



Submission from: Lielle D.



While to some this may look like an ordinary picture of a group of girls at the Kotel, it holds a lot more depth to me. While on GIVE this past summer, a Jewish volunteer trip to Israel, I realized the importance of what it means to be part of a Jewish community. It means showing up for one another, no matter what. The girls on my program always showed up for me no matter what, whatever I needed, no matter what time of day or night. But we also showed up for others—we danced with kids with special needs, spent the day with elderly people, formed connections with those in the hospital, and with soldiers, just to give you an idea. Through it all, formed connections, and felt part of something greater. I spent a lot of time learning and connecting with Hashem through various learning sessions, singing in Tveria, and late night trips to the kotel. I learned that the Jewish people will never let each other struggle alone— we are all responsible for one another. When we were out in the Old City, we began dancing with these strangers for no apparent reason—because we all have a connection that can just be felt. No matter what hardships I face in my life, I know I have my community to lean back on. Whatever successes I have, I know I have them to celebrate with me. So this picture, from our last Shabbat on GIVE, reminds me how lucky I am to be a Jew, and to know I am never alone.