



## **ENP-Atidim for Ethiopian-Israeli High Achievers**

The ENP Effect: Realizing the full potential of Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers

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United Jewish Communities

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Some of today's problems cannot wait for tomorrow's solutions

Ethiopian-Israelis face singular and remarkable difficulties, starting with the extraordinary adjustment from life in a predominantly agrarian society to the modern, technology-based society that is today's Israel. After that, the problems just mount.

## THE REALITY OF ISRAEL'S ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY

Today, the Ethiopian-Israeli community numbers 110,700—34,600 of whom are native born. Most Ethiopians immigrated with little or no understanding of or experience with formal education. They have, on average, bigger families than the general Israeli population, and there is a higher incidence of single-parent households. Despite government assistance, most Ethiopian-Israelis live in low-income and/or peripheral communities with few job opportunities. The 2007 statistics speak volumes

- *57.4% of working-age Ethiopian-Israelis have an elementary school education or less*
- *Employment is at 52% compared to 71% among general Jewish population*
- *52% of Ethiopian-Israeli households (and 70% of the community) are defined as poor compared to 16% of general Jewish population*

These factors have additionally led to increased drug and alcohol abuse, delinquency and to a significant rise in family violence. If circumstances don't change significantly, 12.3% of Ethiopian-Israel youngsters in school today will not graduate from high school—perpetuating the cycle of despair and poverty.

**ENP was formed in 2004 to break this cycle by involving the Ethiopian community itself in developing the path to successful integration.**

Together, with municipal partners, each city was mapped to determine what was being addressed, and what wasn't. The result: an obvious, urgent need to work with teenagers – quicker-to-learn, Hebrew-speaking children who were the 'eyes and ears' into the community. But the ENP programs for these teens are not just about educational or social intervention—that is the means to the end. **ENP programs are dedicated to preventing the development of a permanent black underclass in Israel** through ensuring that another whole generation is not lost.

ENP has programs in place to help prevent a permanent black underclass in Israel. The challenge now is ensuring that no youngster is left behind.



## ENP-Atidim for Ethiopian-Israeli High Achievers

The Ethiopian National Project provides a range of opportunities to help Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers realize their full potential. Its programs were developed to fill in gaps among existing government and NGO services, as well as to ensure more, and deeper community engagement.

### THE ENP EFFECT

The ENP-Atidim program focuses on education, empowerment and academic exposure:

1. Students receive after-school tutorials in mathematics, sciences and English, as well as any other subject according to individual student needs.
2. Trained professionals encourage students to believe in themselves, to build a dream for their future and to strive for academic success, which will lead to better lives for themselves and their families.
3. Special visits to universities and high-tech companies across the country expose students to various career opportunities.

### GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

The program is designed to help participants achieve personal and social excellence, with a focus on three main goals:

1. Graduates will earn a quality science matriculation certificate enabling them to be accepted into prestigious faculties in university.
2. Graduates will be self-driven and aware of their responsibilities to community and society.
3. Graduates will envision a bright future and be able to make educated decisions regarding their professional future.

Intensive scholastic assistance is provided in small study groups for mathematics, English and Hebrew, in addition to other subjects as needed. A primary goal is to ensure that the students attain quality matriculation certificates—enabling them to enter university, with an emphasis on reaching the elite faculties within universities.

Students are exposed to academia, the sciences, technology and role models—encouraging them to feel they can become integrated in any field of their choosing. An emphasis is also placed on developing leadership skills.

Given the opportunity, 80% of all Ethiopian-Israeli students who have access to ENP after school assistance take advantage of it.



## ENP-Atidim for Ethiopian-Israeli High Achievers

### PERSONAL SUCCESS STORIES

**Linoy** is a ninth grade student at the Brosh School in Afula. She is an outstanding student who studies English with the tenth graders in her study groups. In a normal school framework, Linoy would not be able to study with tenth graders because school rules do not allow students to skip classes in only specific subjects. Thanks to ENP-Atidim, Linoy is able to study with students on her level, and she continues to excel. She expresses her gratitude to ENP-Atidim for enabling her to realize her potential and advance in her studies.

**Nofer** is an exceptionally motivated student in eleventh grade, who as a result of financial difficulties at home, needs to work to supplement her family's income. Nofer is majoring in biology, a demanding track that requires a lot of studying. The fact that Nofer's grades were high enough to initially earn her entrance into ENP-Atidim even when she was working is a credit to her brilliance and drive to learn and excel. In a personal conversation, Nofer told an ENP-Atidim staff member that as a result of her participation in ENP-Atidim, she is able to maintain her high grades, even when she is working.

**Summer Camp Participants:** During summer vacation, 11<sup>th</sup> grade ENP-Atidim students participated in a five-day summer camp in Kibbutz “Kenot.” The students who participated underwent a rigorous selection process. Students participated in workshops that dealt with topics such as leadership and responsibility. The workshops presented students with real scenarios that world leaders were faced with and were asked to brainstorm different ideas for coping with the situation. Besides the educational aspects of the camp, participants enjoyed splashing around in the pool and fun night activities. In the words of one of the student participants: “At the completion ceremony we understood that we had undergone a serious process of learning, preparation and understanding and how it is our job to implement all that we have learned and experienced over the five days we spent at camp. One of the experiences that made a big impression on me was our visit to Independence Hall in Tel Aviv where the first Israeli Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, proclaimed the State of Israel. For many of us, it was our first time visiting the historical site.”

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

With the leveraged funds from Israeli philanthropists, the cost per student is \$1,248. Currently 2,000 Ethiopian-Israeli students need financial support in order to participate in the ENP-Atidim program.

We are asking you to consider partnering to change the future of this community through life-changing intervention for its most precious resource—its next generation.

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The Jewish federation community has time and again shown how we as a people rise to so many occasions. We live generously, we groom future leaders, we invest in our children, we demand justice for people who cannot advocate for themselves, we fund programs and services and emergency responses, and by our example we create a spirit of giving and hope that other communities only pray they can emulate. You are part of this generous, pluralistic, and big-hearted community that does so much good.