

SHERUT LEUMI

EXPERIENCE GUIDE



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1. Achuzat Sara

BASIC

Year Of Service: 2013-2014

Description of Organization:

Achuzat Sara is a home for children who were taken out of their homes either by court order or by parent's choice. The children grow up in the home, but are usually still in contact with their parents and go home occasionally.

Type of Service: Pnimia (dormitory, live-in facility) Population Served: At-risk children

Location of Service: Bnei Brak

Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami

BAT SHERUT

Responsibilities of Bat Sherut:

I was a madricha (counselor) for boys in 1st-3rd grade. I was basically a parental figure- served them meals, put them to bed, sent them off to school, homework help, took them to doctor appointments, and played with them.

Living Arrangements:

Lived on premises- we had a room for my co-counselors and myself in the mishpachton.

Acceptance Process:

I went to a sayeret, during which we were each interviewed individually and given a tour and explanation of the place. After a few days, I got a call from the sgan menahel (assistant director) that I was accepted.

Number of Bnot Sherut: 12 first year

** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)

Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 5

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	1
Obedience to Authority	5	Good Listener	4
Sociable	5	Flexibility	4
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	3	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	2	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:
 I was close enough to Jerusalem that I could go when I wanted, but not too close that I felt obligated to always go and hang out. There were almost no English speakers, which I thought was a plus because I got the full sherut experience like any other Israeli. I had a solid amount of free time but not too much where I was going crazy.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:
 I had a difficult time with my co-counselors because we were very different types of people. Sometimes we got calls last minute that we needed to take a kid to the doctor the next morning, for example (although that only happened a few times).

What did you gain from this experience?
 An appreciation and understanding of a whole new population I wasn't familiar with at all. I definitely had to step way out of my comfort zone in a lot of areas. I had to deal with things that I never had to before- being in touch with the kid's teacher, doctors appointments, PTA meetings, dealing with kids that could throw a crazy tantrum and hit you or other kids...

Other important Information:
 It was a really rewarding but also very challenging experience. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who wants to do it and feels they can. I fell in love with these kids and got so much from them, and I definitely made a huge impact on their lives.

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2. Alutaf

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: Alutaf is a preschool for children (ages 2-4) with autism.		
Type of Service: Informal Education	Population Served: Toddlers	
Location of Service: Rishon LeZion (one of many Alutaf branches)		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami		

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: One-on-one therapy with the children (ABA therapy), as well as supervising/playing outside, and helping with "circle time" and meals
Living Arrangements: Apartment in Rishon LeZion with 11 other girls working in the same preschool
Acceptance Process: Personal interview
Number of Bnot Sherut: 12
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	5
Sociable	5	Flexibility	5

Hard working	5	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	4	Organization	5
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS

** 1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 4
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

The staff was supportive and understanding, great experience for the future, good location (30 minutes from Tel Aviv, 45-60 from Jerusalem by bus), good networking for after sherut. Good resume builder. Can work in this professionally if so you chose. Trusted with just as much, if not more, responsibility as paid staff.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Virtually no breaks during work hours and no vacation time. Physically and emotionally draining (but so, so worth it!)

Other important Information:

If you think you may want to go into this, I HIGHLY recommended speaking to someone personally who has already completed sherut here. (Not just Alutaf Rishon, any Alutaf preschool).

CONTACT INFO

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3. Alyn Hospital

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: Alyn Hospital is a children's hospital and rehabilitation center treating children with a wide range of congenital and acquired conditions.	
Type of Service: Physical Health, Mental Health	Population Served: Physically Ill/handicapped Children, Mentally Disabled Children
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: As a Bat Sherut, I attended different therapies with the children, assisted the staff as another pair of hands and eyes and generally cared for the children.
Living Arrangements: Sherut Leumi apartment 20 minutes away.
Acceptance Process: An initial interview and then a callback.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 13
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best) Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3 Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	2	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	3
Sociable	3	Flexibility	4
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	1
Leadership	3	Organization	2
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	3
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS (**1=least, 5=most)

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

I met a really diverse group of people and because most didn't speak English it gave me the opportunity to improve my Hebrew. I lived in a very central location which made travelling very easy. Majority of the staff were really understanding of my situation as an olah chadasha and being here without my parents.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

I had to work every other Friday, which made some weeks very long and tiring. Sometimes I was given the bad/horrible jobs that the staff didn't want to do.

What did you gain from this experience?

I really learned all of my Hebrew from work and am now able to speak fluently. I got a taste of what it meant to live in Israeli culture (and really just adult culture) before I made my final decision to make Aliyah. It taught me a good work ethic and gave me a feeling that I was contributing something that all Israelis give at some point.

Other important Information:

It was a really incredible, life changing experience, which had its ups and downs, but definitely more ups than downs!

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4. Alyn Rehabilitation Hospital

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: This organization helps children rehabilitate through physical therapy, occupational therapy and other therapeutic methods after car crashes, terrorist attacks, accidents, and other situations. Children come to Alyn after a stay in a hospital while recovering from surgery.		
Type of Service: Welfare, Physical Health, Mental Health	Population Served: Toddlers, Elementary School Children, High School Age, Physically Ill/handicapped Children, Mentally Disabled Children	
Location of Service: Jerusalem		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami		

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I helped in the special needs classroom of severely mentally and physically disabled children. I also helped run the activities center for the children who are not mentally disabled; rather, they are going through rehabilitation after their accidents.
Living Arrangements: I lived in an "olah chadasha" apartment meaning that all the girls there spoke English fluently. Two (out of my seven) roommates had made aliyah that year and the rest worked in Nefesh B'Nefesh. We were provided with a toaster oven and washing machine (very important!). I found this to be a very positive experience since I would be exhausted from work and found that I could relax and express myself with my roommates knowing they would understand me (emotionally and language-wise).
Acceptance Process: There were two acceptance levels. First was coming into the hospital and having a tour followed by an interview. If you passed the interview, you were asked to come back for another interview. After this second interview, the rakezet would call you and inform you whether or not you were accepted.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 13
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	2
Sociable	5	Flexibility	3
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	2
Leadership	3	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 2	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 1
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Being in Jerusalem was a big plus. I lived 10 minutes from the Tachana Merkazit and 20 minutes from town and the shuk.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

I worked in two wards in the hospital. The first ward is Shachar, the special needs classrooms, where I had a very positive experience. The second ward was the activities center. My boss there was not a very nice individual. She was very critical, negative, and would put down my work. The other staff members who worked in my ward were not very friendly or supportive. Who you work with can really make or break your sherut leumi year. Don't be afraid to switch.

What did you gain from this experience?

I made strong connections with the children who were going through therapies after their accidents. It was difficult for many to cope with their new disabilities and not being able to function as they used to. Being able to put a smile on their faces and help them regain a lot of the simple skills they lost made my day. I also had a new appreciation for everything I have.

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5. Amutat Shekel

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2012-2013
Description of Organization: Shekel works with mentally disabled adults and integrates them into the work force and private accommodation, so that they can live independent lives		
Type of Service: Mental Health, Hadracha	Population Served: Physically Ill/handicapped Adults, Mentally Disabled Adults	
Location of Service: Jerusalem		
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnadvut		

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: To support the women I worked with and help them deal with every day household tasks, emotional issues, organization of the house etc.	
Living Arrangements: Apartment in Kiryat Moshe	
Acceptance Process: Interview and try out at a few different houses. I picked the house I wanted to work with.	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 20	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	5
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	2	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	3	Organization	5
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	1
Sense of Humor	1	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 3	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Central Jerusalem, possibility to work afternoon-evening instead if morning shifts

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Takes a lot of free time (accompanying girls to medical appointments etc.), very frustrating at times

What did you gain from this experience?

Although it was a very hard sherut, I had many amazing moments of bonding and connection with the chanichot. My Hebrew improved vastly and I really felt that I was giving.

Other important Information:

Not for someone looking for an easy sherut!! But very fulfilling

CONTACT INFO

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6. Bat Melech

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: Bat Melech runs the only two shelters in Israel that cater to religious women with abusive husbands. The shelters welcome women and their children for a stay of approximately six months (give or take), and help the women and children rehabilitate emotionally, financially, physically, and intimately.	
Type of Service: Welfare, Mental Health, Informal Education, Hadracha, Pnimia (dormitory, live-in facility)	Population Served: At-risk, Women-only, Babies, Toddlers, Elementary School Children, General Population, including many Hareidim
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Iriyat Yerushalayim	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: The Bnot Sherut live in the shelter, and work with the children of the women in the shelter in the mornings, from 8:00-13:00. I worked with the youngest children ages 0-3. In the afternoons, from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM we worked with the older kids who came home from Gan and School. During these times we played with the kids, helped them with homework, listened to them and showed them we were there for them. In the evenings we were able to leave, but when we stayed we could either participate in already existent activities, like a mosaics evening or a shiur torah, and other times we planned our own evenings for the women, like karaoke, art workshops, cooking contests, and when it was possible, night outings. We also stayed in some shabbatot.
Living Arrangements: We lived inside the shelter itself. We had a room for me and the other bat sherut, and at nights the night staff would pull out the bed and join us in the room. The three of us had our own bathroom, and a closet. Not necessarily enough space here for four suitcases though, I personally left some stuff by family, and also was lucky that the other bat sherut was so willing to let me have more shelves than her, and use under the bed, etc. Lunch is cooked for us by the women every day.

We can eat all the food in the kitchen, and organize breakfast and dinner for ourselves using all the food and dishes there, meant for everyone in the shelter.

Acceptance Process:

I visited the place, played a little with the children, and I was interviewed. They are mostly looking for Bnot Sherut who are mature, reliable and responsible. Since it can be an intense environment, a bat sherut would need to be able to handle the emotional flexibility of the place, as well as the technical flexibility- families come and leave, and the bat sherut has to be ready for these changes. Experience isn't as important as a readiness to learn.

Number of Bnot Sherut: 2

**** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)**

Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 5

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	5
Sociable	5	Flexibility	5
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	4	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**** 1=least, 5=most**

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

In Jerusalem with an amazing, amazing staff.

They treated the bnot sherut as staff in every way, in terms of decision making, asking us for our opinion, and trusting us with the budget to buy what we needed.

Small and intimate staff that are all there just to be good people and help those who are around them.

On Shabbatot you can always stay in the shelter, even on an "off" Shabbat.

I loved having a day off every week, as well as my evenings free in a flexible way- to not be there every evening is "allowed" but unfortunate for the place and for the bat sherut. However, leaving between once to three times a week is perfectly fine, to meet friend's siblings or just relax away from the shelter.

The laundry situation is great as well. There are laundry machines in the shelter that you can use ☺.

No "commute" to work since its all right there.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Sometimes it felt that the staff trusted us "too much" and we weren't trained to handle everything that came our way.

We have a meeting with the social worker once a week on how to handle different situations, which is very important, but you have to go into this knowing that there isn't always an easy answer of what should be done or how you should react to a certain situation.

What did you gain from this experience?

Learning how to work with kids of all ages, learning more about the issues of domestic abuse, being exposed to incredible people who work so hard for this organization, learning how to talk specifically with kids who are overwhelmed with so much hardship.

Other important Information:

It's a very "Israeli" environment. I was just about the only American there, and on the one hand everyone immediately invited me over for shabbatot, but also you have to be able to handle that.

