



**The Ethiopian
National Project**
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**March 2011
Adar II 5771**

Ethiopian National Project (ENP) E-News

Dear Friend,

In Ethiopia, the news of the festivities of Purim never reached our remote villages, and so we observed the fast day, but not the festivities of Purim. And thus it is fitting, as Jews around the world celebrate the holiday of Purim, that we too rejoice- also in the fact that through our shared work, we are making a difference in the lives of many, and transforming the future of the Ethiopian-Israeli community. As I conclude my tenure as Director-General of ENP, and welcome my successor, I take enormous pride in the many achievements of ENP. As you read below, I am certain you will share this pride. I look forward to continuing to play a part in the transformation we have undertaken together, and hope, through our hard work, that the Ethiopian-Israeli community, including the newest arrivals, will thrive and flourish in the Land of Milk and Honey.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Nigist Mengesha
Director-General, ENP

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The "Heart-to-Heart" Mission Comes to ENP

"Our time with you is something I won't ever forget -- it was heart-warming!"
 -"Heart-to-Heart" Participant-

Calling all record labels, dance companies, and museums of the world: if the world-class karaoke, Ethiopian dance, and photography produced last month by Ethiopian-Israeli youth from three of ENP's Youth Outreach Centers are any indication, these kids are going to be hot commodities in a few years. On hand to participate with ENP youth in these activities were women from the National Women's Philanthropy "Heart-to-Heart" Mission.

To see photos from these missions and get more information, please click [here](#) to visit our facebook page.



Profile of a Leader: Sileshi Mengistu

"I want to succeed and be an example to my family"
 Sileshi Mengistu

ENP's strong commitment to excellent leadership includes the placement of emphasis on a thriving local leadership. Such is the case with the Community Leadership and Empowerment Committee in Beit Shemesh which has elected Sileshi Mengistu as the new chair of its Empowerment Committee. This innovative program works in cooperation and with the generous support of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the United Jewish Endowment Fund. The Community Leadership and Empowerment Program trains future leaders, unites the community and develops a vision for the future. The program highlights ENP's unique philosophy of working hand and



hand with the Ethiopian-Israeli community and empowering them to take leadership into it's own hands.



For Sileshi's Full Profile, Click [Here](#).

Evaluation Reveals Boost in Performance for Multi-Year Participation in Scholastic Assistance Program

47% more Ethiopian-Israeli students receive a matriculation certificate as a result of participating in ENP Scholastic Assistance program. In 2007-2008, only 36% of Ethiopian-Israeli 12th grade students nation wide achieved matriculation eligibility. In contrast, 53% achieved matriculation eligibility after participating in the program for three years. (Myers-JDC-Brookdale Report, 2010)

For more information on this exciting statistic click [here!](#)

Sara's Story

ENP's Scholastic Assistance Program offers more than just Scholastic Assistance. Often it transforms lives. See Sara's story below to see just one example of how ENP is enabling such transformations to take place.

One day, Sara,* a student on the ENP Scholastic Assistance program in Netanya, turned to her ENP counselor, Dembulo and shared with her the great distress that she was in. Sara had been suffering harassment and threats from a former boyfriend for a few weeks and was terribly afraid. Dembulo immediately spoke with school staff, in an effort to deal with the problem together. Sara was too afraid to tell her troubles to her parents but agreed to go with Dembulo to the police station to report the harassment. Dembulo, along with a class teacher and class advisor, followed the matter closely, and did not leave the child alone for an instant. Despite Sara's initial, staunch opposition they discussed the matter with her parents and conveyed what she could not: the seriousness of the situation, and the graveness of her the fears. The parents were deeply grateful to Dembulo.

After a number of days, the boyfriend, who was in fact also wanted by police for other crimes, was arrested. The young girl was finally free of fear. Sharing the secret that had weighed so heavily on her had revealed people who hurried to her side with sensitivity and love. She feels that the frightening episode strengthened her relationship with her parents and significant figures in her life.

**name has been changed*

The ENP Scholastic Assistance program in Netanya is supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey, and the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati.

Ethiopian National Project

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ENP is powered by the Jewish Federations of North America, the Government of Israel, representatives of Ethiopian Jewish Community Organizations, the Jewish Agency for Israel, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and Keren Hayesod-UIA.

