



Autumn 2017/ Tishrei 5778

Shalom friends and supporters!

In between the two violent storms that hit America, Israeli schoolchildren began their first days of school and the Ethiopian National Project commenced its SPACE- School Performance and Community Empowerment- program. Our hearts are with our friends whose lives have been shaken by the power of nature-- and our deep gratitude is with those who have played a part in JFNA's Campaign [Project 1460](#).

Below you will read how intertwined our worlds are, and how hope, turned into action, yields amazing results. [Your action](#) can still help place more children in ENP's life-changing work: one by one, ENP still aims to include 8,729 children in ENP SPACE this year. We each can make a difference, and do great things together.

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

ENP by the Numbers: A Great Start to the School Year



Thus far, ENP has placed 6,056 children from 32 cities into ENP's SPACE (School Performance and Community Empowerment) Scholastic Assistance Program in the 2017-18 school year. This is an increase from the 5,848 who benefited from ENP in the 2016-17 year,

the first of a four-year major Government of Israel (GOI)-ENP educational initiative aimed to lessen the scholastic gaps of Ethiopian-Israeli schoolchildren. ENP and the GOI aim to include 8,729 children in total: the GOI has pledged to fund half the cost of every child in the program for four years. Each donor contribution of \$588 will enable one additional child to benefit from ENP's holistic, after-school scholastic, emotional social and nutritional support. Reaching this critical mass of children will likely reduce the community's needs with time.

ENP Spotlight: The Small Federation that Made a Big Impact

"ENP SPACE is an inspiration to all, a testament to what Federations can do. I can think of few programs so worthy of Federation support." Alex Shapiro



This summer, the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Utah, Alex Shapiro, heard that ENP representatives would be in the United States at the time of their annual summer event. Without hesitation, he reached out and brought ENP to his community: "The Ethiopian Jewish story appeals to all, and attracts a wide variety of community members who are thirsty to hear the story first hand." Over 120 people, from their 20s through their 80s, attended the event.

"This was the most connective event I have ever had in my seven years at Federation," Alex explained. "The story of Sefitu, an ENP SPACE graduate, is unbelievable and inspirational. A new immigrant who's first day of school ever was in third grade, who struggled until SPACE caught her in seventh grade and uplifted her to where she is today, applying to medical schools in Israel- is simply extraordinary. She, and ENP SPACE, is an inspiration to all, a testament to what Federations can do. I can think of few programs so worthy of Federation support."



On the spot, at the event, funding to include a full 41 children in ENP SPACE in 2017-18 was collected. "This well surpassed the number of children we hoped to reach," Alex noted.

But he did not stop there. Alex, feeling so strongly about the critical importance of this program, took his passion one step further: "As Chairman of Small Federations, I felt it was my

responsibility to share with others what I had witnessed, and encourage them to join the communal effort JFNA has launched to support ENP SPACE."

In March 2017, JFNA formally rolled out a new Campaign to support ENP SPACE, called "Project 1460"- the number of days in four years-designed to raise funds to support the inclusion of 8,729 children in ENP SPACE for four years.

"Together, we can do great things," says Alex. Sure enough, other small Federations followed suit and notified Alex of their intention to support ENP, or advised him that they have already done so.

"If each of us takes on a little part of this effort, we will easily include the full numbers that need to be reached. Young women like Sefitu are the pride of Federations. We wonder how to be relevant today? It is precisely through such work as that of ENP, battling the formation of a black underclass, fulfilling our moral obligation to ensure the Ethiopian Jewish community's success- and letting everybody know of this work we are doing-this is how we stay relevant."

[Support ENP SPACE](#), [participate in Project 1460](#), and [contact ENP](#) to see how ENP can visit your community.

In the Field: The "E" in SPACE

"ENP identifies the barriers to a child's success- whatever they might be- and chips them away, so the SPACE participant can take advantage of all the program has to offer." Roni Akale

ENP's SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program provides far more than just after school scholastic support. "The "E" in SPACE is for empowerment, a critical element of what we provide the children in our program," explains Roni Akale, Director-General of ENP.

In addition to four academic hours of after-scholastic instruction by certified teachers in math, English, Hebrew and other subjects, ENP SPACE provides an array of programming and services that help boost a child's performance by focusing on elements other than scholastic assistance that help ensure success.



"ENP literally embraces each child in its program," explains Roni. Frequently, there is so much that burdens a child-especially an immigrant or a child of immigrants-- that they are unable to focus their efforts on school. It is our responsibility to identify the barriers to a child's success- whatever they might be-and chips them down, so the SPACE participant can take advantage of all the program has to offer."

So important, in fact, are the supplementary elements of SPACE to ENP that ENP commissioned an external evaluation to evaluate the impact of the non-scholastic elements of the program.

"What the evaluation found was that the additional elements of ENP SPACE are as critical to a child's success as are the scholastic elements. They all are intertwined," says Roni.

"Strengthening identity, increasing aspirations, carrying out home visits to identify any hidden challenges- ENP SPACE does so very much. Few truly understand the extent to which ENP

SPACE is absolutely transformative for every single participant," adds Roni. From Sigd celebrations (a traditional Jewish holiday now celebrated in Israel, primarily by Ethiopian Jews) to lectures by inspirational speakers, field trips to museums and universities and so much more, ENP inspires and empowers," Roni confirms.

[Read the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Evaluation](#) on the holistic elements of ENP's SPACE Program

Out and About: A Chance Meeting of ENP Heroes



"How amazing to see a chance meeting between two individuals who have done-- and do-- so much for ENP," relates ENP's Grace Rodnitzki, Director of International Relations.

Rachel sent the selfie with a 'guess who I ran into' caption to ENP's office from Texas, pictured together with Beaumont-native Marc Wolf. The pair met by chance during relief efforts in hurricane-struck Beaumont.

ENP's very first Internship and Marketing Coordinator, Rachel Gerber, runs into Marc Wolf in his hometown of Beaumont, Texas. The two discovered their ENP connection during rescue efforts for Hurricane Harvey.

Marc, a JFNA lay leader and National Young Leadership Cabinet member currently

residing in New York, returned to his hometown to lend a helping hand. Marc also is JFNA's newly-appointed National Young Leadership Cabinet ENP Co-Ambassador, serving side by side with Simone Knego of Florida (herself having had to bunker down for Hurricane Irma). Marc and Simone's unending commitment to promote ENP and get the word out to help more children enter the program is, in itself, nothing less than heroic.

ENP is honored these young leaders play a part in our critical work: Rachel and Marc's miraculous efforts reveal those who care so deeply about the success of the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel also continue to make a world of a difference, in so many ways.

[Click here](#) to help support JFNA's Hurricane Harvey rescue efforts

[Click here](#) to help include additional children in ENP SPACE

[Be in touch](#) to learn more about how you can play a part in ENP

Want even more of ENP? [Contact us](#), and explore how you can bring the story home.

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