Side note- the exact address of the shelter is confidential. You can't really have friends come over and visit you there, although of course you can meet up in a different place nearby. They did let my parents and the other bnot sherut's parents come and see the place though. =)

I absolutely loved this sherut and would be happy to speak to anyone about this sherut.

I also looked into many other options before I found this, and would love to help in general about looking into other options as well- use my contact info! =)

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7. Beit Hayered AMIT

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2012-2013
Description of Organization: Beit Hayered AMIT is foster home for 6-14 year old boys and girls who cannot live at home for various reasons (drugs, abuse, neglect, etc.). Two bnot sherut and a young couple are in charge of a group of 12 kids. There are about 10 such groups in the building- around 120 kids altogether. The Beit Hayered has 2 parts types of programs: internal and external. The internal is for the kids who live at the Beit Hayered full time. The external is for kids who spend all day at the pnimia but return home to sleep at night. There are 2 groups of external and the rest are internal. I did internal!	
Type of Service: Welfare, Mental Health, Informal Education, Pnimia (dormitory, live-in facility)	Population Served: At-risk, Elementary School Children
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Like a parent- make meals, take them to appointments, parent-teacher conferences, wake them up in the morning, put them to bed at night, help with homework, emotional help, etc.
Living Arrangements: Lived in the foster home building with the other bnot sherut in a different wing (not with the kids).
Acceptance Process: Sign up online, group sayeret with around 50 girls. They split the girls into groups and have them answers questions, play out scenarios, fill out forms, personal interview, and second round of sayeret with fewer girls this time. The girls go to the mishpachtonim (groups) and the madrichim watch how they interact with the kids. There was another personal interview.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 20-25
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	4
Sociable	2	Flexibility	4
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	4	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	3
Sense of Humor	2	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS (**1=least, 5=most)

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Located in Jerusalem, friendly tzevet, couple of English speaking staff, lots of support (tzevet, social workers etc.), best kids!

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

No free time, found it hard to constantly be with Israelis, very squishy living area (3-4 girls to a room), no Wi-Fi, very uncomfortable to ask for time off, emotionally taxing, the kids leave every other shabbat so you need to find Shabbat plans.

What did you gain from this experience?

Greater understanding of Israeli culture, exposure to lowest socio-economic parts of Israeli society, learned to appreciate what I have, became way more comfortable with the language, open mindedness, patience, acceptance of others and their opinions/ideas, learned my limits, strengths and weaknesses

Other important Information:

Overall, it was an amazing, fulfilling and emotionally rewarding experience- but almost everyone who did Sherut will agree that just as there were happy, exciting, rewarding and fun times- there are also lots of frustrating and hard times. Don't feel like you need to love every second! Good luck and PLEASE use my contact info if you have questions!!

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8. Beit Sefer Ilanot

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2012-2013
Description of Organization: Beit Sefer Ilanot is a special-needs school that caters to students with Cerebral Palsy (CP) and other muscular diseases. The students, ranging from ages 6-21, come from various cities in Israel (Ma'aleh Adumim, Mateh Yehuda, East Jerusalem, Bet Shemesh, Ashkelon, Achuzat Etrog, Modi'in etc.). There are approximately 70 students in the school, divided into 11 classes.		
Type of Service: Formal Education, Informal Education	Population Served: Physically Ill/handicapped Children, Physically Ill/handicapped Adults	
Location of Service: Jerusalem		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav		

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I was assigned as the Bat Sherut to a specific class (6 students in total in my class). My class was one of the youngest and lowest functioning in the school. The job demanded a lot of me physically and mentally. I was viewed and treated as a part of the staff - teacher, assistant, bat sherut, OT, PT, speech therapist. The job entails assisting the class throughout the day, whether it's meals, getting ready for pool therapy, PT/ OT activities, art, lessons, etc. It was VERY rewarding work!	
Living Arrangements: I requested to live with the other bnot sherut who would be working in Ilanot. We lived in a sherut leumi apartment (total 11 girls in the apartment) just down the block from the school, which was very convenient.	
Acceptance Process: I had an interview with the principal and assistant principal and then met with the yoetzet who's in charge of the bnot sherut. They showed me around the school and the grounds. The rakezet called me to tell me I was accepted and I had to decide if I wanted to pick them.	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 6	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	5
Sociable	3	Flexibility	5
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	3	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	5	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS (**1=least, 5=most)

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

It was great being in Jerusalem in a convenient location right near katamon! I was the only English speaking bat sherut - so I really felt immersed in the Hebrew and the culture. LOTS of English speaking staff/ staff who made aliyah. Having a group of 6 bnot sherut was nice - we were a tight knit group

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Being the only English speaking bat sherut could maybe be too much of a challenge for some girls. It was hard not having a fellow English speaking girl who was there going through the same experience with me. Since it's located in Jerusalem there isn't really a 'community' there, majority of the students don't live close to the school.

What did you gain from this experience?

I found I was challenged not only with the Hebrew but being independent and working so hands on with the children and getting exposed to the different fields of therapy and special education. Definitely improved my Hebrew and felt like I got a real 'Israeli' experience.

Other important Information:

The other bnot sherut you work with really can make the difference! Although the other 5 girls I worked with were all non-English speaking Israeli girls, they were so amazing and patient and understanding with me. Always inviting me and including me even with the language/ culture barrier (we're still in touch today and I see them from time to time)

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9. Beit Sefer Orot Etzion

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: Beit Sefer Orot is a boys elementary school.	
Type of Service: Formal Education	Population Served: Toddlers
Location of Service: Efrat	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav	
BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I did everything from making copies, helping a teacher in class, or taking out kids to help them one on one. Because I worked in Efrat I worked with some Anglo kids and helped with their Hebrew, but also taught English to others.	
Living Arrangements: I lived in an apartment about 10 minutes away from school.	
Acceptance Process: I went to a sayeret and depending on the school I got responses at different times. The rakezet in the area isn't the best so I ended up calling her to find out exactly what schools I got into but then it all worked out.	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 2	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	3
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	3
Sociable	3	Flexibility	3
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	4	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 4
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

I loved my school! Because I was in Efrat there were a lot of English speakers, which didn't make it easier necessarily but just more comfortable. My school understood what it meant to be an Olah and the staff was so welcoming and sweet. Being in the Gush was amazing. Not too far from Jerusalem and it felt like I was really part of the community. I did have a lot of free time but it was nice and I had a lot of freedom to go into Jerusalem, meet up with friends, and go to shiurim.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

The Rakezet of my area was pretty bad. It made things a bit hard but in the long run it didn't affect my day-to-day work. Obviously the Hebrew was the toughest part but that comes with time.

What did you gain from this experience?

Everything. I came out of my year of Sherut Leumi with a sense of confidence, appreciation, and really part of Am Yisrael. Its one thing to visit Israel and to learn here for a year, but its another to live on your own and really feel like you're giving back and doing what every Israeli does. I grew so much in my year and really felt that I matured and became way more independent.

Other important Information:

It was really tough but at the end of the day worth it.

CONTACT INFO

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10. Beit Sefer Reishit

BASIC

Year Of Service: 2010-2011

Description of Organization:

Beit Sefer Reishit is an elementary school that mainstreams special needs kids into the regular class system.

Type of Service: Formal Education, Special Ed School

Population Served: Elementary School Children, Mentally Disabled Children

Location of Service: Rosh Tzurim, Gush Etzion

Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav

BAT SHERUT

Responsibilities of Bat Sherut:

I was assigned to a specific class (Kita Bet) and was a shadow for the special needs kids in the class, as well as teacher's assistant and an overall bat sherut for the whole class. My primary focus was integrating the special needs kids into the class- through creative activities, playing together at recess, small educational group activities with both "regular" and special needs kids

Living Arrangements:

We lived in Elazar in a sherut leumi apartment. All the girls in my school lived together along with a few others (a total of 16 in a 2 floor apartment/house). We took the school hasaa from Elazar to Rosh Tzurim every morning (and most afternoons unless we had after-school activities with the kids).

Acceptance Process:

I signed up online for a "sayeret" and went in that day for an interview and a tour of the place itself. I remember having to fill out some forms that day as well. I got a call later (maybe a few weeks later I don't remember exactly) saying that I got the position, and had to give an answer within a set amount of time.

** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)

Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	3
Sociable	4	Flexibility	5
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	4	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS (**1=least, 5=most)		
Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 4

Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:
 It was in the Gush, a place that was familiar, since I went to Migdal Oz the year before. It was close to Jerusalem, which allowed us to go away for Shabbat often since we had no Shabbat responsibilities in Sherut. It was a nice transition into Israeli society since it was comfortable for Americans (lots of Americans live in the Gush), but the school was very much Israeli and I was forced to speak Hebrew all day, which helped me improve my Hebrew a lot! The staff was all very friendly and the school itself is very unique and was an incredible experience to be exposed to.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:
 Due to the nature of the schools teaching methods (integrating special needs kids), the rules are very flexible and many aspects disorganized. It took time to adjust how to be a rosh gadol in these situations and not get frustrated when scheduling doesn't go exactly as planned. Also since it was a school we had a lot of free time in the afternoon, which I found frustrating. I had to build myself my own schedule to keep myself busy and make sure my year would be as fulfilling as I anticipated.

What did you gain from this experience?
 Hebrew! Experience working in a school and with Israelis. Learnt a lot about the culture and felt that it was an excellent transition to starting university and really building my life in Israel. I learned how to be much more independent living in an apartment having to care for my own needs (shopping, food, meals, laundry etc.).

Other important Information:
 Sherut Leumi is such an incredible way for chutznikim to transition into Israeli society and become more comfortable in a foreign country. It a year where all you do is give, but really you gain so much at the same time! It's also a year-by-year commitment so it's not as daunting when coming to a new country. It's a chance to see if "you can do it"!

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11. Beit Sefer Reishit

BASIC

Year Of Service: 2012-2013

Description of Organization:

Bet Sefer Reishit is an incredible school in the gush, which integrates special needs students together with regular students in the same classroom.

Type of Service: Formal Education

Population Served: Elementary School Children

Location of Service: Gush Etzion, Rosh Tzurim

Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav

BAT SHERUT

Responsibilities of Bat Sherut:

As a Bat Sherut you are there to help the special needs students both with learning and integrating them with the rest of the kids. The exact set up depends on your class, but you help the students, go with special needs kids to therapies or run your own activities for the kids. You also work with the rest of the Bnot Sherut to organize programs for Rosh Chodesh and other holidays.

Living Arrangements:

When I did sherut there was an apartment in Elazar where all of the girls at Reishit lived. Since then they've moved to a new apartment in Rosh Tzurim, which is right around the corner from the school.

Acceptance Process:

It's definitely important to try and be in the first group of sayarot that visits Reishit. The day starts off with everyone together as a group listening to the rakezet, current bnot sherut, and woman in charge from the school, followed by a short tour of the school with the current bnot sherut. After that one by one the woman in charge runs interviews and there is a form to be filled out while you are waiting for your turn. (In the form they ask you to describe yourself and a few qualities and give you a few scenarios that will likely come up during sherut and ask you how you would deal with them)

Number of Bnot Sherut: 9 total, 3 of which were American

** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)

Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	3
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	3
Sociable	3	Flexibility	5
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	4	Organization	2
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	5	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 4
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

I felt that Reishit was an ideal place for Bnot Chul to do Sherut. Being in such a unique school, which is all about accepting people's challenges, you're surrounded by staff as well as students with endless patience for you and your situation (i.e.: being a clueless American).

