

CAARI VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Tikun Olam is a Jewish concept of making the world a better place by helping others.

The volunteer portion of the CAARI Program provides participants with various opportunities to do just this, give of themselves to others. You make a difference by tutoring elementary students to improve their English with a native North American voice, or if your interest is with working with plants and gardens, help out at the Botanical Gardens. The staff and patients at Ichilov Hospital are always appreciative of the CAARI volunteers who assist in serving meals and lending a helping hand to the staff.

WHAT ARE THE DATES TO VOLUNTEER IN 2023? The CAARI volunteer service takes place in Tel Aviv (January 12 – 26 and February 5 - 13). It does not require knowledge of Hebrew. CAARI works in cooperation with the Tel Aviv Municipality Community VOLUNTEER Service Department and the Elementary Education Department in selecting volunteer service projects, as well as, the Botanical Gardens located on the campus of Tel Aviv University.

HOW OFTEN DO WE VOLUNTEER? The volunteer service portion of the program is approximately 4 morning hours a day, 3-4 days a week during the four weeks the group is in Tel Aviv. The following are the current volunteer opportunities, we are always looking for new opportunities.

WHAT ARE THE ASSIGNMENTS?

- **Assist elementary students, 4-6 graders, with their English skills**

The goal is to help students improve their English conversation and give them confidence in speaking. CAARI works with various schools, assigned to CAARI by the Municipality Education Department. We do not know actual school assignments, this will probably take place in early December. Each school implements the tutoring differently, some use homework, class lessons, special assignments, games, songs, or conversation with the CAARI volunteer. There are between 2-4 volunteers in each class period and you work with 2–4 students. You are under the supervision of the English teacher. You do not have to be a teacher to volunteer in schools.

- **Help the staff at Ichilov Rehab Center serve patients that are recovering from orthopedic surgery.** This Center is affiliated with Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, which is the main hospital serving Tel Aviv and its metropolitan area. The Rehabilitation Center cares for patients recovering from surgery or treatment—both patients treated at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center and those referred for specialized care from other medical facilities. The hospital's objectives are to rehabilitate patients. CAARI volunteers are under the supervision of the unit's head nurse. Volunteers serve patients breakfast in a central dining room. This consists of preparing

the trays with the food and serving the patients. Volunteers also assist the staff with paper work, and other assignments as requested by the Head Nurse, which may include taking patients to therapy sessions, inventorying items and preparing trays for lunch.

- **Work at the Botanical Gardens located on the campus of Tel Aviv University.** Tel Aviv University Botanical Gardens (est. 1973) is a scientific center for botanical education, research, and conservation of rare and endangered plant species. CAARI volunteers are under the supervision of the curator. Assignments include: gardening outdoors and indoors, seed sorting, working with the native flora of Israel, as well as collections of plants from around the globe. The diversity of plant species, representing Israel native flora and special ecological groups, make the garden a live and dynamic museum and a fun place to volunteer.

- **Animal Shelter Tel Aviv Municipality**

The volunteers who arrive at the SPCA shelter in Tel Aviv mostly help to walk the dozens of dogs in the spacious yard and to pamper and play with the cats. Myrine is a dedicated volunteer at the Humane Society who supervises with the CAARI group. After the morning session the taxi will bring you back to the hotel.

WHEN AND HOW DO I SELECT MY ASSIGNMENT? Assignments are selected at the Orientation Session upon arrival. The various assignments will be explained to you at the meeting and you can make your choices. We do our best to give you your number one preference.

HOW DO WE GET TO THE VOLUNTEER WORK? A taxi takes you, and other participants, to the volunteer assignment in the morning and picks you up at the end of the session to take you back to the hotel. You will be working with other CAARI volunteers at the various places.

WHAT DO WE DO ON OTHER DAYS? On days we are not in the schools, CAARI works with KKL-JNF (Jewish National Fund) foresters in the maintenance of KKL-JNF forests, - painting picnic tables and signs, rebuilding ancient terraces, pruning, planting trees, as well as clearing brush and foliage and preparing the forests for visitors in the coming spring. We also take part in preparation for Tu'bshvat JNF community activities.

We will be happy to have a past participant speak to you about their volunteer experience. That is the best way to get an idea about the experience. Let us know if

The volunteering is only one aspect of the CAARI program. You also have afternoon tours, activities, and an informative Speaker's Forum. Please review the calendar and see the exciting places we visit – both 'must see' sites and 'hidden gems'. CAARI is an rewarding experience for you and for those you help.