



February 2011

Shvat 5771

University Leadership Training Program for Ethiopian Students Excellence, Leadership, Role Model

Background

It is 25 years since Operation Moses filled Israeli hearts with hope and joy as it began the process of fulfilling the Ethiopian Jewish longing for a return to Zion. Today's reality is that the gaps that divide the Ethiopian community from Israeli society are as wide as ever, with the elders struggling to preserve their status and cultural identity, while the younger generation fights for mainstream acceptance and equal opportunities.

The Challenge



The majority of the older generation have found it near-impossible to adjust to their new high-tech homeland where their experience, life skills and social order are irrelevant and obsolete. Alienation and hardship within the Ethiopian community is manifested by communication difficulties, loss of social status, inadequate educational opportunities, cultural rifts between parents and children, domestic violence, alcoholism, high suicide rates and chronic unemployment. Equal educational opportunities for young Ethiopian Israelis is the key to the successful integration of their community; moving forward as they deserve while preserving their heritage. While many young Ethiopian-Israelis qualify for university acceptance and are professionally ambitious, full acceptance within mainstream Israeli society combined with financial constraints continue to hold them back.

Since 1985 - The Response

Ethiopian Israeli University of Haifa or Technion students displaying exceptional potential and drive, may apply to Leo Baeck's ULTP program. In return for a monthly stipend that relieves financial pressure, students develop new skills through leadership training and empowerment workshops and lead weekly projects aimed at serving a specific need within the community. In 2008 the program was cut from 20 to 13 participants but the enthusiasm, commitment and contribution of this handful of outstanding young men and women will undoubtedly positively impact Israeli society in the years to come.

The Program

- Tough admission process based on motivation, creativity, potential and commitment
- Community service preparatory and development courses
- Students create and implement community projects at Leo Baeck social outreach centers
- Community leadership training and empowerment workshops
- Extreme challenge field trips



ULTP Student Projects 2011

- Parent-child workshops for Amharic speaking adults at Beit Yitzhak-Neve David
- Preparation for 1st Grade for Ethiopian children at risk at Beit Yitzhak-Neve David
- Hebrew language enrichment for Ethiopian and new immigrant children at risk – Neve David
- Therapeutic playgroup for children with motor development difficulties – Neve David
- Ulpan, basic literacy, Wellness, exercise, handicrafts and social club for Ethiopian seniors at Beit Ha'Kehillah
- "Leadership Through Sports" Ha'Poel Tel Aviv football project for Ethiopian youth at Beit Ha'kehilah
- Female Empowerment for Ethiopian girls and women
- Ethiopian heritage project at Beit Ha'kehilah
- "Smile Club" for mentally challenged youth at Leo Baeck Community Center
- Arab-Jewish Youth Leadership program coordinator
- Arab-Jewish Summer Camp - coordinator
- Community theatre youth drama program at Beit Ha'kehilah
- 25 Year Gala Reunion at Leo Baeck

2010-2011 ULTP BUDGET \$55,698 - ONE ULTP SCHOLARSHIP - \$4,766 (17,634 ILS 3.7=£)