I also wanted to feel that I was part of a community to some extent, because unlike other bnot sherut, we don't have a family to go home to for Shabbat or when we need a break. The gush was the perfect place and I always had an invitation for Shabbat if my plans fell through last minute, or if needed anything throughout the week. I felt that there was a good amount of American families that I could relate to, but not too much English that I wasn't challenging myself. I also knew that I wanted to be in a familiar area that wasn't too far from Jerusalem so Elazar was a great place. For some people there was too much free time, but I found that if I wanted more responsibilities I could sign up for afternoon volunteering and I was tired enough after a long day in Hebrew that I wanted to have the afternoon to relax.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

One of the hardest things about Reishit is that because they have so many Americans, they can't afford to have all of you leave for the summer and go to camp. In the end I managed to leave and finish my sherut at camp, but I did leave on a slightly bad note with the woman responsible for the bnot sherut.

The school can also be a bit disorganized. They don't stress timeliness or structure the same way most schools do. You need to have an open-minded attitude. And you need to make sure this doesn't lead to extra responsibilities falling on you. (For example, teachers often come late or leave early, but its not your job to be the main teacher in a classroom)

What did you gain from this experience?

Reishit is unlike any other school I know. It really tries to help every student's individual needs and I spent hours just watching the teachers work with the kids. I gained so much by being a part of a school with such an open-minded approach to education. If you're considering working with kids you really get a taste for it all (teaching, special needs, speech therapy, PT, OT...) The staff is incredible and I learnt how to work with special needs kids and regular kids alike. I found that working with kids was the perfect environment to improve my Hebrew, because it can be intimidating to speak to adults. Since the school is already so familiar with having American girls they're very understanding and help you adjust. It was important for me to feel like I was doing something for Israel as a new olah and I really feel I accomplished that and had Israeli integration.

CONTACT INFO

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12. Beit Sefer Reishit

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2013-2014	
Description of Service: Beit Sefer Reishit is an integrated special needs school which aims to integrate kids with special needs into a normal elementary school classroom.			
Type of Service: Formal Education		Population Served: Elementary School Children, Mentally Disabled Children	
Location of Service: Rosh Tzurim			
Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav			

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Assist a specific class in anything they need for example helping teach a lesson or leading a chug, giving more attention to the kids with special needs and helping them to integrate into the classroom.	
Living Arrangements: We lived in an apartment in Elazar. We had to travel to Rosh Tzurim each morning.	
Acceptance Process: They had a sayeret where they talked to all the girls about the school and then we each had a one on one interview.	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 9 (3 chutznikim)	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	4
Patience	4	Resilience	4

Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	4
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	2
Leadership	4	Organization	2
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Close to Jerusalem but it was nice to live in a yishuv with a community. We worked hard during the day but had a lot of time off in the afternoons. The staff was amazing and always listened to our concerns.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

They were a bit disorganized at times so we had to improvise a lot. Also we lived with 13 girls so that was challenging at times.

What did you gain from this experience?

I definitely have a deeper connection to Israel and feel more a part of the community and culture. I was able to meet amazing Israeli friends and work for unbelievable teachers. I also learned a lot of Hebrew

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13. Beit Sefer Reishit

BASIC

Year Of Service: 2012-2013

Description of Organization:

Best school ever! Mixes kids with and without special needs, gives the children tons of freedom and tons of responsibility, totally into experiential education and recognizing everyone for their challenges and talents. Go Reishit!!

Type of Service: Formal Education, Informal Education

Population Served: Elementary School Children, Mentally Disabled Children

Location of Service: Gush Etzion

Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav

BAT SHERUT

Responsibilities of Bat Sherut:

Basically ran the school (jokes.) I was in a third grade class, helped out with the kids with special need and without special needs

Living Arrangements:

I lived in a sherut leumi apartment with about 15 girls in a yishuv about five minutes away.

I lived in a sherut leumi apartment with about 15 girls in a yishuv about five minutes away.

Acceptance Process:

I heard about it through acquaintances, I went for an interview, was told I was accepted, and then heard back from them six months later. I didn't know about many other options, and didn't really know who to go to in order to find out about them. I would have loved for someone to help walk me through it.

Number of Bnot Sherut: 9

** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)

Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	2	Good Listener	4
Sociable	4	Flexibility	5
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	4	Organization	2
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	2	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

I love the Gush! It's pretty close to Jerusalem so I got to see my friends and family fairly often. The staff was amazing!! I learned so much from watching how they worked, and they LOVED the bnot sherut, which was so nice! There were so many bnot sherut, which was amazing because we worked together and were all in it together- those were my best friends throughout the year. There was a fair amount of English speakers, which was both a pro and a con. I learned a TON and grew in ways I really never expected.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

It was super disorganized, again the English speakers was both a pro and a con. Personally, I wish there was less free time. Our rakezet told us not to search for any volunteer opportunities in the afternoons because she was going to set us up, but she never did, so I found myself searching for things to fill my time already a few months in, and never really had a full schedule until the year was coming to a close.

Living conditions were pretty gross, tons of girls with only two bathrooms.

It took a few months to find our place in the school; they kind of just threw us in without giving us much training or even information on the children we were working with or what was expected of us.

What did you gain from this experience?

I learned SO MUCH about education, and what it means to educate and what is important in running a school and a classroom. I learned how to discipline, I learned so much about children with special needs, and about children accepting each other. I became a lot more independent

throughout the year, and learned a lot more Hebrew. It was so enthralling to become a real significant part of the classroom for a year, and to form such special relationships with the children. I would never have changed that year for the world.

Other important Information:

The experiences of the bnot sherut very much depend on the classroom they are put in. mine happened to be especially challenging and I think that's why it felt so rewarding. I know that there were other bnot sherut who felt otherwise, meaning their classes were less challenging and they felt that they craved more of a challenge. But the school itself is an unbelievable place, and there is so much room for you to contribute your talents. The staff is so supportive and they love having us, and the children will be obsessed with you.

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14. Beit Sefer Reishit

BASIC

Year Of Service: 2014-present

Description of Organization:

Beit Sefer Reishit is an elementary school whose mission is one of inclusion- creating an environment in which children with "special needs" (both in the classical and non-classical senses) are included in both social and learning aspects of a mainstream classroom. The staff at Reishit not only facilitates the inclusion in creative ways, but also strives to give each child tools to flourish in the real world.

Type of Service: Formal Education, Special Education

Population Served: Elementary School Children, Mentally Disabled Children

Location of Service: Rosh Tzurim, Gush Etzion

Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav

BAT SHERUT

Responsibilities of Bat Sherut:

Each bat sherut is assigned either a class or a grade and day-to-day work depends on the needs of the specific class... can range from shadowing a child with severe downs syndrome to being another teacher in a classroom with children with learning disabilities but no mental disabilities

Living Arrangements:

Dirat sherut in Rosh Tzurim, which was a minute walk from the school.

Acceptance Process:

Sayeret a couple of different days in the winter checking out few places in the gush (Reishit being one of them) and then speaking to the rakezet for all of these places, Oshrit, regarding which I was most interested in, and then a phone call a couple of weeks later with an acceptance.

Number of Bnot Sherut: 11

** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)

Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	3
Patience	5	Resilience	3
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	3
Sociable	3	Flexibility	3
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	4	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	3	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Living in the gush provides me with an Anglo community if sought out, but not overwhelmingly Anglo

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Working completely in Hebrew is exhausting... and frequently frustrating in that I feel like I have much to contribute (creative project/ lesson ideas etc.) but am barred from communicating it because of the language

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15. Beit Sefer Shorashim/Moadonit Shorashim (Garin Reut)

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2014-present
Description of Organization: Beit Sefer Shorarshim is a Mamlachti Dati elementary school in South Tel Aviv (next to the Tachana Merkazit). Its students are mainly from Ethiopian or Bucharian families. It's a very rough area. Moadonit Shorashim is on the same campus and serves as an afternoon care for students who do not go home right after school.		
Type of Service: Formal Education, Informal Education	Population Served: At-risk, Elementary School Children, New Immigrants	
Location of Service: Tel Aviv		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami		

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: In the school I do a lot of one-on-one with students, social programming, help in the classroom, mentorship, and I teach a small English class. In the moadonit I do homework help, supervise the chanichim at all times, play with the chanichim, prepare and give over chugim, decorate the moadonit, prepare snacks for the chanichim, and help plan the daily schedule. In addition, a big part of the moadonit is discipline, support, and warmth for the chanichim.
Living Arrangements: Sherut Leumi Apartment, 10 minute walk from school
Acceptance Process: I was interviewed by my rakezet. In the garin, I had one interview with a faculty member in the school and in the other interview I only met the bnot sherut.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 4
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: N/A

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	4
Sociable	4	Flexibility	3
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	3	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Big garin, nice staff, busy but also time to have fun, easy to travel from Tel Aviv, being in a city.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Scary area of Tel Aviv, no Anglo families in the area

What did you gain from this experience?

Appreciation of the struggles of weaker communities and olim who aren't from the Western world.

Other important Information:

I am still at the relative beginning of my service

CONTACT INFO

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16. Beit Sefer Zalman Aran

BASIC

Year Of Service: 2012-2013

Description of Organization:

Zalman Aran is a standard elementary school (grades 1-6, I think). Due to its location in Talpiyot and on the border of Baka/Ramat Rachel, the school has integrated stable and un-stable students. The school has many wealthy upscale students, as well as many students from broken or at-risk homes.

Type of Service: Welfare, Formal Education

Population Served: At-risk, Elementary School Children, General Population

Location of Service: Jerusalem

Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami

BAT SHERUT

Responsibilities of Bat Sherut:

As a Bat Sherut in Zalman Aran, you work mainly as a one-on-one teacher with the kids in the classroom, outside of the classroom and regarding extra curricular activities. You learn with the kids who need extra help/special attention in all subjects including math, reading, English, writing, tanach and more. Many of the kids from at-risk homes need the extra attention and love.

Living Arrangements:

"American" Sherut Leumi Apartment in Givat Mordechai, Jerusalem. Was a straight bus to work everyday, around 15-20 minutes.

Acceptance Process:

N/A (I applied late and was accepted immediately without proper application process) and therefore cannot answer properly.

Number of Bnot Sherut: 4

** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)

Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	4
Patience	4	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	4
Sociable	4	Flexibility	3
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	4	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS (**1=least, 5=most)		
Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 4

Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:
 Living in Jerusalem is always a plus. Many of the staff members speaks English. *** The staff APPRECIATED Olim Chadashim, which was a key factor in my successful sherut. They understood that I was alone in Israel and sometimes needed time to deal with things and they always granted me the time and days off. VERY ACCOMMODATING to Americans. Staff is very kind, caring, friendly and sociable. A lot of free time (that you can take for yourself or you can use to put extra time in with the kids). Rakezet of the school is very helpful and always there to help you with any issues with children, staff or accommodations.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:
 A little disorganized in the beginning until you are assigned to a permanent class.
 A little bit hard to learn the ropes, you are kind of just thrown into the process and learn it step by step.

What did you gain from this experience?
 Definitely a greater understanding of all ways of Israeli Society - the upper-class, the lower-class, the children at risk, the education, etc.
 More comfortable speaking in Hebrew and putting myself out there.
 More willing to give a shot at situations that are generally outside of my comfort zone.

