, his aunt found photos and videos online—posted by Hamas terrorists—of Bar tied up on the ground. Since his kidnapping nearly a year ago, the family has not seen or heard from Bar.

To support the Kupershtein family during this difficult time, Yad Sarah is transporting Bar's father—who lives in Holon, outside of Tel Aviv—to and from doctor appointments,

visits to Hostage Square, and more, in the organization's wheelchair-accessible vans.

Yaron Aviv, the National Coordinator of Volunteer Drivers at Yad Sarah, arranged for the family to spend a day in Jerusalem and visit Yad Sarah. Bar's family—parents, grandfather, brothers, and relatives—visited Yad Sarah and thanked Yad Sarah CEO Moshe Cohen for the organization's support.

"I am honored to help care for the Kupershtein family and pray for their son's quick return home," shared Yaron.

At Yad Sarah, we are always here to support families and provide compassionate care during difficult moments. 🇮🇱

# AN INTERVIEW WITH GOLAN LAMENATZEACH

*Yad Sarah Southern Regional Manager*

**YS: HI GOLAN, IT IS NICE TO MEET YOU! CAN YOU TELL ME A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?**

**GOLAN:** I was born in Tel Aviv 49 years ago and now live in Susya with my family. I served as a combat soldier in the IDF, and now—in addition to working as the Yad Sarah Southern Regional Manager—I am in the IDF's rabbinate unit where I manage logistics and religious equipment.

Since early October 2023, I have been working at Yad Sarah during the day and spending my nights on IDF reserve duty.

**YS: WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE ON OCT. 7TH?**

Living in the South, I was in a highly impacted area. At the time, I didn't fully understand the terror that was taking place. And, like everyone else, I didn't realize that day would be as significant as it has become, or that it would reach the level of our worst nightmares.

On one of my first days back at Yad Sarah after October 7th, I was taking oxygen supplies to the elderly in Netivot and drove past the site of the tour bus that was attacked. I looked around and devastatingly saw bodies scattered throughout the roads. It is an understatement to say that was a hard day.

**"I am proud that Yad Sarah can support the recovery."**



As the community in the South continues to deal with the aftermath of October 7th, I am proud that Yad Sarah can support the recovery.

**YS: AS THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL MANAGER, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES?**

Currently, I oversee 28 branches and more than 1,200 volunteers throughout Israel's southern region. This territory spans from Rehovot to Eilat and includes major hubs such as Ashdod and Beersheva.

I regularly travel throughout the region, and since October 7th, have been attending to the hard-hit communities near the Gaza border. During Yad Sarah's initial emergency

response to October 7th, I largely oversaw the logistics of equipment loans to evacuees in the South. Many of these evacuees tragically had their homes and belongings burned or were forced to abandon their lives in the South to find refuge in a safer area.

One of the more heavily affected cities in my region is Sderot, which I have been visiting frequently. I have also worked with residents who survived the massacre at Kibbutz Be'eri and evacuees housed at hotels in the Dead Sea area.

In the South, there are many individuals in need and we coordinate equipment loans and deliver at-home oxygen equipment and medical supplies to as many as possible.

**“Currently, rehabilitation equipment and services for soldiers and civilians are the biggest need.”**

**YS: WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST NEEDS IN THE SOUTH RIGHT NOW?**

Currently, rehabilitation equipment and services for soldiers and civilians are the biggest need. And providing equipment to individuals in the area is incredibly impactful.

One day, an injured young man came in for a pair of crutches. After testing them out, he explained with gratitude that he sees these Yad Sarah crutches as his “new leg.” This simple comment made me truly understand how valuable Yad Sarah’s services are for our clients. I feel a great need to bring these items

to the injured and to help them return to some semblance of routine, mobility, and life.

In addition to equipment, I am also looking to recruit additional volunteers.

Many of our volunteers evacuated the region at the beginning of the war, and not all have returned yet. During Passover, I had a seder in Sderot with a group of volunteers who returned after being displaced for months.



Golan shows individuals around Yad Sarah branch.



I recently spoke with individuals who had evacuated to Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and the Dead Sea hotels area. Each one explained that they felt out of place in a new city and looked for a place to volunteer and stay busy. The only place they could find was Yad Sarah, and volunteering with the organization gave them a constructive use of their time during the darkness.

Upon returning to Sderot, they continued to volunteer with Yad Sarah as the city’s branch was serving residents who hadn’t evacuated. Their lives had been turned upside down and said they didn't expect how much the return to volunteering would rehabilitate them.



Golan showcases Yad Sarah equipment.

**YS: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR ROLE AS YAD SARAH’S SOUTHERN REGIONAL MANAGER?**

One of the most wonderful things about Yad Sarah is that we meet with the people of Israel from every walk of life and every sector in Israel. This gives me the strength to keep going during this difficult time.

