

Volunteer Placements

In the past 22 years of OTZMA, our participants have worked with a wide range of organizations, volunteering with all age groups and populations. The following is a sample of some of those places. As always, OTZMA is open and strongly encourages their participants to seek new opportunities depending on their personal interests and talents.

Atidim – Teaching English at schools around Beer Sheva

Atidim is a national Israeli organization which aims to close the socioeconomic gap crippling Israel's periphery, by creating equal educational opportunities. *Atidim's* cadets for the Public Sector follow a special course of study and earn a bachelor's degree in public administration and policy, plus a degree of their choice, from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. They then work for a minimum of five years in the Israeli public sector.

Gaanai Yeelim – Elderly Center

Ganei Ye'elim is a senior citizen's home. The center would love to widen the variety of activities it offers to its residents. OTZMA participants have spent their time visiting with specific home bound elderly. Many of them played music, chess and bridge during their visits.

Coach La Tet – organizing and sorting through things for a store for the poor

Too many poor individuals and families live in shameful conditions, lacking basic amenities for the home and even bare essentials like a bed, refrigerator, table, chairs, etc. Koach Latet (Power of Giving) provides an immediate and professional solution to this problem by collecting used house wares, electronics, furniture, toys, clothes, etc. and refurbishing them for distribution to the needy. These items are stored and neatly maintained in large warehouses where recipients can come to choose what they need. All items are delivered free of charge by Meir Panim volunteers. Recipients include victims of terror attacks trying to rebuild their lives, soldiers living alone, new immigrants, the elderly and hand-capped, and thousands of needy students who receive backpacks and school supplies.

Maagan, Cancer Center – taught Yoga and square dancing

For the first time in Israel, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev has established a unique center for social and emotional support for cancer patients and their families in addition to their medical treatment. The center offers support, workshops, lectures, and social events. The activities are provided at no cost in a homely atmosphere.

Etgarim

Etgarim (meaning challenges in Hebrew), is a non for profit organization founded in 1995 by a group of disabled veterans of the Israel Defense Forces, disabled civilians, and senior rehabilitation professionals. The organization provides outdoor sports and recreational activities. Their main goals are to facilitate the physical, emotional and social rehabilitation of the disabled, to enhance their wellbeing, and advance their integration into mainstream society. OTZMA participants help to develop and implement programming.

Mercaz Klita (Immigrant Absorption Center) – Working with new immigrants

In the Merkaz, new immigrants are gradually introduced to Israel. OTZMA's help is needed in operating the afternoon programs for the children living at the center.

Al foundation

The AL foundation operates an afternoon club in Beer Sheva for young men and women with learning, emotional, and social disabilities. All of the participants are 18 years old and older and are experiencing life on their own for the first time. Most of them live on their own and are working. The club offers them the opportunity to socialize with their peers and enjoy fun activities. OTZMA participants, alongside staff members, create and run activities.

Beit Moriah

Beit Moriah is the name of a Jewish Community Center in Be'er Sheva. Last year they launched a new project called, *Bgyit Cham*, (a warm home). The aim of this project was to provide a safe and loving environment for kids who are at a high risk in their home. The kids come to the JCC after school, enjoy a hot meal, recreational activities, and get help with homework. Volunteers are needed to run classes in art, music, drama, sports, and science. Participants have also taught English.

