

"Israel is the Jewish homeland. I had no doubt when I made aliyah from Moscow that I would fight to defend this country – my country. I am proud to be serving in the Israel Defense Forces."

Igor Yutchovich, 21, new immigrant from Moscow serving in the Paratroopers



Fund for Lone Immigrant Soldiers

Each year, hundreds of lone immigrant soldiers bravely put their lives on the line to ensure a strong, safe Israel for Jews around the world. Standing on the threshold of adulthood, these young men and women have left family, friends and comfortable lives behind to make aliyah and serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

Though they must struggle to make ends meet financially and are often still in the process of acclimating to a new culture and language, Israel's lone immigrant soldiers serve their chosen homeland with commitment and purpose. Thousands of miles away from their families, they must find their own apartments and pay for rent, utilities, food, transportation, and other personal expenses. Standard army pay and the nominal stipend new immigrants are eligible for is not enough to cover these expenses.

The Jewish Agency Fund for Lone Immigrant Soldiers, established in partnership with the IDF and the Ministry of Absorption, was created to answer the urgent and immediate

economic needs of these soldiers and to ensure them a dignified standard of living. All monies raised for the Fund go directly to the soldiers themselves to help them buy basic electrical appliances, cover the cost of living expenses and other special needs including calling cards to stay in touch with loved ones abroad.

In addition to financial assistance, the Fund matches lone soldiers with veteran Israeli families through the Jewish Agency's At Home Together program. Soldiers are adopted by Israeli families who provide them with critical emotional and social support and help them acculturate to their new environment.

Through the Fund, lone soldiers also participate in a course designed to prepare them for transition to civilian life. Prior to their discharge, soldiers receive guidance and information about academic and employment opportunities and help in the process of joining mainstream Israeli society.

Protecting the Jewish Homeland

With determination, pride and love, Israel's lone immigrant soldiers defend the homeland of Jews across the globe. These young men and women have left everything behind — family, friends and loved ones — to live in Israel and serve in the Israel Defense forces.