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17. Bet Elazraki

BASIC

Year Of Service: 2011-2012

Description of Organization:

Bet Elazraki is a foster home that serves youth of all ages (toddlers to teens) who come from abusive or neglectful homes. The home's staff takes care of the children in all aspects of life - from basic physical needs, such as food and a place to sleep, to emotional needs, such as therapy and loving care. The Bet Yeled is split up by gender and age and each group of kids has 2-3 madrichim/madrichot.

Type of Service: Welfare, Pnimia
(Dormitory/live-in facility)

Population Served: At-risk, Toddlers,
Babies, Elementary School Children

Location of Service: Netanya

Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami

BAT SHERUT

Responsibilities of Bat Sherut:

The madrichot in the Bet Yeled are essentially mothers. They take care of everything. They wake the kids up, prepare them for school, take them to the doctor, meet with therapists, go to parent teacher conferences, help them with homework, plan exciting events for them and put them to sleep. It is a 24/7 job.

Living Arrangements:

The Bet Yeled has 8 buildings on the street and all the madrichot live in any one of those buildings.

Acceptance Process:

One group interview and one personal interview

Number of Bnot Sherut: 50 (2 Anglos)

** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)

Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	2	Good Listener	5
Sociable	5	Flexibility	5
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	3	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	5	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

The work is endlessly meaningful and the kids are amazing. I learned so much about myself, about education, about discipline, and empathy. There were few English speakers so I was able to learn Hebrew. The caliber of the other Sherut girls is really high and I was surrounded by a fantastic and inspiring staff. I never felt bored. The place is very organized.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Far from Jerusalem, the home is very large so there is less of a personal and intimate feel. Because three 18 year olds are in charge of each group of kids, sometimes it felt like we really on our own in situations that we couldn't necessarily handle. I did not feel like they were helpful in terms of my "American-ness". No one helped me get a Visa or health insurance and I wasn't given extra time off to take care of those things (I was not a citizen yet).

What did you gain from this experience?

I gained an appreciation for what I have in life, and because of that, how much I have to give. After surviving and thriving in Sherut in the Bet Yeled I feel like I can literally do anything in life. I learned Hebrew on a fluent level, which allowed for my absorption into Israeli society to be much smoother. I created lasting relationships with wonderful children and amazing friends.

CONTACT INFO

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18. Bnei Akiva

BASIC

Year Of Service: 2013-2014

Description of Organization:

I worked in a special education kindergarten. I worked with a group of 7 throughout the year to integrate them into a bigger kindergarten of 30 kids.

Type of Service: Animals, Formal Education, Informal Education, Hadracha

Population Served: Toddlers, Elementary School Children, High School Age

Location of Service: Maaleh Gilboa/ Efrat

Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami

BAT SHERUT

Responsibilities of Bat Sherut:

Kuminarit, worked in a barn, and in a Beit Yeladim in Maaleh Gilboa and then switched to Efrat and worked in a chinuch meyuchad gan.

Living Arrangements:

Caravan in the kibbutz

Acceptance Process:

Saayorot, interviews, call backs

Number of Bnot Sherut: 1

** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)

Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	2	Teamwork	3
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	5	Good Listener	4
Sociable	2	Flexibility	4
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	2	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	3	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	3	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	3
Sense of Humor	5	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 1	Fulfilling Experience: 3	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Beautiful community, adopted family

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Bad rakezet, lived in the middle of nowhere, lived alone, few English speakers

What did you gain from this experience?

Understanding and being part of Israeli society and culture.

Other important Information:

I had a horrible time from the beginning until the end. The process was a nightmare (I went to eleven saayarot and never got a teudah that I finished the year of sherut). I left Maaleh Gilboa because I was living alone for seven months. The rakezet from the Gush told me I had a job and I packed up my stuff from the kibbutz and left. She didn't get me insurance and then ignored my calls when I was trying to find the address, she didn't let me move in and start working for six weeks. For that reason it looks like I never fulfilled my service and was homeless during that time. It was the worst year of my life I still believe in the values of serving the country but I do not feel at all that I was taken care of even when I reached out to Bishvil for help. I would recommend army service over sherut leumi now or not serving at all.

CONTACT INFO

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19. Emunah

BASIC

Year Of Service: 2010-2011

Description of Organization:

Emunah is a large-scale organization based on the women workers organization. They have Emunah day care centers located throughout Israel and have an excellent reputation, as a result of the individual attention and dedicated care offered by the metaplot. Emunah day care centers educate according to religious values and Jewish traditions. They operate under government supervision.

Type of Service: Informal Education

Population Served: Babies, Toddlers

Location of Service: Modiin

Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami

BAT SHERUT

Responsibilities of Bat Sherut:

As a Bat Sherut I rotated between the three age groups (babies, toddlers, 3 year olds). I watched over the kids while the mitapelet dealt with extenuating circumstances, sometimes changed diapers (although its not part of the job description, I didn't really mind - sometimes I preferred to change diapers than to babysit a group of 16 super active kids). I also helped out in the kitchen sometimes, giving out food to each class, and also assisted mitaplot with art projects. It was a great environment and I grew close with the mitaplot and attached to the kids!! Plus -- nap time.

Living Arrangements:

Lived at home

Acceptance Process:

Short interview, accepted me on the spot.

Number of Bnot Sherut: 12

** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)

Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	3
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	3
Sociable	4	Flexibility	5
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	2
Quick-thinking	2	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	2	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	3
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 4
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

No English speakers -- so you have no choice but to communicate in Hebrew, everyone was really understanding and helpful to language barrier. I ended up learning a lot (granted, they were mostly baby related words).

Great Staff - 9 mitaplot

Two meals a day plus snacks

Nap time

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Exhausting - constantly on your feet, need to be alert and attentive to children's needs. Also need to keep them entertained.

What did you gain from this experience?

Appreciation for working parents and mitaplot (you'd think its an easy job but it can be pretty hectic – the bat sherut is really helpful), understanding childrearing

Other important Information:

The only thing I regret from my shnat sherut is that I lived at home – it would've been a more challenging and exciting experience to live in an apartment.

CONTACT INFO

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20. Gan & Old Age Home

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2012-2013
Description of Organization: I worked in two separate places; one was a Gan for emotionally disturbed children, where we had to create a living environment for children either coming from bad homes, or who were mentally disturbed. The other was an old age facility that ran programming in Alon Shvut. We did all sorts of activities with the elderly, specifically many people with memory loss and Alzheimer's. We had activities ranging from art class to Torah classes and art and music history lessons.		
Type of Service: Mental Health, Senior Citizens, Formal Education	Population Served: Elderly, At-risk, Physically Ill/handicapped Adults, Mentally Disabled Children	
Location of Service: Elazar, Gush Etzion		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav		

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: In the Gan I was an extra hand. Whatever the ganenet needed me to do, whether it be running a mifgash, or cleaning the floors, I was supposed to be there to support and help her. They put a strong emphasis on me building a connection with the troubled kids. In the old age facility I worked one on one with a lot of the members, helping them with projects and also helping around with setting things up for activities. It was very fun and easy going, and I learned a lot about mental development in the later stages of life.	
Living Arrangements: I lived in an apartment in Elazar a few minutes from my Gan and a bus ride/ tremp away from the old age facility in Alon Shvut. I shared the apartment with 15 other girls.	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 1	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 1	

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	5	Good Listener	4
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	3
Leadership	4	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS (**1=least, 5=most)

Overall Experience:	Fulfilling Experience:	Challenging Experience:
4	4	5

Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

It was just close enough to Jerusalem but I also didn't feel like I was only surrounded by tourists and Americans. There usually are a lot of Americans serving in the Gush though, so it's nice to have Americans in the apartment when you come home from work. Also let's be honest, the Gush is the most incredible place to live. There's a much friendlier feel and this special quality of really feeling the connection to Am Yisrael. Everyone just really wants to help each other.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

The Gan I worked in had an annoying Ganenet. She would often blame me for problems or talk to me like I was stupid because I couldn't get my thoughts across because I was just learning Hebrew. But I always understood her, so I just felt like she was talking down to me

What did you gain from this experience?

Better understanding of where Israelis are coming from, HEBREW, and I made awesome connections with families in the community

CONTACT INFO

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21. Gan Chinuch Meyuchad

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: The Gan Chinuch Mwyuchad is a special education kindergarten. I worked with a group of 7 kids throughout the year to integrate into a bigger kindergarten of 30 kids.		
Type of Service: Formal Education	Population Served: Toddlers	
Location of Service: Efrat		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav		

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I worked as an aid to the ganenet. That meant doing anything from working one on one with the kids on motor skills in the morning to preparing the projects for the class.
Living Arrangements: Apartment in the town where I worked
Acceptance Process: First we went to sayarot (try out days for the different jobs). Then there was an interview by the ganenet (main teacher) and sayat (aid) as well as a separate interview with the rakezet (coordinator of the Sherut Leumi organization).
Number of Bnot Sherut: 12
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	4	Resilience	3
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	1

Sociable	2	Flexibility	3
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	2
Quick-thinking	2	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	3
Leadership	1	Organization	2
Enthusiasm	2	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	3
Sense of Humor	1	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 3	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

One easy bus to Jerusalem.

Made great relationships with my coworkers that I'm still in touch with.

Really felt as if I was part of a team at work.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Although I'd love the Gush, but I felt there was a lack of welcoming amongst the families toward the bnot Sherut. It's because the yishuv is so big and if you push for it, you can make relationships with families. It doesn't come easily though.

The rakezet of Aminadav is VERY hard to work with. She's unhelpful and not accommodating to foreigners.

The apartment was tiny with seven girls, tiny kitchen, and one shower. It was really not ideal.

What did you gain from this experience?

I really learned all of my Hebrew from work and am now able to speak fluently.

I got a taste of what it means to live in Israeli culture (and really just adult culture) before I made my final decision to make Aliyah.

It taught me a good work ethic and gave me a feeling that I was contributing something that all Israelis give at some point.

CONTACT INFO

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22. Gan HaShikumi (1st year), Machon Hamikdash (2nd year)

BASIC

Year Of Service: 2013-present

Description of Organization:

Gan HaShikumi is a gan for special needs children that have physical and/or learning disabilities stemming from damage to the brain, but whose IQ is sound (for example, CP, not Down Syndrome). Machon HaMikdash, which is where I am currently in sherut, is an exhibition regarding the rebuilding of the Third Temple. The sherut leumi is in HaMidrasha LeYeda HaMikdash, which is the educational side of the Machon.

Type of Service: Tour Guide, Special Education-Preschool

Population Served: Physically Ill/handicapped Children, General Population, Tourists

Location of Service: Jerusalem

Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami

BAT SHERUT

Responsibilities of Bat Sherut:

Gan HaShikumi: The bat sherut joins the staff of the gan (which is typically one ganenet and a sayat), and essentially takes the place of a second sayat.

Machon HaMikdash: The bat sherut gives tours in Machon HaMikdash's exhibit, gives presentations in schools, and helps with other activities that teach about the Mikdash, including plays and maintaining the website.

Living Arrangements:

Gan HaShikumi: apartment right by Sha'arei Tzedek, easy access to buses and the light rail

Machon HaMikdash: apartment in Giva'at Shaul (in Jerusalem, not Giva'at Shmuel in the Merkaz!), easy walk to the Tachana HaMerkazit, the Gesher HaMeitarim, and buses to all over the place.

In both of these apartments, I did not have access to a washing machine and had to find elsewhere to do my laundry. I also opted to be in the regular Israeli apartment, as opposed to the "bnot chul" apartment option that Bat Ami has in Givat Mordechai.

