

# Three Ways We Can All Help Israel

We all want to help Israel in these difficult times when Israel is at war. I suggest we can come together as a community to help in at least three ways (details below):

1. Help financially.
2. Thank President Bush for his support.
3. Buy things from Israel at our website

[www.whiteplainsforisrael.org](http://www.whiteplainsforisrael.org)

## **1. HELPING ISRAEL FINANCIALLY**

We suggest some very different financial ways we can help as a community. They are all important. Please choose one way that works for you.

We don't have to sleep in bomb shelters when we go to bed tonight. But a million Israelis will be sleeping in bomb shelters. Please consider making a contribution each week (perhaps before Shabbat!) for as long as Israelis have to sleep in shelters. And get your children involved helping you!

We like to choose projects sponsored by The Ziv Tzedakah Fund (founded by Danny Siegel.) The Israel Action Committee uses Ziv because they are very careful to fund organisations that use our contributions efficiently and 100% of our contribution goes to the tzedakah project. You can make your contribution online by credit card by going to [www.ziv.org](http://www.ziv.org) and you will also receive a tax receipt. (Go to [www.ziv.org](http://www.ziv.org) and click on Donate Now, in the upper right corner. That takes you to a new page and again click Donate Now. In the next page, in the Designation box, please write WPIAC (for White Plains Israel Action Committee) and the name of the project to which you want to contribute.)

Here are seven projects we like. **(Would anyone like to match contributions to any of these projects?)**

**A. PACKAGES FROM HOME** (Write **WPIAC Packages from Home** in the Designation Box.)

Barbara Silverman and many volunteers assemble gift boxes filled with some special items for soldiers— snack food, a new pair of warm socks or a cap for the damp winter months, an extra toothbrush or other toiletry items and, perhaps most important, a personal note to say “Thank you” for defending Israel. To date, more than 70,000 packages have been assembled and delivered to the front-lines. Here are some of the things going into the packages today: a toothbrush with toothpaste in the handle (preferred in combat) \$2.00 each; boxer shorts 7NIS (\$1.59); better shorts-11.5 NIS (\$2.61); anti-fungal socks- 9NIS (\$2.05); wash and dry towelettes (80 to a pack)-\$1.00; Bubblegum!-yes, bubblegum---1 NIS each--23 cents!

**B. LEV RAMOT** (Write **WPIAC Lev Ramot** in the Designation box.)

They collect unused food from restaurants and parties and bag it for delivery to needy residents of the Ramot neighborhood. With donations they also buy packaged goods needed by the families. A social worker, assigned by the city, determines what each family needs. 150 volunteers collect, box and deliver food weekly to 500 families in Ramot. The deliveries are made anonymously and the packages are left by the door at night. Moshe knocks and asks for the resident by name and then leaves before the door is opened.

**C. SOLDIERS GIRL FRIENDS** (Write **WPIAC Soldiers Girl Friends** in the Designation Box.)

Wives of soldiers who die in service are counseled and helped by the Government. But girl friends and fiancées of soldiers don't receive any government help. We support a group that helps them. The groups, run by a professional therapist trained in this area of counseling, offer significant support to these women who, though just as needy, are not eligible for the vast amount of help offered by the government to blood relatives and

spouses of fallen soldiers. The groups meet weekly for the first three months and then sessions taper down.

**D. Israel Free Loan Association (Write WPIAC Free Loan in the Designation Box.)**

Ziv has supported the work of Dr. Eliezer Jaffe and the Israel Free Loan Association for many years. With the war, the availability of free loans is even more critical. The fact that any funds donated actually "keep giving" over and over again makes this a very special form of Tzedakah.

**E. HELPING HAND, HELPING HEART (Write WPIAC Helping Hand in the Designation Box.)**

Ziv through its contacts in the community provides a helping hand to poor people with emergency payments of utility bills, food, medical expenses not covered by insurance to get them through times of crisis.

**F. CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES (Write WPIAC Childrens Activities in the Designation Box.)**

Through its contacts in Israel, Ziv Tzedakah Fund has begun to make plans to organize fun day trips for children in both the North and South of the country to free them from the confinements of their homes or bomb shelters. In addition, Ziv has received requests for new computer games to keep children occupied. It expects other such requests to help children in the days ahead.

**G. Beit Hayered (Write WPIAC Beit Hayered in the Designation Box.)**

Beit Hayered is home to children from ages 5 to 13 who are unable to live with their families due to domestic violence and abuse. Beit Hayered offers these youngsters the opportunity to live in stable family units of 12 children with a foster mother and father. They receive extensive counseling and are cared for and nurtured in a loving, healthy family environment, enabling them to slowly mature into normal happy children who can eventually be mainstreamed into Israeli society.

## **2. THANK PRESIDENT BUSH**

You may agree or not agree with the Administration in other areas. But the Administration has been a lone voice in supporting Israel.

Please call or email the White House to thank President Bush for his support of Israel's right to defend herself.

There are lots of groups calling the President to complain about his support of Israel's right to self-defense. Please do your part to offset their voices.

White House Comment Line: 202-456-1111

Email: President@whitehouse.gov (If you email, please write what state you are from, and keep your message gracious and short.)

## **3. BUY ISRAELI GOODS FROM OUR SITE www.whiteplainsforisrael.org**

With tourism at risk and many civilians called up for military service, we need to do our thing to support the Israeli economy. An easy way to do that is to purchase goods from our website. From roses to books to jewelry to art.

**John Lightstone**

**Eric Mandel**

**Co-Chairs, 5 Synagogues of White Plains, Israel Action Committee**