



Jewish Agency for Israel
Proposals
For Elective Programming
for
Shaping a Stronger Israeli Society

Young Communities and Student Villages in the Negev and Galilee



Challenges that threaten Israel from within represent an even more serious long-term threat than those that loom on the outside. Israel's strength is in its people and our global responsibility is to ensure that citizens of Israel have a safe and strong place to call home. The Jewish Agency for Israel is working with its global partners to implement programs and activities that harness Israel's strengths and enhance Israel's future—as a People, a State, and a Society.

Building a strong Israel requires an infusion of resources to put in place both the infrastructure AND human capital to reverse this regional decline and attract a caliber of leadership that can build communities of strength, potential, and substance. Promoting excellence in education and technology; attracting development; creating places and communities where families want to live and work.

We have a unique role to play in the peoplehood that we are forging together. Shaping a strong Israel through engaging the leaders of tomorrow, encouraging community involvement, and improving the lives of Israel's young people and populations in need. We are proud of our continued work and are moving forward with determination and hope.

Dynamic young Israelis are a unique resource for Israel's development and advancement. These young people are propelling Israeli society forward—bringing strength to the communities in which they live, providing hope for the lives they impact, and enabling remarkable change. Working together with these young Israelis, our collective impact is transforming the face of Israel's future.

The transformation of Israel's periphery—both her social and geographic periphery—into viable population centers is a strategic imperative for Israel's long-term security. Far from Israel's center, the challenge is to harness the creativity of residents to develop resources with the capacity to create a new socio-economic and communal reality.

This is not a new challenge. But in the context of Israel's demographic and social realities, strengthening these areas of national priority has never been more crucial for Israel's future. The communities of the Galilee and Negev have been compromised due to their distance from Israel's primary business centers, advanced industry, and facilities for higher education. War and terror attacks have taken their toll on these regions as well.

Now we must make these regions bloom. But not only in terms of crops and agriculture, but also in terms of cultivating human resources. Resources that are transforming years of deterioration into vibrant development.

Yachad: A New Young Community in Beit Shean

The Yachad (“together” in Hebrew) group in Beit Shean consists of young couples that have taken the opposite route. They left central Israeli cities and moved to the peripheral development town of Beit Shean. Their motivation: the desire to make Beit Shean a better place to live.

Yachad is a *Garin Torani* (“Torah-based core” in Hebrew), a group of idealistic, religious young adults committed to social change. Drawing their energies from the Beit Midrash, Torah learning center, Yachad members implement an array of cultural and informal educational activities for the local community, making remarkable inroads to community empowerment.

The Yachad group moved to Beit Shean one year ago. During their first year of work in the city, their main endeavors included: a school readiness program (in cooperation with the local municipality), afternoon activity centers for children at risk (40 1st-4th grade children), one-on-one study with high school teens at the local yeshiva high school, and community programs for Jewish and Israeli holidays.

Yachad started as a group of eight young families from Jerusalem who joined forces with eight Beit Shean families—all determined to promote development and opportunity for residents of Beit Shean. Today, the group is 45 families strong—families who work TOGETHER to empower nearly 400 children and their parents.

Yachad’s communal impact is already palpable. Local high school educators and administrators have testified that students are not absent or tardy on days when they have scheduled learning sessions with members of Yachad. Increasing numbers of children are attending the numerous informal educational programs implemented by Yachad. School aged children, who had consistently been cutting school to play ball, are now helping elderly neighbors clean their homes once a week. To their parents’ delight, these children also successfully completed Yachad’s after-school Jewish study project.

Because of these successes, many local parents come to Yachad members for counseling and advice in how to relate to their children and in how to maintain the positive momentum that has begun.

But to continue this positive transformation, and to harness this remarkable potential, Yachad must grow. The goal is to expand the young community to 70 new families over the next five years period.

The total group budget is \$330,000. This cost includes all the social and educational programs that the group implements on behalf of the children and community. Yachad is supported by a coalition of funding partners including: the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Oren Foundation, Keren Kehilot, the Israeli Ministry of Education and private donors.

Funding Request

Your investment of \$100,000 will co-sponsor Yachad’s afternoon programs for children at-risk, individualized learning programs for high school students, and recruitment activities that will bring more young families to Yachad in Beit Shean. This is our opportunity to work with our next generation and help them as they undertake the task of building strong communities in every corner of Israel.

IS/EYL/1A

Ayalim Student Village in Neve Ur

The Ayalim Association was established in 2002 to counter these downward trends. This program encourages young people to complete their higher education in the North and in the South, make the area their permanent home, and get involved with volunteering to boost the local community.

Ayalim is looking to establish a community in Kibbutz Neve Ur, in partnership with the Beit Shean Valley Regional Council and the Jewish Agency. Establishment of this village will take two years. During this time, apartments will be renovated and prepared, students will be recruited and will start their work in the community. A computer room and social club house will also be set up for the students and the populations they will be working with. An entrepreneurship program will encourage these giving and talented young people to remain in the region, further boosting the local community.