Acceptance Process:

For Gan HaShikumi, there was just the sayeret, which you sign up for on Bat Ami's website. On the day of, we first met with the rakezet of the gan and of sherut leumi, who gave us an introduction to what the gan was. Afterwards, we had a chance to enter into the ganim and interact with the children. At the end, there was a personal interview. All in all, probably 3 or 4 hours.

Machon HaMikdash has both an earlier interviewing stage and the regular sayeret. The earlier interviewing stage is called a miyun mukdam, and it is the miyun mukdam for all of the midrashot that are involved with agudat hamidrashot. It took place in a school in Petach Tikva, and it was a personal interview. If you pass the miyun mukdam, then you can come to the sayeret. The sayeret is a pretty small group of girls (or at least it was for me), and involved several different aspects having to do with the sherut, including both group and personal dynamics. It is all day long, but it is a very fun sayeret. All those who come to the sayeret also have to prepare a presentation ahead of time on one of the topics that they offer and present it.

Number of Bnot Sherut: Gan HaShikumi- 7, Machon HaMikdash-8

** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)

Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	5	Teamwork	5
Patience	4	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	4
Sociable	5	Flexibility	5
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	3
Leadership	4	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

** 1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Gan HaShikumi: the opportunity to pick up a lot of Israeli culture that I wouldn't have gotten otherwise, opens doors to working in special education afterwards if you are interested, end at 3 (so afternoon/evenings there is time for other things).

Machon HaMikdash: wonderful staff, lots of English speakers, chance to pick up really cool skills (like video editing and website design!), chance to interact with people from all over the world

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Gan HaShikumi: I personally had difficulties with the staff, which made my year kind of unpleasant at times, very few English speakers

Machon HaMikdash: long (and sometimes variable) hours

What did you gain from this experience?

Gan HaShikumi: I picked up a lot of Israeli culture. My Hebrew also improved dramatically. I also started gaining the ability to deal with difficult people.

Machon HaMikdash: I am only two months into the year, but so far, my confidence has improved. My Hebrew is getting better. Machon HaMikdash is also a tight-knit staff, so my support system here in Israel is really growing.

Other important Information:

I personally did not have such a great year at Gan HaShikumi. In retrospect, it was not the best place for me, but I know many people for whom special needs is the right fit and would enjoy something like it. It is not a bad place at all, just not a good place for me. Don't be afraid to switch if you are not happy.

I am also very glad that I am doing two years, both for ideological reasons, but also because it gives me a chance to have a better experience in sherut leumi.

CONTACT INFO

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23. Gan Nitzan

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2012-2013	
Description of Organization: Gan Nitzan is a Gan Safa with 9 children with speech development issues			
Type of Service: Formal Education		Population Served: Toddlers	
Location of Service: Elazar			
Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav			

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I worked as one of the staff members. I had a closer connection to the kids being that I was closer in age to them than other tzevet members were. I would sit with them in mifgash, play with them in the chatzer, and be their friend when they needed me to be.	
Living Arrangements: I lived in a house with 14 other Bnot sherut of the area right down the street from my sherut.	
Acceptance Process: I had a very easy time being accepted to my sherut. The interview was very easy going and they were happy to have me there.	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 1	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	4

Obedience to Authority	5	Good Listener	5
Sociable	4	Flexibility	5
Hard working	3	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	3	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS		
**1=least, 5=most		
Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 3

Benefits/Perks of this Sherut: Nice staff, lots of free time, live close to work, relaxed environment, good energy
Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut: Boring at times, not always the most inspiring of days
What did you gain from this experience? Appreciation for quality childhood education, experience working with kids formally, solid practice of my Hebrew skills

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24. Gan Sulam

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2006-2007
Description of Organization: Gan Sulam is a chain of preschool and elementary schools for physically and mentally disabled children. Classes range from Autism to CP and other physical handicaps.		
Type of Service: Formal Education, Informal Education	Population Served: Toddlers, Physically Ill/handicapped Children, Mentally Disabled Children	
Location of Service: Jerusalem		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Iriyat Yerushalayim		

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Helping out with daily activities in the classroom, changing diapers, preparing meals, cleaning up.
Living Arrangements: Sherut Leumi apartment a 20 minute bus ride away for two months. Then I moved into my midrasha's apartment (I was learning at night).
Acceptance Process: One interview and then I was told I got the job.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 2
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 3

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	3
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Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	5
Sociable	2	Flexibility	5
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	2	Organization	2
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	3
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 2	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Not a lot of benefits or perks. I loved working with the children. They were incredible.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

It was relatively disorganized. I would often get to work and be the only one there trying to hold onto as many kids as possible until another staff member would show up late. I was overworked and taken advantage of. I now work at a school for autistic children and it is unheard of to ask them to change diapers, which is something I was required to do. If kids had accidents I was always the one expected to clean it up and I had to fight to get a break for lunch during the day. It was known that Sulam didn't treat their bnot sherut well, the year before my shnat sherut they had 10 bnot sherut where I served. My year they were only given taken for 2.

What did you gain from this experience?

It allowed me to discover what I wanted to do with my life, which is teach autistic children.

Other important Information:

The school is a charedi/chassidish run school and while they were respectful of the fact that I was not charedi they did push me to go see their rabbis. They have some really incredible people working at the school, I just don't think that they understand what a bat sherut's job is and that they are not simply servants.

CONTACT INFO

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25. Gan Tiltan and Maodon

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2012-2013
Description of Organization: Gan Tiltan is a small kindergarten. The Moadon other is an after school program funded by the city and the community center		
Type of Service: Formal Education, Informal Education	Population Served: At-risk, Elementary School Children, Kindergarten children with learning disabilities	
Location of Service: Maale Adumim		
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnadvut		

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: <u>In the gan:</u> teacher's assistant, playing with the kids during playtime, helping one on one with projects and work. <u>In the moadon:</u> working with 1st and 2nd graders helping with homework, doing activities, art projects, helping them with conflicts, discipline, and being a positive role model	
Living Arrangements: Lived in an apartment that was in the same city. It was a 45 min walk or 10 min bus ride to work everyday	
Acceptance Process: The interview was very simple and I didn't even have to go to the Gan I wanted to work at, spoke to the rakezet. To work at the moadonit I had to do another interview with someone from city hall but only after sherut had already started	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 25 (with different jobs)	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3	

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	2	Good Listener	3
Sociable	3	Flexibility	2
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	2	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	3	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	3	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	2
Sense of Humor	2	Endless Energy	2

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Close to Jerusalem, great community. A lot of English speakers in the neighborhood so I made friends and met families for Shabbat. Apartment was not so comfortable but you make it work. Staff was very nice and pleasant everyone was very supportive and helpful.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Not many other bnot sherut who spoke English. Apartment was gross, hard to live with Israelis. Worked every night till 6.

What did you gain from this experience?

Appreciation for the education system. More comfortable speaking Hebrew and gained more confidence. Helping kids with their problems is fulfilling

CONTACT INFO

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26. Hadassah Ein Karem

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2009-2010
Description of Organization: Hadassha is a hospital. I worked in the adult psych ward.		
Type of Service: Welfare, Physical Health, Mental Health	Population Served: Mentally Disabled Adults	
Location of Service: Jerusalem		
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnadvut		

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Part time secretary, run errands, man the nurses' station, assist the patients, supervise meals for the girls with eating disorders, accompany patients when they need to leave the ward.
Living Arrangements: Sherut leumi apartment in a building entirely occupied by Hadassah Bnot Sherut.
Acceptance Process: It was a while ago so probably not 100% accurate anymore, but there was a group dynamic session followed by a personal interview.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 100 in the hospital as a whole, 1 in my ward
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 5
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	4
Patience	4	Resilience	5

Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	5
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	3	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	3	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

In Jerusalem. A LOT of bnot sherut, so there's always a good chance of finding English speakers, the staff in the psych ward is AMAZING. Standard working hours (8-4) and you don't need to take work home.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

The patients can sometimes be a little hard to deal with, the person in charge when I was there was a pain - but she has left since then. Exhausting but rewarding.

What did you gain from this experience?

The ability to stand up for myself and be in a position of authority, responsibility, a better understanding of the world of medicine.

Other important Information:

There are lots of other wards in the hospital. Each one is different from the other but you get to check out two places you want to be in and choose the one better suited for you :)

CONTACT INFO

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27. Hadassah Har Hatzofim Hospital

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2013-2014	
Description of Organization: Hadassah is a hospital.			
Type of Service: Physical Health		Population Served: Elderly, Babies, Toddlers, Elementary School Children, High School Age, Physically Ill/handicapped Children	
Location of Service: Jerusalem			
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnadvut			

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Clean machines, help the nurses, organize, help the secretary, organize the medicines.	
Living Arrangements: Sherut leumi apartment	
Acceptance Process: Interview	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 12	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	2	Teamwork	2
Patience	5	Resilience	3

Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	5
Sociable	3	Flexibility	5
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	2	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	2
Leadership	3	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 3	Challenging Experience: 4
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

In Jerusalem. Few English speakers so you learn Hebrew. A solid day of work and the nights free. A decent sized staff. You get to know everyone and feel like family.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Location is in east Jerusalem

What did you gain from this experience?

Appreciation for life and understand they way things work. More comfortable with speaking Hebrew and asking about people's life stories.

CONTACT INFO

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Facebook Name: Michelle Czinn

28. Herzl Center

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: The Herzl Center is a museum on Har Herzl. They have tours of the museum and of the mountain and they had events for different groups of people.		
Type of Service: Museum	Population Served: Elderly, Elementary School Children, High School Age, Soldiers, General Population, Tourists	
Location of Service: Jerusalem		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami		

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I gave the tours in English when there were English groups. Sat in the reservation center to answer phone calls and emails.	
Living Arrangements: Apartment for Bnot Sherut Bodidot	
Acceptance Process: I switched jobs in the middle of the year so I just had a simple interview	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 7	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	5
Patience	4	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	5
Sociable	5	Flexibility	5
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	5	Organization	5
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 3
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

AMAZING STAFF!!!!

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

I didn't always have things to do between tours.

What did you gain from this experience?

I am a lot more comfortable speaking in Hebrew. And more comfortable speaking in front of large groups.

Other important Information:

I think that doing sherut leumi is something that I will never regret because I gained so much and I was able to serve my country.

CONTACT INFO

Name: Ilana Katzin

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29. Herzl Center

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2011-2012
Description of Organization: Herzl Center, under the World Zionist Organization. Herzl Center focuses on educating about Herzl and Zionism in general.	
Type of Service: Informal Education, Hadracha, Museum, Tour Guide	
Population Served: General Population, Tourists	
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnadvut	
BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Guide in the Herzl Museum, guide on Mount Herzl. Some administration work answering phones and taking reservations.	
Living Arrangements: Sherut Leumi flat in Jerusalem, 10 minutes walk from Mt. Herzl. Not located in Sherut Leumi building (advantages: no curfew, more relaxed. disadvantages: no washing machine, generally less facilities)	
Acceptance Process: Sent an e-mail to the head of the Center, in which I had to include my CV and a letter about why I wanted to work there. They accepted me. They didn't expect me to fly out for an interview.	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 5 (1 st year), 9 (2 nd year)	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	2	Teamwork	4
Patience	4	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	2
Sociable	5	Flexibility	4
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	5	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 4
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

The people who are worked with became my family.

I integrated into Israeli society. (Aliyah isn't just about physically being in the country. It is being with your Jewish 'family' and being part of everything in a positive sense here.)

