

Fray (Frayhewiott) Belay-Tadela **Ethiopian National Project SPACE Regional Pedagogic Coordinator**

Fray was just five years old when, in 1984, she, her younger sister and parents fulfilled their generations-long dream of returning to Jerusalem. While most Ethiopian Jews who came during this period endured the harrowing journey by foot through Ethiopia via Sudan under the guise of being refugees, Fray's family was one of the lucky few who, as her parents were educated, were flown under the premise of being scholarship recipients to a US professional training program. But, instead of study in America with a return to Ethiopia, they were returned to their homeland, the land of Israel.

Fray's family lived for five years in a Nazareth Absorption Center, and later moved to permanent housing in the city. After graduating high school, Fray served in the Central Command in Jerusalem. She thrived in the army, and was formally recognized with a prestigious Certificate of Excellence. Upon completing her army service, Fray obtained a BA in Communication and Management. She then began her journey to carry out the most important role she believed essential to serve: a role model.

From the time she commenced college and until today, Fray has committed her life to work with youth in a wide variety of roles, but most significantly, as a mentor, an educational coordinator, and a leader, who in addition to her own impact, helps other professionals impact children's' lives.

Today, Fray is married with two children. In 2014, Fray obtained a Teacher's Certificate, but it was after becoming a mother that she decided to fulfill yet another dream, obtaining a Master's Degree, which she just did one year ago, in Education System Management. "It was a challenge to study with two small children at home, but knowing they would see me as a role model is what kept me going strong."

Fray is an inspiration to hundreds of teenagers and tens of staff through the Ethiopian National Project's School Performance and Community Empowerment Program (ENP SPACE), where she serves as a Regional Pedagogic Coordinator. "In my role, I make sure high school students get everything they need so they can excel and fulfill their dreams, while serving as a resource to those who make a difference in these children's lives."

Fray is immensely proud of her identity as a black, Jewish, Israeli, Ethiopian woman and mother. "Being an immigrant child in Israel is a bumpy ride. I often had to be a teacher to my own parents. In my role through ENP SPACE, we are helping all Ethiopian-Israeli children fulfill their potential, so they can succeed in Israeli society. Together, we are creating a generation of empowered children who will make a difference."