The Ayalim Association has already successfully established four such villages in the Negev and one in Kiryat Shmona in the North. Your investment in the newest location, in the Beit Shean River Valley region in the North, will be a crucial part of fortifying that area. Twenty four students ages 22-35 will be targeted for the first year; program planning has 70-100 students by the time the village is fully operational. Within the regional community, populations that will benefit directly include youth with severe mental health problems, new immigrant youth from South America participating in the Jewish Agency's Na'aleh program, young women in two different rehabilitation centers, autistic children as well as children from Kibbutz Neve Ur where the village will be located and children from a nearby community – in total, over 250 people in need.

Funding Request

Your investment of \$250,000 over two years will cover the cost of establishing the Ayalim village in Kibbutz Neve Ur and the infrastructure necessary to ensure continued success in implementation of the program.

IS/EYL/1B

Youth Movement Communities in Carmiel and Sderot

The HaNoar HaOved veHaLomed (“Young Students and Workers” in Hebrew) Youth Movement is the largest in Israel; its multifaceted mission includes developing models of cooperative living, assisting weaker populations—all for the greater success of the State of Israel. In line with the Jewish Agency’s mission of building a stronger Israeli society through communities and young people, the youth movement is partnering with us to establish two such communities – one in Carmiel and one in Sderot.

The goals of this initiative are to encourage the college-aged members of the youth movement who have completed, or are nearing completion of, their degrees in education, social work, or community service, to settle in one of these two areas. Besides residing in these locations and attending local institutions of higher education, the residents of these villages will work as educators in these struggling locations, enhancing their impact on the lives of the community. This will allow them to work with local educational professionals to create better academic and learning opportunities for the school children. Together, the residents and professional educators will work to initiate innovative methods for improving the lives of the local children and ensuring their success.

Beyond the obvious impact on the youth of these communities, the young teachers will gain invaluable work experience- a hands-on, real time opportunity to help the youngsters of these communities thrive academically and socially.

The establishment of HaNoar HaOved veHaLomed communities within Carmiel and Sderot will each include 25 educators. Other details vary by location, as outlined below.

Carmiel

There are over 40,000 residents in Carmiel today; approximately one- third of residents are new immigrants who arrived since the 1990's. The HaNoar HaOved veHaLomed movement has targeted this community, as it is still struggling with successful absorption of these new residents. Weakened infrastructure, heightened security concerns, last summer's war, and declining highly skilled and educated populations have made it nearly impossible for the community to provide for its own residents, let alone absorb new immigrants. The local chapter of the movement started activities in the area during the war; now we must help them expand these initiatives—giving the young people a place to live, strengthening the community, and reaching out to the underprivileged populations of the region.

While these young educators will settle in Carmiel for at least five years, the ultimate goal is to have them establish permanent residence in the city. **Your gift of \$85,000 is an investment in the foundations of their life and work in Carmiel—it will support the enrichment of a struggling community and the dynamic young people who are ready and willing to make this transformation happen.**

Sderot

For nearly six years, communities along the border with Gaza have been living under a barrage of Kassam missile attacks. Recently, these attacks have increased in intensity and become more deadly. Particularly hard hit is the largest city in the area, Sderot. Sderot is a city almost entirely of immigrants; like Carmiel, it absorbed thousands of new immigrants in the 1990s, doubling its population in one decade.

The emotional and economic toll of living in such turbulent conditions has led many people to move out of the area. The disadvantaged residents, who do not have the means to move remain—to suffer alone and experience insoluble isolation. Since April of 2007, HaNoar HaOved veHaLomed educators have also begun working in this city.

Given the extreme conditions of life in Sderot, the goal is for the educators to stay in the area for a minimum of three years. We are currently seeking a contribution that will enable us to establish the living quarters and program infrastructure to ensure that the young educators can remain in the region, that the educational advancement of the city's youth continues, and the emergence of Sderot as a city of hope and possibility.

Your gift of \$65,000, is an investment in the young activists who are making such a difference in this traumatized city. Your support will provide scholarships for the student-educators and training programs. Together we can ensure a stronger future for the residents of this tenacious community.

IS/EYL/1C

Encouraging Community Involvement of Local Students



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With the help of the Jewish Agency, the institutions of higher education in Israel's peripheral regions are making a significant difference in the academic, economic, and social realities of these communities. As these students study, they form lasting connections to the people and place. But these young people are also serving as the catalysts for lasting community-wide change, transformations that are creating stronger, more vibrant communities and making it a better place for people to live. As college students and young professionals, they are learning about the needs of Israeli society and enabling the opportunities for transformation.

Big Brother/Big Sister Program

For a child, nothing can compare to a meaningful one-on-one relationship. Particularly children who have experienced the hardships of life under attack, their need for individualized attention and strong moral support in formal and informal settings is great. The proposed Big Brother/ Big Sister program will recruit college students to serve as older “siblings” for children in Kiryat Shemona and Acco.

In Kiryat Shemona, this program is being designed in collaboration with the Mashabim Center, an establishment that provides post-trauma and psychological care for northern young people (ages 5-18). The big brothers and sisters will complement the therapy that the children receive at Mashabim, and will work with the therapists and professionals to ensure that their “little brother/sister” is on the right track for academic and social success.