I gained a lot of confidence.

It is a time of personal growth and you have to be willing to accept the growth and challenges.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

It is hard to live on a 1000 Shekel 'salary, of which 250 Shekel is for internal transport for the month. Money is required to buy food, and to purchase necessary things such as cleaning products and toiletries. Other native Israeli girls cope easily because they can bring stuff from home.

There was no washing machine in the flat requiring me to schlep on my back a load of washing and wait a while for it to be done. It is not fun have to live on buses and always feel like you have a heavy bag on your back that you have to drag around... I couldn't rely on the Kashrut of the girls in the flat. It was a pain.

What did you gain from this experience?

I integrated into Israeli society. I have wonderful friends and good relations with people who I worked with. I gained a lot of confidence. It was a tough experience because of an unfortunate event that took place, but it gave me another insight in to Israeli society. I've gained a lot and probably more than I will be consciously aware of at this stage.

CONTACT INFO

Name: Gabriella

Facebook Name: Gabriella Miller

30. The Israel Museum

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2012-2013
Description of Organization: The Israel Museum in Jerusalem provides art, history, and culture to its visitors. The visitor can experience all types of art and immerse him or herself in the past and catch a glimpse of the future.		
Type of Service: Museum	Population Served: General Population	
Location of Service: Jerusalem		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami		

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: As a bat sherut you are required to have a basic knowledge of computers and its programs. Should have the ability to follow directions as well as working on her own.
Living Arrangements: I was given an apartment in a nearby neighborhood by Bat Ami with a madricha and rakezet
Acceptance Process: There was a short interview with the head of the department I would work in about my responsibilities and what to expect. Not many people tried out and they needed three girls so my position was guaranteed if I wanted it.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 3
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 1
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 3

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	3
Patience	5	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	5	Good Listener	5

Sociable	4	Flexibility	3
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	3
Leadership	4	Organization	5
Enthusiasm	3	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	3
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 4
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Free entrance to the museum and any of its exhibitions on the opening nights. The staff was wonderful and kind. The staff is pretty small so you get to know quite a few people. Discounts on anything in the museum. Encouraged to see the museum during breaks. Tours of the different departments and exhibitions for museum staff are regular.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

There were too many English speakers. My Hebrew did not improve as much as I would have liked. The work could get very tiresome and it gets repetitive.

What did you gain from this experience?

I've become more independent and comfortable in unfamiliar settings. My understanding and love for art and Israel grew immensely. I gained wonderful and made life long friends in the other bnot sherut ,as well as many contacts in the museum world.

Other important Information:

The work isn't so glamorous and can get a bit boring but the end goal, bringing art, history and culture to Israel and people all over the world who come to visit, is really important. This isn't a laid back job work is expected to be done and done well.

CONTACT INFO

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Facebook Name: Yonina Sakols

31. The Israel Museum

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2012-2013
Description of Organization: The Israel Museum is the national museum, home of one of the most famous collection of Judaica and the largest collection of Israeli art, among many other archeological and artistic collections.		
Type of Service: Museum, Administration, Art	Population Served: Elderly, Women-only	
Location of Service: Jerusalem		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami		

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I worked in the Digital Collections department where I entered and edited data to the museum's internal and online databanks. I also assisted the director on special projects and worked closely with specific departments to help organize and upload images of objects.	
Living Arrangements: Sherut Leumi apartment close to the museum.	
Acceptance Process: Interview and description of the work.	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 4	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	4
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Patience	4	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	5	Good Listener	5
Sociable	3	Flexibility	3
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	1
Leadership	1	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Mostly all English speaking staff in the office. Very interesting work. Free entrance to all exhibitions. Lots of great learning experiences, especially about the goings on behind the scenes of the museums. Just the general coolness of working in a museum :)

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

High pressure. High expectations from the boss. Boring at times. Sometimes cleaning up computer messes left behind by the elder and less computer savvy volunteers.

What did you gain from this experience?

I learned a lot about working for such a large institution. Improved computer skills. I learned the correct way to correspond with important individuals such as donors and directors. I became more comfortable with myself as a result of being treated like a responsible adult. I appreciated the experience of a full time job and what it means to be held responsible for getting things done and accountable for anything done wrong or right.

Other important Information:

There's room for growth. I, and several other bnot sherut through the years, have continued on at the museum as paid employees.

CONTACT INFO

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32. JobKatif - תעסוקטיף

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2010-2011
Description of Organization: JobKatif is the only organization designated to help return the former residents of Gush Katif & Northern Shomron to employment. JobKatif's programs include job advice, scholarships, opening new businesses and more!	
Type of Service: Fundraising/Office Work	Population Served: General Population
Location of Service: Jerusalem (but the office recently moved to Gush)	
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnadvut	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I started simply doing random office tasks but over the 2 years I was there, I participated in countless fundraising campaigns and was even given the opportunity to start my own program within the organization directed towards informing students studying in Israel for their gap year about the ongoing plight of the evacuees.
Living Arrangements: I lived with my parents at home, about a 45-minute commute from the office. I was reimbursed for my buses.
Acceptance Process: They only allow for 1-2 Bnot Sherut so I remember being very nervous that I wouldn't get the spot but I had nothing to worry about because they needed more Anglos in the fundraising department
Number of Bnot Sherut: 1
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	2	Teamwork	5
Patience	3	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	3
Sociable	4	Flexibility	2
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	2
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	1
Leadership	3	Organization	5
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	2

REVIEWS (1=least, 5=most)

Overall Experience:	Fulfilling Experience:	Challenging Experience:
4	5	5

Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

1. My Hebrew improved like crazy!! I was suddenly able to go the post office, have conversations with potential donors, organize events, handle organizing shipments around the world and more!
2. The entire staff is no more than 40 people, including Israelis & Anglos. Most of the Israelis are former residents of Gush Katif so they always have stories to share and are such warm, kind people.
3. Plenty of free time. The job is 9-5 ,Sunday-Thursday. Once you leave the office, you LEAVE.
4. Definitely helped me get a better idea of what I might want to do professionally.
5. My boss, Judy Lowy, was the most inspirational, caring, strong boss I've ever had. She was simply fantastic.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Now that the office moved to the Gush, it might be more inconvenient to get there, but I don't know because it moved after I finished.

What did you gain from this experience?

1. Better Hebrew skills
2. Gush Katif was no longer just a story-it was more real and that made me work even harder.
3. Now I'm able to identify much more with charities and what they do behind the scenes.
4. I know better what direction I want to go in career-wise.

Other important Information:

Lots of room for creativity, lots of opportunity to grow and throw yourself into the fundraising.

CONTACT INFO

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Facebook Name: Ariella Caplan Mendlowitz

33. Maaleh HaTorah

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2011-2012
Description of Organization: The elementary school, Maaleh HaTorah is a "Dati-Torani" school, meaning that they promote a high level of Judaic and secular studies. The schools goal is to guide their students to be active thinkers, proud and excited about their Jewish roots and to incorporate Jewish values and beliefs into their everyday lives.		
Type of Service: Formal Education	Population Served: Elementary School Children	
Location of Service: Ma'aleh Adumim		
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnadvut		

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: As a Bat Sherut, I helped teachers in the main classroom as well as taking out a group of students or teaching a student one-on-one. This allowed the students to get more attention, to form a personal connection and enhance their learning skills. In addition, I helped with planning and organizing school events or programming throughout the year.	
Living Arrangements: I was living about a ten-minute bus ride or tremp from the school. I lived in an apartment with 4 other girls. The living conditions were okay. We had a washing machine and an oven, which is not always a give in, which was nice coming from chul to have that accessible. The community was extremely warm and families often hosted me for Shabbat meals, let me do laundry by them or give me a ride to the supermarket.	
Acceptance Process: I was interviewed very late in the year, so my story is not so relevant. Overall, it was a very positive experience for me.	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 3	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2	

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	3
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	5
Sociable	4	Flexibility	5
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	4	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS (1=least, 5=most)

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

One of the benefits of doing sherut in Maaleh Adumim is the community. On the one hand there are plenty of English speakers if you want to feel more at home, yet the majority is by far Israeli and it is very simple to integrate and make new connections. In addition, it is very close to Jerusalem and there are buses all the time. The hours of working in an elementary school is great because we get chagim off and end relatively early during the week. I found that very nice because I was able to do other kinds of volunteer work (Beit Avot) and tutoring a student in my first grade class who had a very challenging life.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

I was put into an apartment of all chutznikim, it made it harder to integrate and pick up Hebrew. (On the other hand- it was nice to have a comfort zone)

What did you gain from this experience?

I gained a tremendous appreciation for teachers. I never acknowledged how much time and energy they put into teaching their students. I gained a greater understanding of teaching students from all backgrounds, different economic levels and a range of behavioral issues and learning disabilities.

CONTACT INFO

Name: Elana Kreitman-Kahn

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34. Maon Hatena

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2010-2011
Description of Organization: Maon Hatena is a school for severely physically and mentally disabled people ages 3-21.	
Type of Service: Severely Disabled Children	Population Served: Elementary School Children
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I changed diapers, helped with therapies, played with the kids, fed them and loved them :)
Living Arrangements: I did sherut through Bat Ami's olot program and lived with other olot in Ulpanat Etzion (the mercaz klita) in talpiyot mizrach.
Acceptance Process: I went for an interview and spent a few hours there and was then accepted.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 4
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
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Patience	5	Resilience	3
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	4
Sociable	5	Flexibility	4
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	3
Leadership	5	Organization	5
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience:	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Life experience

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Exhausting

What did you gain from this experience?

A lot, became more comfortable with my Hebrew, felt more confident working with the special community.

CONTACT INFO

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35. Mechon Hamikdash

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: Mechon Hamikdash is a non profit institution devoted to rebuilding the Beit Hamikdash	
Type of Service: Informal Education, Hadracha, Museum, Tour Guide Population Served: General Population	
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I had two jobs: 1. Giving tours in the museum to everyone from Mach Hach groups to elderly evangelicals from Texas 2. Going to different elementary schools around Israel and running experiential education programming about the Beit Hamikdash
Living Arrangements: Sherut Leumi apartment in Kiryat Moshe (Near the Tachana Merkazit)
Acceptance Process: I had an interview, a sayeret and another interview. The interviews were fine; my bosses were very friendly and welcoming. The Sayeret was intimidating, I was basically being observed for 8 hours and being with a lot of Israeli girls was intimating as well, but it was fine :)
Number of Bnot Sherut: 8
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best) Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3 Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	4	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	2	Good Listener	4
Sociable	5	Flexibility	5
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	2
Leadership	5	Organization	3
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	3
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Very warm work environment, in Jerusalem, used my English, met a lot of fun people from all around the world

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

It was exhausting and teaching is tiring. I had 4-5 tours a day a lot of the time, there was a LOT of travel to different schools from the Gallil to the Negev and management was not sensitive to how exhausted we were-if you didn't want to do something because you simply did not have the energy you had to speak up

What did you gain from this experience?

Public speaking skills, understanding of Israeli culture, better Hebrew

Other important Information:

My year was really really difficult-the work was hard and exhausting, there were no other English speakers and it was a small office where I spent a lot of hours, so I was the same people all the time (I also lived with the girls I worked with). I learned so much about myself and where I fit in Israeli culture and had a lot of fun teaching, too :)

I would recommend this job (or one like it) to someone who has confidence in public speaking, isn't afraid to be challenged and humbled, loves teaching and is willing to work hard all year.

