Good morning, I'd like to welcome Pnina Perlstein, who is here to tell us about the organization she volunteers with - Leket Israel. Hello Pnina.

Hello, and thank you for inviting me. I love talking about Leket Israel – it's an amazing organization! By the way, we volunteers all call it Leket – is that OK?

Yes, that's fine. So, Pnina, tell us something about the work Leket does.

Well, we try to provide high-quality food to the many poor families who cannot afford to buy all they need. We collect it from places where it was going to be thrown away. You know, at the end of every day, there's always a lot of perfectly good food left at restaurants, wedding halls, and other places where large numbers of people eat. All this food, which would otherwise be wasted, is collected by volunteers from Leket.

Then what happens?

Then the food is taken to large centers, put in boxes, and delivered to the families who need it. Another Leket project that people can volunteer for involves working on farms where fruit and vegetables are grown. You see, in most fields there are always good fruit and vegetables that stores don't buy simply because they don't look perfect. So farmers invite our volunteers to come to their fields and collect these fruit and vegetables for the families we support. That way, they don't go to waste.

So many projects … It sounds like Leket is a very large organization.

Oh yes, we have thousands of volunteers! And the organization also tries to encourage Jews from all over the world to become involved in its activities. You know, many Jews who don't live in Israel come and have *bar mitzvas* and other celebrations here. That always means a lot of food! So we tell them about our project, and arrange to collect any food that's not eaten.

And how about *you*, Pnina? How did *you* get involved with Leket?

I was living in America and planned to get married in Israel. Leket contacted my family and made arrangements to collect the food that was left after my wedding. I thought it was a wonderful thing to do! So a few years later, when my family made *aliyah*, I decided to become a volunteer. Now I work at one of the organization's centers, putting food in boxes. And I also do lots of interviews like this one.

After hearing you, I feel like volunteering for Leket Israel too! Thank you, Pnina, for talking to us today. Goodbye.