In Acco, children from the AMIT Kennedy School will benefit from these special relationships. Students studying in local colleges who have a background in social leadership will be selected as big brothers and sisters.

The big brother/sister relationship empowers the children to build their own resilience and develop mechanism for addressing crisis and extraordinary circumstances. Together with their big brother/sister, the children gain a renewed strength that facilitates healing, enables them to integrate smoothly in and outside of school, and rebuilds their confidence.

Furthermore, this Big Brothers/ Big Sisters program has developed programs that provide critical long-term bonding, nurturing and professional support to help at-risk youngsters trust adults, and motivate them to grow into achieving, contributing, mature individuals. Whether the problems are school- or family-based, the concept of “One Big - One Little” is the key to unlocking the potential in each child and dramatically altering the course of his or her life.

Students will be awarded partial-academic scholarships for their role as older “siblings”; for those students pursuing careers in education, social work, psychology, and community service, their work in this program will be considered work-study hours.

Funding Request

Your investment of \$12,500 will ensure that 10 more big brother/big sisters can be recruited in Kiryat Shemona, giving the children treated in the Mashabim Center the additional care and support they need.

Your investment of \$35,000 will cover the cost of 100 big brother/big sisters in Acco and provide the invaluable relationship of a mentor and friend for the children of this city.

IS/EYL/2A

Students Mentoring Children with Special Needs

Many of Israel's school-aged children, need additional academic support. For families and schools with means and resources, these services are provided in school or at home. But in the peripheral regions of the north and south, themselves busy trying to rehabilitate and establish a sense of normalcy, providing this assistance is simply a luxury that can not be afforded.

Thus the Tel Hai College recognized an opportunity to connect their highly motivated, passionate, and capable student body with the members of the northern community of Kiryat Shemona in need. This mentoring program, gives the children with learning disabilities the one-on-one attention and support they need to progress in school. The mentors will be trained to develop the children's specialized study skills and provide intensive help when necessary. In this way the children will be able to succeed in school, compete academically with their peers, and enjoy the learning experience they deserve.

Special mentors will be provided for students struggling with math and English studies—basic subjects that are critical to academic achievement. The college students will be encouraged to develop innovative learning techniques that will motivate the children to study and thrive.

In order to maximize the benefit of these special mentor relationships, the students will come to the child's school at least once a week and work with them in the classroom. In this way, their involvement with the child will be as "real-time" as possible and will ensure that the child appreciates the direct correlation between their classroom and out-of-classroom learning experiences. The mentors will also maintain constant contact with the educators so that progress can be marked and evaluated. The mentors will use special computer programs that will help the children master basic learning skills and concepts. These programs, specially designed for children with learning disabilities are also a fun educational tool that makes doing the math and language exercises fun and exciting.

The children will benefit from the academic assistance and personal attention and the college students will gain invaluable learning and personal experience from working with this most deserving population.

Funding Request

Your investment of \$69,000 will enable the implementation of this mentoring and learning enhancement program for Israel's northern children with special needs. Through this program, implemented in 15 elementary and high schools in the region, 55 student mentors will be recruited—hundreds of school children will benefit.

IS/EYL/2B

Art of Involvement: Community Performing Arts Program

Cultural and artistic programming is just as essential for a child's healthy educational and personal development as anything they learn in a formal classroom setting. Children need creative outlets to let their imaginations and spirits thrive. Unfortunately, however, too many of Israel's families can not afford to give their children these extra-curricular opportunities. They simply do not have the resources to pay for these activities.

The college students of Haifa University have devised a program that would enable all the children in the Hadar neighborhood of Haifa to participate in performing arts activities. The Art of Involvement program will implement dance groups, and community theatre programs for the youth. These activities will take place in the Hadar Community Center—a place where the children and their families feel at home, a place where the whole community can come together to take part in these special activities.

The Haifa University students will voluntarily create and operate performing arts activities for these underprivileged children. Several times a year, the participants will hold a performance to show their parents and friends what they have learned and how much progress they have made. The “young performers” and their student mentors will work together to develop the performances, thereby giving the children a sense of team work, responsibility, and shared creativity.

These activities are an empowering opportunity for the young people of the Hadar community and an invaluable opportunity for Haifa's college students to be involved in the larger community and positively impact change.

The cost of implementing this program for 60 children in the Hadar neighborhood is \$40,000, which includes 20 student mentors and professional guidance. **The Oren Foundation and the Hadar Community Center area funding partners in this project in the amount of \$20,000.**

Funding Request

Your investment of \$20,000 will enable us to implement this program in the Hadar community of Haifa. As we give these children the mechanisms and opportunities they need to express themselves, we will be able to ensure their healthy development and the progress of their community as a whole.

IS/EYL/2C

Peace at Home

Israel is blessed with by many cultures, ethnicities, and religions. Jews and Arabs, religious and secular, Druze, Muslims, and Christians make up the diverse fabric of Israeli society. But an inherent sense of understanding and acceptance is lacking. Large segments of the population are fragmented; misconceptions and stereotypes wedged between these groups.

