



Summer 2017/ Tamuz-Av 5777

Shalom friends and supporters!

Exciting times for the Ethiopian National Project! A new campaign called "[Project 1460](#)" has been launched by the Jewish Federations of North America to enable 8,729 schoolchildren to participate in ENP's SPACE (School Performance and Community Empowerment) Program for four years (1460 is the number of days in four years!) One child, one year, \$588-- every donation matched by the Government of Israel. This communal effort follows the Government of Israel's decision to ask ENP to spearhead the provision of holistic support to Ethiopian-Israeli schoolchildren and their parents nationwide in 35 cities across Israel, an outcome of Israel's recognition of the success and impact of ENP's work. Help make the Campaign a success, [play a part](#) small or large and [share the news](#) far and wide! Together, this is the way we will transform the futures of the extraordinary Ethiopian Jewish community, one by one!

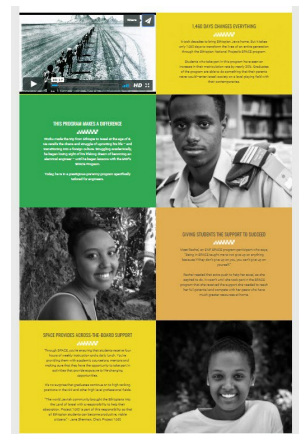
Dessie (Roni) Akale
Director-General, Ethiopian National Project



Jewish Federations of North America Launch \$18M Campaign for ENP SPACE

In November 2016 at the Closing Plenary of the General Assembly of Jewish Federations of North America, JFNA announced the launch of a special campaign to support the Ethiopian National Project's SPACE (School Performance and Community Empowerment) program. Then unnamed, in March 2017, the beautiful brand was rolled out. A dedicated website "[TheProject1460](#)," includes stories from the field, a [powerful video](#), information on ENP SPACE, and ways to [make a difference](#).

Over 100 children and parents have been interviewed by ENP, with their stories and photographs to appear as the Campaign gains momentum. Each story in and of itself is a powerful testament to the unique impact of



SPACE, yet a common theme rings true from each child interviewed, as stated powerfully by Rachel: "Being in SPACE taught me to not give up on anything because if they don't give up on you, you can't give up on yourself."

ENP Spotlight: Interns Far and Wide Play a Part in ENP

From Pardes to Pitt, Onward to JInternship, a soon-to-be-soldier to veteran immigrants... ENP's numerous interns hold one thing is common-- the desire to make a difference in the Ethiopian-Israeli community through ENP.



"I've been given the opportunity to use my educational training in a new environment, and find it absolutely interesting and fulfilling," says Maxine Berman, who has spent the summer interning full time with ENP as part of Pardes Institute's "Learn and Intern" summer program. Maxine will be continuing her contribution to ENP as she spends the coming year in the Pardes Experiential Educators' Program: "Being in an Israeli office, hearing Hebrew and working with Israelis has contributed to my experience greatly."

McKenna Bass of California discovered ENP through the Onward Israel Program. She's already left a lasting mark: when interns were presented with the group challenge of developing a highly interactive activity with ENP participant children and visiting guests from North America, McKenna's suggestion of a specially-sculpted Jenga game stole the day. "I'm so happy my idea was able to make an impact at the event. Over 100 guests and 22 ENP kids played the game we interns created. That's a great feeling!" says McKenna.

Every Thursday, ENP's interns convene in Jerusalem to catch up on their week's work, experience an inspirational story, hone a new skill and conclude with a brainstorming session. From a tour of the historic National Institutions building to ENP's Director-General's aliyah story, the gathering presents an opportunity for interns to grow and learn from each other.

"ENP Interns are an invaluable part of our work," explains Ariela Lacovsky. "They contribute so much, bring a breath of fresh air to the organization and help us exponentially increase our team," adds Ariela, one of two professionals in ENP's International Relations Division. "ENP is small-- just 15 professionals total-- yet we do so much. We welcome with open arms those who want to play a part in helping us make a difference, and we've been blessed to have skilled, talented and committed interns."

In the Field: ENP Alumni Share their Stories



Each year, a graduating class of ENP participants goes on to their next stage in life. The vast majority enter the army, some are National Service Volunteers, more and more delay their army service to participate in a year of Voluntary Service before the army, and some even commence university as part of the prestigious Atudah program, which permits pre-army study of a skill then utilized as an integral part

of the graduate's army service.

Last week, a group of Federation lay leaders and professionals, participants in JFNA's FRD Mission to Ukraine and Israel, had the opportunity to hear two such ENP alumni. Hailing from Beersheva, Sefitu was one alumna who shared her message in a way that moved every person present.

Sefitu came to Israel from Ethiopia at the age of seven. Today she volunteers at Soroka Hospital in Beersheva: "My first day of school ever was in third grade. I remember it like it was yesterday. The classroom was huge, with so many kids. I think I was the quietest one in the whole class... I could never have imagined that seven-year-old me who drew water from the river would today be drawing blood from patients."

She left no question as to how she reached this point in her life: "ENP SPACE is the reason I can and will one day be a doctor. That quiet girl in third grade didn't know she could even dream to be one. With SPACE, not only could I dream, but I was given everything I needed to fulfill my dreams."

With 13 years of graduating classes, ENP's impact is changing the face of Israel. ENP's thousands of graduates will help Israel thrive and prosper.

Sefitu will be sharing her story with select Federation communities this coming August, including appearances with JFNA's National Young Leadership Cabinet and I-LEAD.

Want ENP to visit your community? [Contact ENP's Grace Rodnitzki](#), and see how you can bring the story home.

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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.