

Giving Our Soldiers a Break (and a BBQ)

Come Along for the Ride

It is no secret that the last few weeks have been harrowing times for our brothers and sisters in Israel. The fear of stabbings, automobile violence, and attacks from within the confines of what were thought as "safe" neighborhoods has taken its toll.

Children playing in the park, mothers or fathers shopping at the local grocery store, families going for a stroll on the promenade, and even visitors to the Kotel, are noticeably absent.

How can security forces be everywhere and anywhere at the same time?

One thing is for certain. The responsibility for security falls mainly on the army, in association with the police and others.

Chayalim (soldiers) have been placed on full alert, are working overtime and haven't had a break for weeks.

So what do ordinary Israelis do? They do something extraordinary. Elad Amedi, a local radio personality, announced over the radio that each evening, at a specified location, to be changed daily and announced daily, soldiers will find refreshments, sandwiches, drinks, etc. He called for volunteers to join him. And, guess what, volunteers came, soldiers came. Individuals donated monies to purchase these food items. All to say, to our soldiers, thank you.



A few of us, back here in the States, heard about this endeavor. We spoke to Elad, he told us about his project. We responded, Make a barbecue and we will raise the funds. And he announced on his radio show the barbecue location and asked for volunteers to assist and for the soldiers to come.

Pictured above is the barbecue held Monday evening, November 2, from 7pm to 2am, in Jerusalem, with a Jewish neighborhood on one side and an Arab neighborhood on the other. Over 1500 Chayalim enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs, with all the condiments, and plenty of drinks. Some ate their dinner at the location, many units sent one soldier to pick up 25-30 sandwiches to bring back. Hatzalah and Zaka members on motorcycles delivered meals to units that could not spare even one soldier.

When these soldiers asked, who paid for all this? They were told, Jews from America who care and want to say thank you. Their gratitude was overwhelming.

We, too, are just ordinary people. We take this opportunity to reach out to you for your donation so we can make many more barbecues, in Yerushalayim, the Gush, on the Golan, near Gaza, the Galil, wherever our soldiers are; just to say thank you, stay safe, we care about you. Every dollar you donate will go directly to purchasing the food. Everything else is done by volunteers.

Thank you for being a person who cares!

Rabbi Pesach Lerner
In Israel, Yossi Goldberger