



The Ethiopian National Project
 פרויקט הלאומי של עולי אתיופיה

Ethiopian National Project E-News

Dear Friend,

"I am now 21, and I can't imagine what my life would be like if I hadn't been exposed to ENP's Youth Outreach Center."
 - Moshe, ENP Youth Outreach Center graduate, Hadera

Happy Purim from ENP! On Purim, we recall the miracle of the rescue of the Jewish people. The Ethiopian-Israeli community celebrates this miracle, and our joy of being in Israel, on a daily basis. And with this comes new responsibilities and new possibilities for empowering the Ethiopian-Israeli community and bringing about real change.

We're excited to launch the [Ethiopian National Project's](#) e-newsletter at this pivotal time. At the Ethiopian National Project, we work in true partnership with global Jewry, Israel and the Ethiopian-Israeli community to address the most pressing social and educational needs of the Ethiopian-Israeli community. By investing in today's teenagers, ENP is ensuring that the Ethiopian-Israeli community has a brighter future.

We have lots of news to share. In this newsletter, you'll meet some of the Ethiopian-Israeli community, learn about local projects we implement, and read recent news about ENP. You can also read the latest evaluation of our success in the ENP annual report.

But we still have much work ahead of us. This has been a difficult financial year for ENP. In 2007-08, we were reaching almost half the population of Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers. In 2009-10, we reach only one of every four. That is three of four teenagers who await the opportunity to succeed in Israel. [With your support, ENP can continue to provide these important services.](#) We hope you'll read on, learn more, and continue to join us in spreading the news of ENP's success and potential to more and more people.

Best wishes for a happy Purim,
 Dr. Nigist Mengesha

The Need for ENP Today

The Ethiopian National Project's mission is to address the most pressing social and educational needs of Ethiopian-Israeli youth aged 13 to 18. By investing in today's youth, ENP is ensuring that the Ethiopian-Israeli community has a brighter future.

The Ethiopian-Israeli population, currently standing at 120,000, has the highest rate of poverty of any social group in Israel. 68% live below the poverty line. Their economic and social deprivation, combined with a crisis of cultural transition, has a hugely negative impact on every aspect of the lives of their children, of whom 16,000 are aged 13 to 18. You can read more about these statistics [here](#), and learn how ENP is empowering Ethiopian-Israelis towards a stronger future.



The ENP Effect

- **Matriculation:** In 2007, 52.4% of Ethiopian-Israeli students who received Scholastic Assistance achieved their matriculation certificate eligibility, in contrast to only 37% of Ethiopian-Israeli students nation-wide. (Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute Evaluation 2009)
- **Greater Self-Confidence:** 80% of students participating in ENP Scholastic Assistance programs reported a "great" or "very great" improvement in their self-image. (Branco-Weiss Evaluation, 2009)
- **Massive Reduction in Juvenile Delinquency:** Since the launch of ENP's Youth Outreach Centers in 2005, there has been a 60% decrease in the number of Ethiopian-Israeli youth with police files.

Riki's Story

Meet Riki: an inspiring woman who is using her own experiences to improve the lives of Ethiopian-Israelis. Riki is the General Director of Hiyot, a non-profit chosen by the Ethiopian National Project to operate select Youth Outreach Centers in the north of Israel.

Riki and her family came from Ethiopia to Israel in 1984. During this time, an estimated 13,000 Ethiopian Jews traveled from Ethiopia and across Sudan in the hopes of reaching Israel; almost 4,000 died along the way. Here, Riki recounts her family's experience, and what motivates her to do this work. [Read more.](#)

Photos from the Field: Kiryat Bialik

"We came here to educate people from our community about what we can do."



Purim 2010

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Federations are among ENP's greatest supporters. To "bring the story home," ENP frequently hosts community missions at its projects throughout Israel. Recently, delegates from the Jewish Federation of Rockland County in Maryland spent a day with Ethiopian Israelis in Kiryat Bialik, cooking Ethiopian food, learning Ethiopian dance and engaging in dialogue with members of the local community.



[Read more about the visit, and see pictures from the field, on ENP's Facebook page.](#)

The youth outreach center in Kiryat Bialik is made possible with the generous support of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, Florida.

ENP Blog: A Volunteer's Perspective

"Hence: armed with goodwill, some teaching experience, and jumpy nerves, I venture to the youth center..."

[Read on](#) to learn about the impressions of Adi, a recent Johns Hopkins graduate who is volunteering with ENP.

Stories and Pathways offers readers the opportunity to view Israel through the lens of volunteers working to empower the Ethiopian community. The blog offers unique insights into the struggles and triumphs of volunteers and the communities they serve. Check it out at <http://enpblog.blogspot.com>.

Ethiopian National Project

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