



## **What is the Gift of Israel?**

The Greater Rhode Island Jewish Community's Gift of Israel program is an incentive savings program designed to enable young people to travel to Israel. Gift of Israel is a partnership among families, synagogues and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Each partner makes a yearly contribution on behalf of the Gift of Israel participants.

## **How does the program work?**

Families participating in the Gift of Israel program contribute a minimum of \$150 per student annually to a bank account at Signature Bank in New York. That contribution is increased by a \$50 contribution from participating synagogues; the total family and synagogue contribution of \$200 is matched by a \$200 contribution from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI). Families who do not belong to one of the participating synagogues contribute an additional \$50 each year (\$200 total); the match from JFRI remains the same (\$200). Students enrolled in the program from grade 3 through grade 10 will accumulate \$3,200 to put towards an educational Israel experience.

## **Who is eligible?**

All Jewish students enrolled in a Jewish education program from the Greater Rhode Island area in grades 3–8 are eligible to enroll in the Gift of Israel pro-

gram. The funds may be disbursed towards an Israel experience through age 26. To participate in the savings program: 1) participants must be enrolled in an approved Jewish education program; 2) parents must make the yearly minimum contribution of \$150 (\$200 if the family does not belong to a participating synagogue).

### **What trips qualify for Gift funds?**

Funds are intended for use toward an approved Israel program that provides a significant and meaningful Jewish educational experience. This may include an organized Israel trip for teens, such as a summer youth program or semester-long study abroad program, as well as synagogue or school trips. Participants may also use Gift of Israel funds towards a family trip; however, the trip must meet special guidelines and must be approved by BJE/RI's Israel Desk eight weeks prior to departure. All approved trips must be at least 10 days in length.

### **How do I enroll?**

Complete and mail applications and payment, including registration fee, to the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (see check-list for more detail).

### **Any questions?**

For more information please contact the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island at 401 331-0956, ext. 181.