But 20 young college students at the Western Galille College are using these conditions to create a peaceful and opportune experience for coexistence. They have launched the Peace at Home project—a program that facilitates education and communication from within these diverse communities, the only way to bring about positive change.

Peace at Home takes 20 Western Galilee College students, from a cross section of Israeli society, and turns them into ambassadors for peace. Through special training, which includes, seminars, conferences and tours around the country, these young adults are taught the importance of listening, understanding, and respecting each other. Students are also trained in different tactics of conflict resolution and are made aware of the different cultural sensitivities that exist in problem solving.

In turn, the newly trained students volunteer in the wider college community and in their home communities to promote unity, equality and mutual respect. Each student participant will be awarded \$1,175 scholarship for their participation in Peace at Home.

The Peace at Home program has been running for six years now; the positive effects are evident throughout the College campus and beyond. The community as a whole feels much more integrated and the people are more at ease with each other. Program administrators conduct informal evaluations that assess the benefits and impacts of this program. Assessments are also conducted by social services professionals in the community and by the student participants themselves.

Conducted in partnership with the Western Galilee College, the Jewish Agency and private donors, this program is truly a combined community effort.

Funding Request

Your investment of \$23,500 will provide scholarships to 20 Peace at Home participants from the Western Galilee College. Your support will make an impact on the lives of these students, the communal life in the Galilee region, and the fabric of cross-cultural relations in Israeli society.

IS/EYL/2D

Students Reaching Out to Underprivileged Populations

Many of Israel's northern communities are plagued by unemployment and financial challenges, problems that are exacerbated during times of emergency and crisis. These economic hardships are accompanied by significant social problems including crime, juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, and mental health issues. As resident populations struggle, many families choose to leave the area, in the hope of finding stability in other communities. Skilled, educated, and motivated people choose not to move to the area. The region needs the support and empowerment that committed residents can provide.

The Kinneret College has a program that addresses this issue. This program offers scholarships of about \$1,100 each to students studying criminology, sociology, psychology and human behavior in exchange for their investment in these struggling populations. Fifty students, who will be carefully selected in an interview process, will spend a minimum of four hours per week with their charges. The activities themselves will vary depending on the student and the needs of the people they are working with.

Recipients of the students' attention will be from one of the three prisons in the region, ex-convicts living in the area, youth at one of two juvenile detention centers, recovering addicts at a drug rehabilitation center and mentally handicapped youth at a local hospital. As they interact with their constituents, they will also work with the city and regional councils, local welfare departments, the Israeli prison system, and other organizations to build a professional network that will encourage employment and permanent residence in the area.

Funding Request:

Your donation of \$80,000 will provide academic scholarships for 50 students at the Kinneret College and cover the cost of their supervision, training and transportation to and from the activity sites. Together, we can strengthen struggling populations and invest in a stronger future in northern Israel.

IS/EYL/2E



הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
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Shaping a Stronger Israeli Society:
Empowering Children and Youth

Empowering Children and Youth



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The rise in the number of youth at-risk remains one of the most serious social problems facing Israel. Particularly in the Negev and Galilee regions, the widening socioeconomic gaps are consuming the futures of literally tens of thousands of Israel's youth at-risk. An issue of this dimension requires innovation on every level. That is precisely what the program presented here is designed to do—to address the children's needs and provide meaningful and maintainable solutions for their success and achievement.

Net@

Net@ is a four-year program implemented in partnership with Tapuach and Cisco, that helps Israeli high school students from the periphery become high-tech professionals and contributing citizens; the program aims to establish a young Israeli high-tech “dream team” that consists of youth who would otherwise not be exposed to the digital world. Participants receive hands-on training to become certified computer network technicians and CCNA certification as advanced network technicians with international Cisco certificates – beneficiaries in turn are committed to serve others through 120 hours of mandatory volunteer activities in their community. By participating in this course, students receive training in a technological profession, enhance their English skills, develop a sense of volunteerism and community leadership, and learn how to work as part of a team. Following their participation in Net@, many graduates choose to postpone their service in the IDF by one year, to live in a Net@ commune where they spend a year volunteering within disadvantaged communities.

Completion of the program is the beginning of a process of change. Net@ opens doors to prestigious technological units in the IDF, higher education and high-tech professions while helping raise students’ self-esteem and confidence and teach values of civic responsibility.

There are talented and motivated kids in the periphery of Israel, who through no fault of their own, are caught in a predicament brought about by a collapsing economy and a shortage of funds to help correct the situation. Without the skills necessary to lead productive and meaningful lives, these young people will be left behind without much hope for the future.

Investing in their education is a vital investment not only in their future, but in the fabric of Israeli society. Meeting the challenge, the Jewish Agency offers enrichment and educational programs for at-risk and disadvantaged youth throughout Israel. One of the most successful programs is Net@.

Funding Request

\$175,000 will support two classes of Net@ in these priority locations.