CONTACT INFO

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36. Nefesh B'Nefesh

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2008-2009
Description of Organization: An organization that helps people through the aliyah process from North America and the UK.	
Type of Service: Administration	Population Served: New Immigrants
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I worked in the employment department doing everyday computer work and database entries. I also had some responsibilities of manning the front desk and answering phone calls, as well as running errands and setting up events.
Living Arrangements: Sherut Leumi apartment a few blocks away.
Acceptance Process: First there was a group session and then interviews for 3 girls at a time. Then there was a callback for some computer tasks.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 4
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 5
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	3
Patience	4	Resilience	3
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	4
Sociable	4	Flexibility	3
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	3	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	2
Leadership	3	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	3
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS

** 1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 3
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:
Great environment, many English speakers and you are with girls who have similar backgrounds. It feels like a real work environment and is good experience for the future.
Though you aren't working directly with Olim, you are working to help a cause you really believe in and associate yourself with.

What did you gain from this experience?
Self-confidence, knowledge of working in a workplace, learnt skills and made connections for the future.

Other important Information:
A lot of the work is mundane and does not feel like you are directly helping the cause. But it's important to remember that even the little things are helping the bigger picture.

CONTACT INFO

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37. Nefesh B'Nefesh

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: Nefesh B'Nefesh is an organization that assists new immigrants with their Aliyah process from America, England, and Canada.	
Type of Service: Administration	Population Served: New Immigrants
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: My job was mainly administrative- which included writing up articles for the Nefesh B'Nefesh website, assisting Olim with various problems over the phone, and tutoring Olim children in Hebrew via Skype. I also attended many social events.
Living Arrangements: I lived in a Sherut Leumi Apartment with 7 other girls, about a 10-minute walk away from the office.
Acceptance Process: There were 2 rounds of interviews; the first was a general interview in which we were asked questions about ourselves and why we wanted to do our service with Nefesh B'Nefesh. About 1/3 of the girls got through to the second round of interviews, and we were explained the different sherut positions and expressed our interest in the positions we liked best. I was called about 3 weeks later and was told I had been accepted to do my service there.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 10
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 5
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	3
Patience	5	Resilience	3
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	5
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	3	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	2
Leadership	3	Organization	5
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	2	Endless Energy	2

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 3
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

It was in Jerusalem, it was an English-speaking environment, the majority of the staff was friendly, I found the work both interesting and challenging. I gained a lot of administrative experience.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

We were asked to host events outside our normal 9-5 hours, for example nighttime events etc. (which we were sometimes unprepared for).

What did you gain from this experience?

Administrative and teaching experience, self-confidence when dealing with administrative related tasks.

38. Nefesh B'Nefesh

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2014-present
Description of Organization: I am a Bat Sherut at the NBN office. I work in the Post Aliyah department, which is helping out Olim after they make Aliyah. I really like my job. Everyone in the office is English speaking. Really nice environment.	
Type of Service: Office Work	Population Served: New Immigrants
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Have to be there everyday from 9-5. There are occasional events that take place in the evenings.
Living Arrangements: Bat Ami gave us an apartment, which was a 10-minute walk from our work.
Acceptance Process: First you have to apply look online at the different Sherut websites and apply for sayarot, which is basically a day where you go check out the place you are considering working at. Then you go on the Sayeret, you see the place, meet the staff. Most places will go through a round of sayarot shniyot, which means that lets say 30 girls show up to the first sayeret, so they will cut it down to 15, and then have the chosen 15 girls, come in another day, and this second day will be more in detail. They will ask more personal questions and try to get to know you more. A couple of weeks later they should contact you with an answer telling you weather you go accepted or not. One piece of advice: IT IS NEVER TOO LATE. Sherut options are always open because there are always more slots than there are girls.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 10
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	4
Patience	4	Resilience	3
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	4
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	3	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	3	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	3	Organization	5
Enthusiasm	3	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	2

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

In Jerusalem, which was awesome, all English speaking, which was awesome. Nice staff which was awesome, and pretty flexible when you need it to be.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

We are 10 Bnot Sherut, so sometimes it can get a bit boring because there is not a TON of work that needs to get done.

What did you gain from this experience?

Appreciating the fact that I am so lucky to live in Israel!

Other important Information:

Be open minded, willing to help others, and speak a bit of Hebrew.

CONTACT INFO

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39. Nefesh B'Nefesh

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: Nefesh B'Nefesh helps with the entire aliyah process: pre-aliyah, post-aliyah, lone soldiers etc.	
Type of Service: Welfare, Senior Citizens, Formal Education, Informal Education, Administration	Population Served: Elderly, Elementary School Children, New Immigrants, General Population
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Researching professions, finding employment for olim, contacting companies looking to hire, teaching elementary school children Hebrew over Skype, administration, running events during chagim and throughout the year, lightening the workload of aliyah advisors.
Living Arrangements: Bat Ami provide an apartment 8 minutes away for those who don't have a place to live in Jerusalem.
Acceptance Process: Application form and HR interview, then callbacks and interviews with specific departments.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 10
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	4
Patience	4	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	4
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	4
Leadership	4	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	2
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	2

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 4
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

English speaking friendly environment, ability to choose how much work you want to take upon yourself, fulfilling, fun tiyulim and events meeting new olim and helping make their aliyah process more enjoyable.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Can't think of any.

What did you gain from this experience?

More comfortable meeting new people, speaking on the phone. Learnt a lot of computer knowledge. Helped a lot of new olim by finding them jobs, telling them about different professions in Israel, teaching children Hebrew over Skype.

Other important Information:

It's a great place to work but it's all about what attitude you go in with. If you are willing to work hard and really want to help people and therefore take on more responsibility, you'll come out feeling more fulfilled.

CONTACT INFO

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Facebook Name: Nili Steinbock

40. Orot Etzion Chativat Hatzeira

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: Orot Etzion Chativat Hatzeira is the 1st and 2nd grade of the Orot Etzion School in the Gush.	
Type of Service: Formal Education	Population Served: Elementary School Children
Location of Service: Efrat	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Working with kids who needed extra help learning Hebrew (olim), working with Israeli children who needed one-on-one tutoring, extra help. Help out with administration work when needed and preparations for trips/programs/school recitals
Living Arrangements: Sherut Leumi Apartment within Efrat. About 15 minutes walk from school.
Acceptance Process: All the Efrat interviews happened at the same time so it was sort of a "round robin" interview where you would sit down and interview for a few minutes with the "heads" of various positions. 2-3 min interview describing myself and why I would be good for the job.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 1
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	5
Sociable	5	Flexibility	4
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	4	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 4
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Quick bus to Jerusalem, amazing warm close intimate staff, lots of free afternoon time to do what you please, met new olim families

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Hard to live in an apartment with 7 other girls, far from the mercaz/sharon area

What did you gain from this experience?

Understanding of how much it takes to integrate children olim into the Israeli school system, learned many valuable lessons in chinuch, appreciation for all the hard work teachers put into education.

CONTACT INFO

Name: Yael Fishel

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41. Orot Etziyon Bnot

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2010-2011	
Description of Organization: Private Elementary school in Efrat			
Type of Service: Formal Education, Informal Education, Hadracha		Population Served: Elementary School Children, New Immigrants	
Location of Service: Efrat			
Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav			

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Work with students, help them in and out of school, one on one with olim, ran special programs, taught English	
Living Arrangements: Sherut leumi apartment in Efrat	
Acceptance Process: Online sign up, group interview, individual interview, told on the spot	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 1	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	5	Teamwork	2
Patience	4	Resilience	3

Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	3
Sociable	5	Flexibility	4
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	3
Leadership	5	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	3
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Close to Jerusalem, English speakers in community, amazing staff!

CONTACT INFO

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42. Shaarei Tzedek Hospital

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2012-2013
Description of Organization: Help out in the hospital, but it depends on your ward and where you are placed.	
Type of Service: Physical Health, Emergency Care	Population Served: General Population
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnadvut	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I worked in the ER, so I had to fill up supplies, distribute meals, talk (and argue) with patients, and perform many, many, many EKGs.
Living Arrangements: Lived in the dormitory in the building next to the Hospital. (It's the floor under Midreshet Moriah). It's just a room and a bathroom with a small fridge. The room consists of two bunk beds, and there are usually four girls to a room. I was with two other Olim, so we got the big room (which isn't much bigger) and shared it with another girl from Beit Shemesh. There is also a lounge area with red seats and a small TV that sometimes works, but it's fun when all the girls in the dormitory get together to watch Big Brother or the Amazing Race. The hospital is supposed to provide you with food, but it's really bad, and only lunches are decent. In the ER, we didn't have any lunch break so we either brought our own food or ate whatever we didn't give to the patients.
Acceptance Process: It's pretty simple to get in. They are willing to accept almost anyone. You have to apply and interview with them (which is very daunting; they need to be sure that you understand and can speak enough Hebrew to get by). The hardest part is getting the ward you want. Many girls want to be placed with the babies; I wanted to get into the ER (which is the hardest ward to work in). But they do take your opinion into account.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 120
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 1

Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	1	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	5	Good Listener	4
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	3
Leadership	3	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	2
Sense of Humor	5	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS (**1=least, 5=most)

Overall Experience: 3	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

In Jerusalem, which is always very pleasant. Depending on your ward, you either have the exact same time each day (from 8-4, or something like that), or you have shifts. They do not let you do an overnight shift. We created a schedule, and I worked with 5 other girls to choose who took which 8-hour shift. Either from 7am-3pm, 11am-7pm, or 3pm-11pm. This was great because if I had an appointment, or even a date, I didn't have to take off work.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

It's extremely demanding. No one, not even the staff, is appreciative of what you do. There will be times where it's brutal and you just want to cry, but sometimes it will be very rewarding. Like when you get to watch a woman give birth and she's grateful that you speak English, and you get to help bring her newborn up to the maternity ward. Or that time when the head of all the nurses watches you interact with a patient and asks if you want to be a nurse in the future and you flat out say "No!" You do make good friends, will most likely see someone you know over the course of the year, and you get to walk away feeling like you really served your country.

What did you gain from this experience?

Confidence in Hebrew and the ability to yell at Israelis.

Other important information:

It's hard, but it's worth it.

CONTACT INFO

Name: Sarit Newman

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43. Shaarei Tzedek Hospital

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2012-2013	
Description of Organization: Hospital			
Type of Service: Physical Health, Senior Citizens, hospital		Population Served: Elderly, Physically Ill/handicapped Adults, Mentally Disabled Adults, General Population, Tourists	
Location of Service: Jerusalem			
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnadvut			

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I worked 5 or 6 shifts a week in the internal medicine ward, running errands in the ward and around the hospital.	
Living Arrangements: A dorm room. Small room 2 bunk beds and mini fridge and bathroom	
Acceptance Process: There were a lot of dates too choose from to come for a tour and interview in big groups.	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 100	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	2	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	4

Obedience to Authority	5	Good Listener	4
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	3	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	2	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	3
Leadership	2	Organization	2
Enthusiasm	3	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 3	Fulfilling Experience: 3	Challenging Experience: 2
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Great location in Jerusalem, and with shift -hours I had a lot of free time. Once the shift is over for the day you can do what you want

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

The staff definitely takes advantage of the bnot sherut and while I could have been doing more fulfilling and appropriate work for my skills, I was often a messenger and delivery woman when there are people in the hospital who should have been doing those things themselves.

What did you gain from this experience?