Since October 7th, I have felt a great sense of connection and community—something we need now more than ever. At Yad Sarah, we see this every day. Each branch helps unite individuals and return some normalcy to their daily lives. 🇮🇱

**“Each branch helps unite individuals and return some normalcy to their daily lives.”**

# 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 almost every family in Israel.

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 361,914 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.

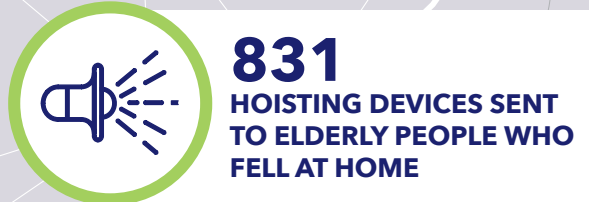
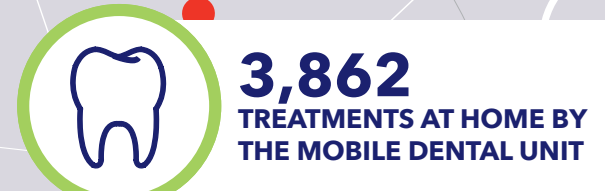
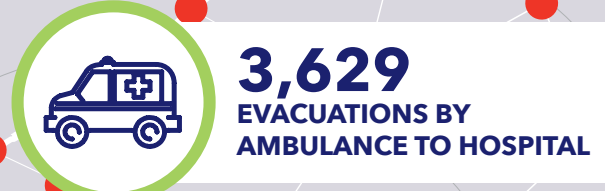
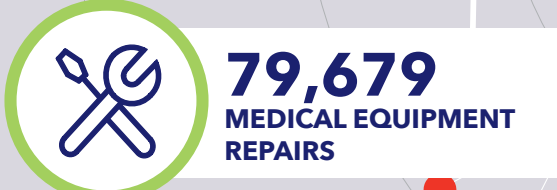
**The Family Center:** Professional therapy to individuals who have experienced trauma due to violence in the home.

**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.

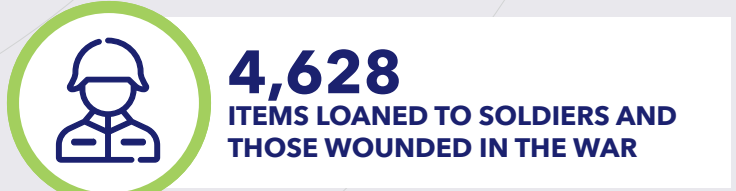
**Yad Riva Legal Aid:** Legal services, legal counseling, legal representation, and social assistance for the elderly provided by volunteer lawyers.

**Mobile 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.



## YAD SARAH WARTIME ACTIVITY



Statistics from July 2023 to end of June 2024



# IF YOU'RE OVER 70 1/2, YOU CAN USE TAX-FREE FUNDS FROM YOUR IRA TO PURCHASE A GIFT ANNUITY.

The Legacy IRA Act is in its second year. If you did not take advantage of it in 2023, you can still purchase a Legacy IRA in 2024 with no income tax charge on the IRA distributions. Rules apply.



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YAD SARAH**

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## BEFORE THE TAX LAW MAY CHANGE

Take a tax-free withdrawal from your IRA before the end of 2024 and use part of your RMD to purchase a **Qualified Charitable Distribution Yad Sarah Gift Annuity** (QCD CGA). Pay no income tax on the IRA RMD withdrawal. Get high fixed lifetime payments for yourself (and jointly with your spouse if you wish). **Contact us for more information including a personalized calculation: [adele@friendsofyadsarah.com](mailto:adele@friendsofyadsarah.com) or 212-223-7758.**

## A SAMPLE OF YAD SARAH'S HIGH GIFT ANNUITY RATES

Age	Rate	Tax Free*
70	6.3	61.5%
75	7.0	66.5%
80	8.1	71.0%
85	9.1	75.4%
90	10.1	77.2%

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

## SUPPORTING YAD SARAH (AND YOURSELF) TODAY AND TOMORROW

Leaving a gift for Yad Sarah in the future — in your will, trust, or through other vehicles — can be quite meaningful to you as a generous donor and Yad Sarah as a grateful beneficiary. However, some long-time supporters of Yad Sarah would like to do this during their lifetime. Consider the capital you may contribute to Yad Sarah through your estate. Think also about how you would like Yad Sarah to use your contribution in the future to carry on its essential work of helping people in need in Israel. Would you like to have your gift recognized during your lifetime while continuing to receive income? Consider a **Yad Sarah Gift Annuity** or a **Yad Sarah Charitable Remainder Trust**. If you use stock to fund these, you will receive substantial tax savings, pay less — if any — in capital gains taxes, generate lifetime income, and be recognized as part of a valuable universe of individuals who make a difference **Today and Tomorrow**. Become a **Yad Sarah Partner**.



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