IS/EYL/2D

Galilee and Negev Neighbors

The fabric of relations between Israeli Jews and Arabs, fragile in peacetime, barely withstood the difficult period of the Second Lebanon War in July 2006. The shared fate of neighbor communities did not increase positive feelings between Jews and Arabs, and in many cases tensions between neighbors only grew. One year later, it is important to continue strengthening the delicate fabric of life between Jews and Arabs as an integral part of rebuilding the Galilee.

The Jewish Agency for Israel played a major role during the war in providing assistance to frontline Arab and Druze communities. This strengthened the Jewish Agency's relationship with these communities, including the local municipalities and volunteer organizations. It also strengthened the Jewish Agency's commitment to support educational, social and cultural programs that will preserve the fabric of Jewish-Arab relations in mixed cities and in the Galilee and Negev regions in general.

Now is a pristine opportunity for us to help school-aged children learn the values and necessities of coexistence and mutual respect. The Galilee and Negev Neighbors program seeks to use this opportunity to implement several programs that bring together children from the Jewish and Arab communities. As they play together on the basketball court, perform together in musical venues, and create paintings and other artistic works together, the children will learn more about what unites them than that which divides them. In schools across the north, students will be selected to participate in one of these three activities. Each group will be accompanied by a professional educator who will prepare the children for their meetings with their peers and guide them through the intricacies of these relations.

The children of Israel are our hope for the future of the State. We must encourage them to put aside the political issues that are bigger than they are, the stereotypes and cultural myths that only perpetuate unnecessary hate, and bring them to creative and fun ways of interacting with their peers.

Funding Request

The Jewish Agency is seeking \$180,000 to implement the Galilee and Negev Neighbors program. Collectively, 1,000 children, Jews and Arabs will participate, benefiting not only from the cultural opportunities this program provides, but also from the extra-curricular activities that they will engage in.

IS/CY/2

Yadid

Every year, 100 children from the Hadar neighborhood in Haifa return to their families after elongated stays in foster care, at boarding schools, or in other supportive establishments. This transition is never easy—especially when these young people are returning to homes that are not functional or severely distressed.

In order to prevent recidivism, the Jewish Agency has devised the Yadid program that offers personal contact, ongoing support, and continued assistance to every boy and girl making this monumental shift. Local volunteers will be assigned to each boy or girl, ensuring that they never feel alone or distressed. The volunteers will be trained by the local welfare professionals and will know exactly how to provide the support and encouragement these young people will need. These volunteers will also serve as role models and personal mentors for these young people—giving them a positive image of someone to look up to and emulate.

Volunteers will be asked to commit to 15-20 hours of intensive intervention work with their beneficiary. During this time, they will engage in social and educational activities as well as in-depth talking sessions that will help the child learn the mechanisms and strategies for coping with difficult situations.

Beyond easing the transitional plight of the Yadid program beneficiaries, this program will also ensure increased school performance and greater academic achievement; they will have more self-esteem and personal resources to do better in school, only empowering them further to be successful students.

Funding Request

The Jewish Agency is seeking \$40,000 for the implementation of the Yadid program for 40 students. These finances will be matched by the Haifa Municipality. Your investment could be the catalyst for successful familial reintegration for countless children in the Hadar neighborhood of Haifa.

IS/CY/3

Common Values

Although divided by oceans and rivers, continents and countries, the Jewish people share basic common values that cross any natural or man-made border. But too many of the Jewish world's young people, both in Israel and abroad, feel disconnected from their peers; they think they have nothing in common and believe that there is more that divides them than unites them.

The Common Values program is designed to address this sense of disconnection and highlight that which stands to unite us, rather than what splits us. The program, created by educators from both sides of the ocean, establishes a school-based curriculum that encourages people-to-people contact and connection. Students and professionals from Partnership 2000 regions and Federations will have an exchange program that enhances the program- highlighting just how much we all have in common.

Students will study the principles of justice, responsibility, leadership, commitment, and community and engage in cross-continental learning experiences that will bring young people around the world together on these global issues.

Through the Common Values program 45,000 young people in the North and Gaza Perimeter regions will participate in this experiential learning opportunity and invaluable social/educational experience. By learning the same materials and issues, the students will build real bridges between them—bridges that will enable them to understand and appreciate the common ground on which the global Jewish community is built, common ideals that work to shape communities in Israel and throughout the world.

Students will engage in a community-based project that will reinforce the common values they are learning about. In this way, the program will not only be a theoretical discussion, but will also have a meaningful, hands-on component that will enhance the values being conveyed. The program will culminate with a one week summer camp that will bring 140 Israeli and global youth participating in the program together; this will be the opportunity to see just how common the values really are, share ideas and experiences, and learn about the rich diversity that is world Jewry.

Funding Request

One group of the Common Values program costs \$48,000 for approximately 200 participants; the cost of the summer camp for 140 participants is \$168,000. Donors can choose to fund any portion or component of the program.

IS/CY/4

Tennis Mentorship Program

Sports serve as a common language for people of all ages and from all backgrounds. They teach commitment, determination, and discipline as well as promote healthy outlets for energy and creativity. Youth at-risk – who need more support than most – often lack the resources to access organized athletic programs, thus missing out on the benefits that sports participation can yield.