I'm in nursing school now so I definitely was prepared for being in an Israeli hospital as far as language and an understanding of the way things work in the health system.

Other important Information:

The Israeli girls who work with you aren't always the hardest workers and many don't take the job seriously, which can be frustrating. Working in more serious wards means you'll have more serious partners who want to work hard like you probably do.

CONTACT INFO

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Facebook Name: Randi Prince

44. Shaarei Tzedek Hospital

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2012-2013
Description of Organization: Shaarei Tzedek Hospital is one of the most important and busiest hospitals in the country. Serves the Israeli-Arab population of Jerusalem and the surrounding areas.	
Type of Service: Physical Health	Population Served: At-risk, Women-only, Babies
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnadvut	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I worked in the delivery room. Primary job is to stock the rooms with equipment daily, to run things to the lab/pathology/etc. and assisting with many births!
Living Arrangements: Dorms adjacent to the hospital. Meals were free and provided by the hospital (we ate in the staff dining room). Each room had two bunk beds and a bathroom inside. Three closet for four girls (make sure to live with Israelis who don't need storage).
Acceptance Process: The crazy online login, then a group tour, and an individual interview.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 80+
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	1	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	5	Good Listener	4
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	3	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	3	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	3
Leadership	3	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	3	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	1	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 3	Fulfilling Experience: 3	Challenging Experience: 3
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Located on the train line in Jerusalem, meals were provided for, most staff was very helpful and sweet, the Rakezet was very nice and accommodating; work ended after shift and the rest of the day was free

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Alternating working on Fridays/Erev chagim, under-appreciated, very physically draining, most hospital staff talks down to you; not a lot of room to slip up because every errand in a hospital is important

What did you gain from this experience?

Huge confidence in speaking Hebrew! Gained a big understanding of the Israeli medical system and a ton of knowledge about the field I worked in. Mostly, I gained what I was looking for which was to do my part as a member of Israeli society and give back.

Other important Information:

I would not advise working at a hospital-most of the girls there are not motivated, not religious, and the work is menial and exhausting and rarely rewarded. If you do, make sure to get into a good ward, and to befriend the staff, and maximize opportunities.

CONTACT INFO

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Facebook Name: Orit Honigsberg

45. Shacham

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2009-2010
Description of Organization: At Shacham you work with Ethiopian families and children. Each girl was assigned two families she worked with, and an after school program once a week.	
Type of Service: Informal Education	Population Served: Elementary School Children, New Immigrants
Location of Service: Bnei Brak	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami	
BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Mornings- sit in class with "your children", help them work in class and behave. Evenings- go to the family house. Do homework and play with them. Help parents with assimilation into Israeli society. Any emotional support they need.	
Living Arrangements: Apartment	
Acceptance Process: Wasn't easy, but pretty quick. Interview over Skype, and another interview with the rakezet over the phone.	
Number of Bnot Sherut: 7	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	5	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	4
Sociable	3	Flexibility	4
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	3	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 4	Challenging Experience: 4
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Wonderful staff in the school, appreciate everything the bnot sherut do, kids are metukim!!!

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

No English speakers. Not a lot of free time.

What did you gain from this experience?

Sense of accomplishment in the face of challenges

Other important Information:

Shacham is not for those who don't speak Hebrew well. You must have high level of Hebrew and a lot of flexibility in your thinking.

CONTACT INFO

Name: Nili Meyersdorf

Facebook Name: Nili Meyersdorf

46. Special Needs Gan

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2012-2013
Description of Organization: A Special needs gan in Efrat, Gush Etzion, for children with behavioral and emotional difficulties.		
Type of Service: Physical Health, Mental Health, Formal Education, Informal Education	Population Served: Physically Ill/handicapped Children	
Location of Service: Gush Etzion		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav		

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: I was an assistant to the ganenet, I also did occupational therapy with the kids every morning.
Living Arrangements: Lived at home
Acceptance Process: Went to group interviews and an interview with the rakezet. Then got callbacks.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 1
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 3

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	5
Patience	5	Resilience	5
Obedience to Authority	5	Good Listener	5
Sociable	5	Flexibility	5

Hard working	5	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	5	Organization	5
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Great staff, no English speakers. Good amount of free time.

What did you gain from this experience?

Patience, appreciation of teachers, and difficulties kids with disabilities face in school.

CONTACT INFO

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47. Ulpenat Bnei Akiva Segula

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2013-2014
Description of Organization: Ulpenat Bnei Akiva Segula is a religious girls high school. The dorm has mostly olot chadashot from Ethiopia.		
Type of Service: Formal Education, Informal Education, Hadracha, Pnimia (dormitory, live-in facility)	Population Served: At-risk, Women-only, High School Age, New Immigrants	
Location of Service: Haifa		
Sherut Leumi Branch: Aminadav		

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Hashcama (wakeup), homework, activities, one on one mentoring, putting the girls to sleep.
Living Arrangements: Lived in the dorm
Acceptance Process: Interview
Number of Bnot Sherut: 12
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 5
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	4

Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	5
Sociable	5	Flexibility	5
Hard working	5	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	5	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	5
Leadership	5	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	4	Endless Energy	5

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Extremely fulfilling, interesting and fun.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Not a lot of free time.

CONTACT INFO

Name: Esther

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48. V'Hadarta P'Nei Zaken

BASIC		Year Of Service: 2009-2010	
Description of Organization: V'Hadarta Pnei Hazaken tries to supplement services provided to seniors, specifically but not limited to Holocaust survivors			
Type of Service: Welfare, Senior Citizens		Population Served: Elderly, New Immigrants	
Location of Service: Jerusalem			
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnavut			

BAT SHERUT	
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Surrogate granddaughter - helping with errands (kupat cholim, groceries), simply spending time and keeping company	
Living Arrangements: Sherut Leumi apartment in Bayit V'Gan; I worked primarily in the center of town/Rechavia. 6/7 other girls in my apartment were also doing the same sherut leumi as myself	
Acceptance Process: There was one two-day seminar before sherut leumi began	
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)	
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 3	
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 5	

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	3	Teamwork	1
Patience	5	Resilience	5

Obedience to Authority	4	Good Listener	5
Sociable	5	Flexibility	4
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	5
Quick-thinking	3	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	1
Leadership	3	Organization	1
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	3
Sense of Humor	5	Endless Energy	4

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 4	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 1
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

In one of the old age homes I worked in they specifically placed me with native English speaking seniors (though I also volunteered with Israelis in Hebrew) because language-wise and culturally it was easier to understand each other

What did you gain from this experience?

Patience to hear the same stories numerous times and not get annoyed. More appreciation for seniors and how they need more care and respect

Other important Information:

Can sometimes be lonely

CONTACT INFO

Facebook Name: Chaya Solomon

49. V'Hadarta

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2010-2011
Description of Organization: V'hadarta aims to aid the elderly and Holocaust survivors through multiple services including companionship and filling government benefit applications.	
Type of Service: Senior Citizens	Population Served: Elderly, New Immigrants
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: Bat Ami	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: The service for the most part contains two jobs: working at a nursing home by helping the regularly scheduled program run smoothly (with other bnot sherut) and visiting elderly individuals in their homes to help them with an assortment of things based on that individual's needs (blind, dementia, afraid to leave the house alone, etc.).
Living Arrangements: I lived in a dirat sherut in Kiryat Moshe/Givat Shaul with the Nefesh B'Nefesh girls. I was part of the first "American Olim" group of bnot sherut through Bat Ami. My rakezet, Osnat, is now the official rakezet for all the English-speaking bnot sherut olim through Bat Ami.
Acceptance Process: As far as I remember, I was asked to fill out a form and then had an interview with the rakezet asking me why I wanted to do that particular sherut, etc. It went pretty smoothly and that was with my Hebrew being not much.
Number of Bnot Sherut: In Jerusalem, probably around 40. V'hadarta is all over the country and countrywide I would say that there were easily about 200.
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 2
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 3

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	4
Patience	5	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	5
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	3
Quick-thinking	4	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	1
Leadership	3	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	5	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	5
Sense of Humor	5	Endless Energy	2

REVIEWS (**1=least, 5=most)

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

My dira was super conveniently located--walking distance from the CBS. I worked with great staff: both of my rakazot were super understanding of my situation and tried to be as helpful as they could. In addition, my boss at the nursing home was the bomb! All the staff with whom I worked in the nursing homes was great and I even cultivated relationships with some of them outside of work. When doing sherut through V'hadarta, your schedule becomes very flexible based and you can often reschedule according to when you're free.

Also, most elderly people in Israel are originally from another country so they understand what it's like to have to acclimate to another language, culture, etc. Therefore, learning Hebrew during my sherut was such a perk because I had understanding people around me who were trying to help me learn the language. Also, the bnot sherut (all Israeli with close to no English skills) I got paired up with were amazing! They completely took me under their wings and helped me flourish.

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

You know when they say that old people can be such grouches and complain all the time, just don't give a flying hoot about what others think/say/do, and think that they deserve everything? Yeah--well that's all true and sometimes can be quite difficult to rationalize with them on some points especially when they so passionately feel that way.

What did you gain from this experience?

SOOOOOO MUCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I gained an extra appreciation of the elderly and am now able to try to see the world through their eyes (it's a whole 'nother place). Also, it helped me improve my Hebrew.

CONTACT INFO

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Facebook Name: Ariella Davis

50. Yavneh Olami

BASIC	Year Of Service: 2009-2010
Description of Organization: Yavneh Olami is a non-profit dedicated to helping students who are interested in aliyah. Unrelated - they run a summer internship program called SIP.	
Type of Service: Informal Education	Population Served: Gap Year program students
Location of Service: Jerusalem	
Sherut Leumi Branch: HaAguda LeHitnadvut	

BAT SHERUT
Responsibilities of Bat Sherut: Mostly office work - answering emails and phone calls. Also organizing events and advertising them both online and with flyers on Ben Yehuda. In the summer I was the bat sherut on their summer internship program.
Living Arrangements: Lived in a sherut apartment building in Kiryat Moshe with Israeli girls.
Acceptance Process: The interview was over the phone - I had found Yavneh Olami on the website and requested to work for them.
Number of Bnot Sherut: 1
** Scale of 1-5 (1-worst, 5-best)
Level of Hebrew before Sherut: 4
Level of Hebrew after Sherut: 4

IMPORTANT QUALITIES (1-least, 5-most)

Creativity	4	Teamwork	3
Patience	5	Resilience	4
Obedience to Authority	3	Good Listener	2
Sociable	4	Flexibility	4
Hard working	4	Self-confidence	4
Quick-thinking	3	Ability to be tough/ disciplinarian	2
Leadership	4	Organization	4
Enthusiasm	4	Open Mindedness/ Tolerance	4
Sense of Humor	3	Endless Energy	3

REVIEWS

**1=least, 5=most

Overall Experience: 5	Fulfilling Experience: 5	Challenging Experience: 5
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Benefits/Perks of this Sherut:

Office was on King George, great friendly staff, they encouraged me to come up with my own initiatives, flexible with hours/ working from home, spoke English

Disadvantages/Annoyances of this Sherut:

Not a lot of Hebrew, and there wasn't always work for me every day

What did you gain from this experience?

It helped me realize that I love working with people and that I wanted to continue doing that, I also learned how to plan and run successful events, and how to work independently

Other important Information:

To be honest, I'm not sure if Yavneh Olami is still around - but if they are, I definitely recommend checking it out!!

CONTACT INFO

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