



April 2016/ Nisan 5776

Shalom friends and supporters!

All Jews around the world remember the story of Passover around the seder table and conclude it with the words "Next Year in Jerusalem." As those words are exclaimed here in Israel, Ethiopian Jews especially are overwhelmed with awe that they in their lifetime have witnessed their return to the City of Gold. As we each remember our own personal exodus from Egypt, and as Ethiopian Jews celebrate our return to Jerusalem, we wish to take the opportunity to thank all those who played a part in this modern-day exodus of Ethiopian Jewry. And at ENP, we vow to continue our work tirelessly, to ensure that Jews around the world can rejoice in the many shared achievements of this remarkable community. Next Year in Jerusalem!

Dessie (Roni) Akale
Director-General, Ethiopian National Project

Facts and Figures: Far More than Scholastic

Though dubbed a "Scholastic Assistance" program, in actuality, ENP's SPACE (School Performance and Community Empowerment) Scholastic Assistance Program is much, much more. Now, the latest Myers-JDC-Brookdale evaluation demonstrates how ENP's holistic approach towards after-school supplemental education, including the emotional, social and nutritional aspects that complement the scholastic, is indisputably impactful. To read the full results, [Click here](#)>



The Ethiopian National Project –
Scholastic Assistance Program
Evaluation of the Implementation and Contribution of
the Socio-Emotional Support Program in 2014/2015
Summary

Ruth Ben-Zion + Dana Ben-Rubi + Vacholder Konstantinov

The study was commissioned and funded by the Ethiopian National Project
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the Government of Israel, representatives of Ethiopian Jewish Community Organizations, the Jewish Agency
for Israel (JAI), the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Israel, and Karen Hayslip

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ENP Spotlight: An ENP Graduate Gives Back

Currently an officer in the psychological unit of the IDF Ground Forces, Janet proudly states: "Without a doubt, ENP's program helped me to be where I am today."

Name: Janet Balay

Age: 21

ENP involvement: SPACE Scholastic Assistance in Beer Sheva from ages 15-18

IDF placement: Officer in the psychological unit of the IDF Ground Forces



Janet made Aliyah from Tigray, Ethiopia. At a young age, Janet's parents encouraged her to invest time and effort in her studies, so when Janet heard about ENP's SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program, it was only natural for her to decide to participate. "Without a doubt, ENP's program helped me to be where I am today."

Janet is currently an officer in the psychological unit of the IDF Ground Forces and loves her job. When she speaks to Ethiopian-Israeli teens, she highly recommends serving in the IDF and to make every effort to reach the highest quality placements.

But a distressing reality prompted her to take action and turn to ENP as a resource: "Recently, an article was published about the high rates of suicide of Ethiopian-Israelis in the army. After reading this article, I decided to go out into the Ethiopian-Israeli community and discuss this issue through presentations about what it means to be an Ethiopian-Israeli in a combat unit in the IDF.

"I couldn't stay quiet about what was happening with Ethiopian-Israeli soldiers and so I

turned to one of ENP's Youth Outreach Centers and offered to present a program on the issue, and how parents can help their children throughout their army service."

Through Janet's initiative at ENP's Youth Outreach Center with parents of ENP participants, she helped parents understand what their children are going through when they are drafted into the army and the difficulties they may have. It was an introduction for most of the parents to the army and exposed them to the issues that arise when their children are drafted.

Janet was surprised at the amount of parents that came to her program: "The response was amazing. There were many parents who truly wanted to be included in their children's lives in the army, but because of their lack of knowledge of Israeli society and institutions, they did not feel like they had the ability to be involved."

ENP has 14 Youth Outreach Centers, which serve some 1,000 youth throughout Israel. Among the critical work carried out is lessening the gap between parent and child. [Read more about ENP's Youth Outreach Centers here.](#)

In the Field: ENP Regional Supervisors, an Extraordinary Resource

One of the factors that makes ENP so unique is the fact that it works hand in hand with the Ethiopian-Israeli community. From the highest echelons of its leadership to the most grassroots levels, ENP includes and involves Ethiopian-Israelis in every aspect of its work. Even the original decision for ENP to focus its efforts on children, risk-prevention and empowerment was made with the input of Ethiopian-Israeli leaders, who organized to create "The Representatives of Ethiopian Jewish Community Organizations" to serve as a united voice of the community in the ENP partnership with Jewish federations, the major Jewish organizations and the Government of Israel.

Of ENP's 15 staff members, ten are Ethiopian-Israeli professionals. The majority made the arduous journey from Ethiopia via Sudan, one came on Operation Solomon and another, having reached Israel at the age of one year old, is more Israeli than most Israelis. All are extraordinarily committed professionals who have dedicated their life's work to benefit the Ethiopian-Israeli community.

The seven Regional Supervisors utilize their knowledge and insights to ensure a superior program, serving as the eyes and ears of the investment made in this critical realm. [Meet them and their colleagues](#) as they wish you a Happy Passover. [Learn here](#) about their stories which make ENP so special.



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