This program aims to develop personal ties between students from the local Tel Hai College and youth at-risk as they grow through sport at the local tennis center. Mentors and youth will meet four hours a week for the duration of the school year at the tennis center. The mentors, who will receive scholarships for their participation, will coordinate with the local school, parents and administrators of the tennis center to encourage and support the youth.

The youth will only be allowed to participate with permission slips from the school, ensuring that they will attend and behave well in school. Social activities with their mentors, in addition to their participation in the tennis center, will give these youth the boost they need to break out of their negative cycles of behavior.

Funding Request

Your investment of \$12,500 will sponsor implementation of this program for ten youth at-risk and provide scholarships for ten student-mentors from Tel Hai College.

IS/CY/5



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While the Jewish Agency is committed to helping all the citizens of Israel in need of assistance, particular support is offered to vulnerable populations, individuals and communities that require special assistance.

Being on the frontline of a national security situation is not easy; being in the line of cross-border rocket attacks is not only terrifying, but also emotionally and psychologically debilitating. In Israel's hardest-hit cities, the communities are fighting to create and maintain a sense of normalcy and continuity for their residents. Daily routines are interrupted by air raid sirens, homes are destroyed, and educations are disrupted because of trauma and fear. The Jewish Agency programs for frontline populations ensures that we are meeting the needs of these residents, bringing them the support and infusing them with the energies they need to carry on and move forward.

Trauma Intervention in the Ethiopian Community

The Jewish Agency has led the united effort to bring Ethiopian Jews home. But our work is not yet done. Once they are here, we must continue our work to accelerate successful integration of the Ethiopian immigrant community.

Differences in culture, language, and life style present significant challenges to successful absorption. The disparities between life in Israel and Ethiopia are particularly striking—to the extent that Ethiopian immigrants face particularly difficult integration experiences.

Recognizing this fact, in 1996, the Israeli government outlined Principles of National Policy to ease the immigration process for Ethiopians. One of the objectives outlined in this policy, was the importance of integrating the Ethiopian population into higher educational settings. Toward this end, the government partnered with the Jewish Agency to provide Ethiopian immigrants with financial support and scholastic assistance that are unique to this immigrant population.

Even when they could no longer live in the traditional manner of their Ethiopian villages, and even when they had to deal with shattered family hierarchy, poverty, sickness and filth in the camps – **the dream of living a safe, strong Jewish life in Israel enabled them to endure.** They made aliyah and began adjusting to Israel and its western culture. But then there was a war, and continued Kassam rockets, facts that brought the realities of life under attack directly to their doorsteps.

Like all other residents in these regions Ethiopian immigrants experience fear, anxiety, and discomfort as they live through these situations. But unlike their peers, these new immigrants do not have the personal strength to endure the ongoing stress this entailed.

The effects of trauma are more pronounced among Ethiopian residents of these regions. Incidents of physical violence within families are on the rise. Children, too, are exhibiting destructive behavior. **Intervention programs to decrease violent and detrimental behavior are essential.**

Utilizing creative, informal, therapeutic tools, Jewish Agency trauma intervention program participants are taught how to express their concerns and anxieties, how to handle stress, and where to turn for help. Children and young adults are encouraged to pursue constructive goals that will decrease their urge to misbehave. Families and teens are taught non-violent, non-harmful ways of handling pressure and other stressful situations. The positive training promoted in this program will spiral down to all members of the community; there will be immeasurable positive impacts on participants' families.

All programs will be conducted in Amharic by Ethiopian professionals, ensuring complete comprehension, comfort, and involvement of Ethiopian participants. Programs will include:

- Interactive dialogue workshops to improve verbal communication skills
- Workshops that utilize “improvised theater” (a practiced and successful therapeutic tool for working with Ethiopian immigrants), to provide alternative methods of communication
- Movie production to master techniques of negotiation and family interaction
- Individualized professional intervention when necessary

Funding Request: Each trauma intervention program for new immigrants living in absorption centers costs \$400,000 for 1,600 Ethiopian immigrants. The Jewish Agency asks that you consider investing in this program, giving Ethiopian immigrants the tools they need to handle emergency situations as well as the day-to-day realities of life in Israel.

IS/SP/1A

Ofek New Horizons

The Jewish Agency has led the united effort to bring Ethiopian Jews home. But our work is not yet done. Once they are here, we must continue our work to accelerate successful integration of the Ethiopian immigrant community.

Differences in culture, language, and life style present significant challenges to successful absorption. The disparities between life in Israel and Ethiopia are particularly striking—to the extent that Ethiopian immigrants face particularly difficult integration experiences.

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Even when they could no longer live in the traditional manner of their Ethiopian villages, and even when they had to deal with shattered family hierarchy, poverty, sickness and filth in the camps – **the dream of living a safe, strong Jewish life in Israel enabled them to endure.** They made aliyah and began adjusting to Israel and its western culture. But that adjustment has not been easy.

The assistance offered by the Jewish Agency and government offices to the Ethiopian population are simply not enough to enable them to socially acclimate to the academic environment on Israeli campuses—environments that reflect a microcosm of Israeli society as a whole.

