



**The Ethiopian
National Project**
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**September
2010/
Tishrei 5771**

Ethiopian National Project (ENP) E-News

Dear Friend,

As we celebrate a New Year and reflect inwards on Yom Kippur, we all can take great satisfaction in the recognition that through the Ethiopian National Project, each of us has transformed the lives of thousands of Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers and their families. With your support, ENP has achieved so much since our creation in 2005. ([View ENP's 5 Year Report](#) for just some of these achievements, and read below for insight into ENP's most recent newsworthy events!)

Yet our work is far from complete. Indeed, coinciding with the new Jewish year comes the new school year. **Each child unable to join ENP's program due to lack of funds is one child too many.** We must all do our part to ensure that the Ethiopian-Israeli community succeeds, and education is the key to this success.

Recognizing the critical importance and efficacy of ENP's programs, the Ministry of Education of the State of Israel, together with local municipalities, has agreed to provide **half the cost of up to 1,400 children's participation in ENP's Scholastic Assistance program in 2010**, with the expectation that ENP raises the remaining \$500 per child. We need your help to achieve this goal.

Support ENP today and help us ensure not one child is left behind.

Best Wishes and Gmar Hatima Tovah,

Dr. Nigist Mengesha

Netanyahu Praises ENP as it Celebrates Five Years of Achievement



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu delivered a moving and inspirational speech about how far the Ethiopian Israeli community has come and his vision for the future during ENP's 5 Year Anniversary Celebration on 23 June 2010. ([Click here to view his speech.](#))

"ENP is part of a great journey and a great dream," declared Netanyahu. He also shared that Dr. Nigist Mengesha "gives wind to the sails of ENP."

Additional guests of honor included Minister of Education Mr. Gideon Sa'ar and Minister of Social Affairs and Services MK Isaac Herzog, tens of Federation and Jewish organizational lay leaders and professionals, and Ethiopian-Israeli community members.

Dr. Nigist Mengesha Receives Prestigious Samuel Rothberg Prize in Education

Dr. Nigist Mengesha, Director-General of ENP, was honored with the 2010 Samuel Rothberg Prize for Jewish Education in recognition of her outstanding contributions in the field of education in Israel. The Rothberg Prize was presented to Dr. Mengesha at the 73rd Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on June 6, 2010.

"You have been and are a leader and initiator in the realm of education of the Ethiopian community in Israel. Your educational work with immigrant communities has been sensitive to the special needs required to advance and fulfill the untapped potential of every Ethiopian-Israeli boy and girl," describes Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson, President of Hebrew University.



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Read the text of Dr. Nigist Mengesha's moving [speech](#) and view a video of the [ceremony](#).

Jewish Federations of North America Campaign Chairs and Directors Mission Visit a Success

ENP was honored to give 140 visitors a first-hand glimpse into the lives of children benefiting from ENP's work during the July 2010 Campaign Chairs and Directors Mission.

Sixteen simultaneous home visits in the cities of Gedera, Lod and Ramle exposed lay leaders and Federation professionals to moving stories of perseverance and success. In each home, a child involved in one of ENP's programs shared his or her story and the impact of their involvement with ENP.

The personal interactions and connections with the children and their families leave lasting impressions that last a lifetime. For a more detailed description of one of these memorable connections, visit ENP's [blog](#).



Summer Volunteering



During the summer, a diverse group of young volunteers conducted a plethora of exciting activities with Ethiopian Israeli youth at ENP youth outreach centers. Due to its roaming approach, the group dubbed itself "The Caravan Camp," representing a diverse sample of world Jewry (Australian, South African, Polish, Israeli, American). Each volunteer brought his and her unique skills and experiences, exposing the youth participants to a diverse range of fun and excitement. The activities included science activities such as launching rocket bottles up to thirty meters into the air and making ice-cream in a plastic bag, cartooning workshops, playing 'capture the flag' and other fun and educational games.

The volunteers thoroughly enjoyed interacting with young Ethiopian Israelis and the youth tremendously benefitted from their participation. So successful, a video of the Camp was featured on Jerusalem Post's Breaking News Video Features. Learn more about "The Caravan Camp" and other ENP Missions and volunteering opportunities on [ENP's Facebook page](#).



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