

**“We, young people from all over the country...believe that it is not enough to strive to realize our potential as individuals, but that we must also work together on tasks of national significance... We have observed, with anguish, that Israeli society, facing a complicated demographic reality, is losing its grasp over peripheral areas. This is our opportunity to take a real part in rebuilding the land...”**

*Members of the Ayalim Association  
Young Community*



[www.jewishagency.org](http://www.jewishagency.org)

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**Young Communities**

## Young Communities

Young Communities are imbuing the periphery with a new, young and innovative spirit. They were founded with the goal of strengthening communities and social involvement in the Negev and Galilee.

After finishing their army service, many talented Israelis remain in the center of the country to pursue a college education and launch their professional careers. Yet growing social activism is motivating the next generation to work toward closing social gaps and building a more just society. They are doing this by living in the Negev and the Galilee, building Young Communities and contributing to the fabric of the regions' community life. They volunteer to work in informal education, social and cultural programs, encouraging community leadership and involvement, and with underprivileged children and youth through the Jewish Agency's Youth Futures program.

### **The diverse range of Young Communities include:**

**Student Villages** - Students studying at colleges in the Negev and the Galilee are building new communities.

At the same time they receive tuition assistance and are involved in important social, cultural and educational activity in coordination with the local councils in the areas in which they are located.

**Youth Movements** - a broad range of post-army youth movement activists are creating vibrant Young Communities and volunteering in local community activities as part of their commitment to social change.

**Local Communities** – Local young people living in the Negev and the Galilee are establishing Young Communities, creating a cadre of dedicated idealists who are committed to strengthening their home communities.

**Shachaf Communities** – The Jewish Agency has partnered with the JDC, the Oran Foundation, the Gandyr Foundation, SACTA-Rashi Foundation and the Communities Fund to create the Shachaf Communities Initiatives which serves as a center for coordinating activities for Young Communities throughout the country.

# Israel's New Social Pioneers

Dynamic young Israelis are creating a new pioneering spirit by building Young Communities in the priority regions of the Negev and Galilee. These Young Communities are harnessing the power of idealistic young people to serve as volunteer agents of social change and to strengthen Israel's underdeveloped areas.