Today, 60 Ethiopian new immigrants attend the Jezreel Valley College in northern Israel. These students, ages 17-22 are enrolled in the College's pre-academic program that prepares them for higher education in Israel. Professionals from the government's Student Authority who work with these students have discovered that, while the immigrants have displayed significant academic advancement, their social assimilation remains severely hindered. So much so, that they do not feel comfortable meeting a fellow student face-to face.

Ofek New Horizons program is a mentoring program to help Ethiopian students feel more at home socially and culturally in Israel in general and on the Jezreel Valley College campus in particular.

Groups of three Ethiopian students at the College are paired with a student mentor, individuals who serve as role models and help the immigrant students navigate their way through campus, norms of Israeli culture, and life as a student. The mentors introduce the immigrants to things as simple as books, newspapers, and movies as well as to critical life tools like hygiene, balancing a personal budget, time management, and appropriate inter-gender relations.

Mentors attend training sessions that are designed to introduce them to the intricacies of Ethiopian culture and provide them with basic knowledge they will need to help their Ethiopian peers. These training sessions continue on an ongoing monthly basis and allow the mentors to air any particular challenges they are facing as well as prepare for the planned events of the coming month.

Student mentors work with "their" immigrants once a week; monthly trips are conducted for the entire group. These outings include things like nature visits, trips to Jerusalem to learn more about the government and its institutions, and activities to introduce students to various aspects of modern Israeli culture (movies, bowling, Israeli folk dancing, café culture, etc.).

During the 2006-7 academic year, Ofek New Horizons was piloted for 21 students. Student mentors, Student Authority and College staff have all recognized a change in participants' ability to socially cope with life in Israel. The immigrant students are now able to seek targeted assistance and take part

in campus life activities. **When they meet fellow students on campus, program participants now stand tall and greet their peers as equals.**

With the program's proven impact in hand, it is our goal to expand its current capacity and enable 30 new immigrants to benefit during the 2007-8 academic school year.

Annual cost of Ofek New Horizon's implementation is \$17,500. This cost includes 30 new immigrants, 10 mentor students and their scholarships, mentor training, trip expenses, and the salary of a project coordinator. The Jezreel Valley College has committed \$6,500 to implement this program.

Funding Request

Your investment of \$11,000 will fund scholarships for five mentor students, cover the expense of the mentor training and field trips. As we help the Ethiopian immigrant population successfully integrate in the Israeli academic and social environments, we are enabling them to build a better life for themselves in Israel.

IS/SP/1B

Respite Activities for Children Living in the Line of Fire

As rockets and missiles continue to rain down with deadly force, no place is safe in Southern Israel. This barrage continues to hit the South during the academic school year. Children, already traumatized by the frightened reality they have faced for the last six years, have no safe place to learn and have no respite from their fears. Outings and field trips have been cancelled because the region is not safe. **Something must be done to ensure the safety of Southern Israel's children and to offer some form of relief as they continue their learning.**

During the summer of 2006, the Jewish Agency implemented safe summer camp and respite activities for more than 8,000 children from the Sderot and Gaza regions. Now we must continue these respite efforts and provide trips and reprieve outings for the regions' children. Depending on the age of the children, trips ranging from 1-3 days will be conducted in the center of Israel. Destinations will include Tel- Aviv, Jerusalem, Ashkelon, Jaffa, and other mid-country locations. Together with the Wildlife Conservation Society for Israel, these trips will correspond to the curricula the children are learning in school. In this way, the outings will be a fun, but educational, way to distract the youngsters from the distressing occurrences in their home-city. The children will also enjoy performances and interactive programming in the center of the country.

Funding Request

We kindly ask that you consider support in the amount of \$700,000 in order to provide secure activities for the region's 8,000 school-aged children (1st -12th grade). This program will ensure that the children of Israel are able to learn in a safe and secure environment and remain out of harms way.

IS/SP/2A

Supporting Northern and Southern College Students

Institutions of higher education have long been a mechanism for bringing new life to less-populated areas. Students often make the area where they study their permanent home; for this reason, regional colleges have proven to be one of the most important vehicles in empowering communities outside of central Israel.

But enrollment in colleges and universities in Israel's north and south has declined, taking away a major source of economic and demographic enrichment. These communities are struggling. The Second Lebanon War in the North and the deteriorating security situation in the western Negev have resulted in a decrease in population, when an influx is what is needed to revive and fortify them.

Scholarships for colleges and universities in northern and southern Israel encourage students to enroll in these institutions. Additionally, community service as a condition of the scholarship promotes student involvement in the local community and supports development of the region. Israeli-born students who meet the predetermined criteria will receive scholarships of \$1,000; new immigrant students (defined as having lived in Israel for ten years or less) will receive scholarships of \$2,000 that covers the whole tuition. In return, scholarship recipients will be required to perform four hours per week of community service of an educational nature, promoting the potential of the local community.

