

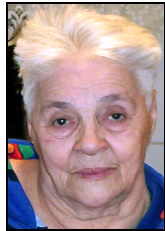
# The Survivor Mitzvah Project

## OUR HUMANITARIAN EXPEDITIONS

**They are strangers.**



*Basya*



*Galina*



*Isak & Bela  
and countless others...*



*Elena*



*Hirsh*

**But they are members of our family.**

And so we give, and so we go. Thanks to you, The Survivor Mitzvah Project has been delivering direct and continuous financial aid to elderly Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe since 2001. Without your generous donations, they would remain destitute, alone, and in pain, without knowing the touch of human kindness. We receive letter after letter of gratitude to you...

*"Many thanks to all my American friends! You saved my life..."*

*"Unfortunately, I do not feel so good. Hunger, cold and hard work are taking their toll...Thank you very much for the money, it would be very difficult for me to survive without it ..."*

*"All of you, my faraway friends from America, may G-d protect you. You have lengthened my life."*

In addition to life-giving care, the other essential things they need to survive are love and friendship. So from the beginning, The Survivor Mitzvah Project has been delivering friendship and love in our letters...

*"A letter from distant America is not just a letter, not just paper. It is like a delicate web from planet Earth, that is not visible, but pulls toward itself the Jews of the Earth...Even in your most vivid dreams, you can't imagine how much of the Elixir of Life there is for me in your letters."*

*"Friendship is the best and most precious thing, it heals all illness, especially when one is alone...Your letter is like a breath of fresh air for me. Other than you, no one writes letters to me...I am amazed that there are such wonderful people as you. I hold on only to this."*

... and in person. We have traveled all over Eastern Europe: to Lithuania, Belarus, Slovakia, Moldova, Latvia and Ukraine. We've driven thousands of miles, to cities, towns, and remote villages. We bring loving kindness and your desperately needed dollars to use for medicine and surgeries.

*"I remember the warmth of your hands, your blindingly wonderful smile and I am grateful that there are people who understand that human relationships are the most important thing in the world..."*

*"Thanks to your organization, The Survivor Mitzvah Project, I stay alive and didn't become blind."*

**After all they have been through, life is still such an unfair challenge for them, the unluckiest generation. Each in their 80s and 90s, they are frail, exhausted, and in failing health.**

*"Because of my health condition (I am blind) I must stay indoors. Mainly I sit in my rocking chair. I think a lot about everything. I think about you, such remarkable people. I thank you all again and again!"*

*"I am desolate and lonely, old and in poor health. Not having a single good friend with whom to speak intimately and unburden my broken suffering heart."*



**These trips have been life changing and life giving for these isolated survivors, touching the human spirit.**

*"If I could see you once more, look again in your kind eyes that became so dear to me – that would be the best gift I could imagine in my life."*

*"Thank you so much that you do not forget me, and help me out even though the times are hard for everybody...I often reread your letters and I feel better, because you exist.... you are the best thing in my life and I am so grateful to you for the warmth, kindness and support you give me."*

*"My dear friends, not in any fairytale could I imagine that in my old age I would have so many kind friends that will take part in my life..."*

**And so we go there. We look at their photographs. We listen to their stories...**

*"A photograph of my grandparents is all that remains of my life from before the war, although I don't know a thing about them. Who they were, where they lived, what they did, how they laughed, and whom they cried over ..."*

*"There is nobody left in my life. I am alone, all my relatives died. Germans killed them all ..."*

*"The Nazis left me lonely and wounded. I was the youngest in the family ... They all were murdered, brutally. My mother with all the old ones was buried alive."*

*"They murdered all our family leaving me forlorn on the dark bloodied land. We lost everything and everyone..."*

*"The month of June is very emotional for me as on the 22<sup>nd</sup> the fascists started war. They bombed my village and on that first day I lost my youth, my closest friends, my home...."*