Student scholarship recipients must meet the following criteria: they must be enrolled for the 2007-08 academic year and in an academic program, studying full-time in a college or university targeted for this program and recognized for the Council for Higher Education, and have not received any other Jewish Agency scholarship for the same academic year. The volunteer activity will be agreed upon by the student, college and the Jewish Agency and performed a minimum of four hours per week. Money for the scholarships will be transferred directly to the colleges in the name of the students to ensure that the money goes towards tuition fees.

This will be the second year of implementation of this program. To date, over 4,000 scholarships have been distributed. Your investment in this program will encourage the pursuit of higher education and empowerment of struggling communities in northern and southern Israel.

Funding Request

The table below illustrates the breakdown of the student body in Northern and Southern colleges in 2007-2008. **Native Israeli students studying in these institutions will receive an average scholarship of \$1,000, half of one year's tuition; immigrant students will receive \$2,000 to cover all their tuition costs. Donors are asked to support as many students in any location.**

Name of the Institution	Number of Scholarships	Total in thousands \$US
Western Galilee Academic College	140	200
Emek HaYarden (Kinneret) Academic College	250	250
Tel Hai Academic College	290	325
Brauda ORT College	260	300
Oranim Tivon College	220	245
Emek Yezreel College	205	230
Tsefat College	280	280
Total	1,645	1,830

IS/SP/2B

Druze Student Mentorship

The Druze minority in Israel is a unique one; they participate in the military and have relatively strong loyalty to Israel, but at the same time keep very much to themselves. This complicated status causes many to struggle with bringing together their ethnic (Arab), religious (Druze) and national (Israeli) identities.

Education in Druze communities is inadequate, and many young people become frustrated with their lack of opportunities when they return from military service. Very few make it to college or university. With access to Druze villages so difficult and community infrastructures almost nonexistent, Druze youth aren't able to recognize role models they might have or their own potential.

This program aims to build the relationship between Druze students at Tel Hai College and their local communities through mentoring that will expose Druze youth to the opportunities of higher education and their own potential. Twenty-five college students will work with local youth for four hours each week for the duration of the school year, receiving scholarships of \$1,200 in return. Developing an appreciation for social contribution through volunteering and encouraging Druze youth to pursue higher education will strengthen their identity, communities and Israeli society as a whole. Supporting this population in becoming contributive members of the greater Israeli society is an investment in the collective success of the state.

Funding Request:

A generous donation of \$60,000 will provide scholarships for the 25 students from Tel Hai College as well as program administration and implementation. Please consider investing in a loyal minority population that can greatly benefit from giving and receiving community service.

IS/SP/2C

Family Futures

The Jewish Agency uncovered an acute need for family and community empowerment. Since all post-trauma healing is achieved by confronting challenges at the source, this program is designed to fortify family units as a whole, addressing the entire traumatized family as one unit.

The Family Futures model will ensure that families-at-risk are given comprehensive, high-impact, tailored intervention that will allow them to take their place as independent, constructive members of society.

Program goals include:

- Providing participant at-risk families with the guidance necessary to ensure maximum utilization of available public facilities
- Providing children and parents with scholastic enrichment to ensure families' futures
- Enabling parents to improve their ability to make a living via training programs
- Empowering participants to be stable functional family units

Participants from socio-economically challenged communities will participate in family workshops which will help them overcome their disadvantages and succeed. As the individual family units flourish, communities will become better places to live. With the realization that education doesn't take place at school alone, the program will initiate courses and sessions that will help shape individual and familial identity, motivation, values and capacities.

Funding Request

In order to implement the Family Futures program in 20 settlements in priority regions throughout Israel, the Jewish Agency is seeking support in the amount of \$1,400,000. Donors can choose to sponsor one settlement or adopt any portion of this program.

IS/SP/3A

Helping the Brave: Assistance for Lone Immigrant Soldiers

Around 2,500 lone immigrants are currently serving in the Israel Defense Forces. These brave young men and women have left family and friends behind to put their lives on the line, to ensure a strong and safe Israel for Jews around the globe. For these highly motivated young people, on their own in Israel, the Jewish Agency provides financial, emotional, and practical support.

Particularly as they transition from military life back to civilian reality, lone immigrant soldiers are at a considerable disadvantage when compared to their Israeli peers. After completing their military service, these lone immigrant soldiers face the challenges of achieving economic stability, obtaining an education, and building their lives outside the insular military community. Compounded by the miles of distance between the soldier and their familial support network, these challenges often seem insurmountable.

In cooperation with the IDF, the Jewish Agency is easing this transition by implementing five-day seminars that provide participants with tools and skills that enable them to build their civilian life in a meaningful and effective way. Professional guidance and training sessions are conducted in groups, and personal counseling sessions are held.

The Helping the Brave program targets lone immigrant soldiers serving in combat units who are nearing completion of military service. The total program cost of \$400,000 includes workshops for 750 soldiers (\$150,000) and personal guidance for 400 workshop graduates (\$250,000).

Funding Request

We ask that you consider an investment of \$400,000 that will allow the Jewish Agency to implement the Helping the Brave program for lone immigrant soldiers—individuals who put their lives on hold to keep Israel safe. Your contribution will show them that while they might be in Israel without their families, they are not alone.

IS/SP/4A