**They wait for our letters and long for our visits...**

*"...Finally I will see you. I feel so happy that I managed to live long enough to see that beautiful day!!"*

*"Time is passing, years are flying..., and we would like to see you and to tell you looking into your eyes. Thank you very much for everything you do for us ... Our love to all our American friends...Finally we received your letter, which brought joy and calmness into our house."*

*"Your last letter gives us power and happiness... If on the other side of the Universe somebody remembers and cares about you, then it is worth it to live, and to wait for the precious letters..."*

**We go because these are members of our family and they need us.**

*"Hello, my dears, the closest people I have on earth...I am still under the effect of our meeting. I wasn't able to imagine that such a thing was possible. You are so good to people. Not once was there a hint from you that you were not accustomed to such living conditions. Thank you! All of you, my faraway friends from America, may G-d protect you. You have lengthened my own life ..."*

*"I couldn't exist without your help. You are with me every day and my heart is always with you."*

**We bring anything we can think of that can help make their lives a little brighter.**



*"... The gift from you, the beautiful Magen Dovid! Thank you very much, thank you..."*

*"Thank you so much, especially for the menorah that I did not see since my childhood..."*

*"I am so glad and grateful to you for everything. The coat fits as if it was made for me both sleeves and the length, I am so grateful to you for this... It's very cold here now..."*

**Our presence assures them that they have not been forgotten, that they are not alone.**

*"Finally I had an opportunity to give you a hug. It was so wonderful to feel your love, to make new close friends who care about us. We also think of you as our relative, and our hearts are always open for you and full of love."*

*"I am lucky that I have met such love. I thank G-d that there are such good people in the world who understand the problems of the ill and aged people."*

**The survivors come to us as strangers, names on pieces of paper. But Basya, Galina, Isak & Bela, Elena, Hirsh and countless others, become family. This "family of strangers" you have created through your donations.**



*"We are indeed one family separated by a large distance, but it becomes stronger with every day, and we will always remember each other."*

**Help us help them on our next humanitarian trip this winter.**

**Your donations go directly into the hands of elderly  
Holocaust survivors.**

*"Your care for the people who survived the Holocaust is fulfilling the testament of our Torah ..."*

How do we manage to go overseas on our humanitarian trips when all donations we receive go to the survivors? We rely on donated airline miles and American Express Rewards points to make these trips possible. The SMP needs both to cover our travels. **If you have mileage or points you would like to donate, please contact us.** If you wish, you can also help by earmarking a special donation to cover essentials such as ground transportation or translators.

We always record our trips on video so that the life histories and Holocaust testimonies of the survivors can be added to our growing educational archive available to students and teachers world-wide. This oral history is the survivor's legacy to future generations. If you would like to help us preserve these stories, you can earmark a special donation for our Holocaust Archive.

**Most importantly, please continue to donate to the survivors so that they can live out their final years with dignity in a caring and loving way – this is our goal. This is our mission. There are still thousands of Holocaust survivors in need, waiting for our help. We are their family ...**

*"I sometimes think to myself what would have become of us without you. It would have been terribly hard without your help. I find only one answer – all of you are sent to us by G-d on high. And only because of you, all of you, we are we still living and rejoicing from such happiness, from such precious people as you are! Thank you for the simple fact that you exist, and that the Almighty directed you to us!"*

**With your continued support, together we can write a more hopeful final chapter to the Holocaust, one of friendship, love and kindness.**

Donate online at: [www.survivormitzvah.org](http://www.survivormitzvah.org)

Or send a check to:

**The Survivor Mitzvah Project  
2658 Griffith Park Blvd. Suite #299  
Los Angeles, CA 90039**

**800-905-6160 • 213-622-5050**

The Survivor Mitzvah Project is a 501c3 non-profit organization.  
All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law.

**Watch our video to see our humanitarian expeditions at:**

**<http://www.youtube.com/user/SurvivorMitzvah>**

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