

Ethiopian National Project

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הפרויקט הלאומי לקהילה האתיופית בישראל

ENP SPACE - Enhancing the Future of Ethiopian-Israeli High School Students *An Opportunity to Make an Impact*

The Ethiopian National Project's School Performance and Community Empowerment (ENP SPACE) program works to reduce scholastic gaps and realize the full potential of Ethiopian-Israeli schoolchildren, thereby enabling their fullest integration into Israeli society while helping them emerge from the cycle of poverty. The likelihood of success of Ethiopian-Israeli children increases exponentially with their inclusion in SPACE, and each contribution is provided a matching grant.



Challenges of Ethiopian Jews in Israel, the Dire Need for Excellence and Empowerment

Today, there are nearly 160,000 Ethiopian Jews in Israel. The majority of Ethiopian Jewish parents were shepherds and farmers in Ethiopia with little or no formal education. In Israel, most of these immigrants have low salaries and lack the experience that enables them to support, assist and advocate for their children in an increasingly competitive educational environment. With five times the number of dual-breadwinner working-poor families within the Ethiopian-Israeli community, and more than double the number of single-parent households, many of the community's families do not have the means to invest in private tutors to boost their children's performance and are unable to navigate the complicated Israeli school system, though other Israeli families increasingly are doing so to their children's benefit. Thus, still today, even *Israeli-born* children to Ethiopian immigrant parents are at a severe disadvantage to their other Israeli peers. This hindrance that originates with a culture gap and is perpetuated by its socio-economic implications, if not promptly and effectively addressed, risks increasingly severe consequences- among them, hidden drop outs, low performance, missed opportunities, minimal expectations and absent aspirations.

Supplemental scholastic support of Ethiopian-Israeli immigrant children and children of immigrants is essential and urgent: high performance in junior and senior high school is critical to an Israeli's life course, as superior school performance enables graduates to reach the elite units of the army, including cyber and intelligence, a formidable asset to future success. Yet, primarily due to the factors above, most Ethiopian-Israeli schoolchildren miss out on a plethora of opportunities and do not reach the highest tracks in school or entry into competitive school-based programs that make them viable candidates for such placements: resultingly, only 44% of Ethiopian-Israeli 12th graders reach matriculation at a level that will enable them to enter university in contrast to 64% of other Israeli students in Hebrew-speaking schools.

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This situation can be quickly and effectively alleviated, even reversed, with minimal investment: ENP's SPACE (School Performance and Community Empowerment) program is proven to skyrocket participants' performance, motivation and aspirations. ENP promotes excellence and provides opportunity, while assisting parents in their efforts to support their children. The tremendous potential of Ethiopian-Israelis, once tapped, will be a great asset not only to their and Israeli society's future, but to the future of the Jewish people. Educated, successful Jews of color in an integrated Israel will transform the image of Israel in the eyes of all and forge deeper and stronger connections to Israel.

About ENP & SPACE: Forging Social Impact and Societal Change

ENP is a partnership between global supporters, the Government of Israel (GOI), Israeli philanthropy and the Ethiopian-Israeli community. ENP is wholly unique in that it provides an opportunity for Ethiopian-Israelis to fully participate in their own success as leaders and decision makers. In recent years, the GOI, including the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Immigration and Absorption and the Prime Minister's Office, has selected ENP to be the leading organization responsible for provision of supplementary after-school holistic support to meet the needs of thousands of Ethiopian-Israeli schoolchildren throughout Israel. So successful, in fact, is ENP SPACE, that the GOI also has asked ENP to include 20% non-Ethiopian-Israeli students in need.



ENP SPACE works to increase the number of Ethiopian-Israeli high school students who pass the matriculation exams, improve the level of achievement in these tests and reduce overt and covert dropout rates. SPACE provides supplementary after-school teaching hours in small groups of four to nine children per group executed by professional teachers in order to strengthen students' academic achievements, including preparatory classes for matriculation exams on subjects critical to success in the tests. The program addresses social needs and personal development, including self-confidence and leadership skills, while paying close attention to social difficulties that may impair a child's progress in school.

Ethiopian-Israeli professionals act as advisors and role models who encourage students' aspirations, as they work with parents to promote awareness and commitment to the success of their children. SPACE also includes lunch, a critical component for many. Inspirational speakers, activities and field trips, including to higher education institutions, expose students to an array of activities and opportunities that promote future success. Intensive collaborative work with school administrations, local municipalities and ministries alter the path of negative trends towards positive, nationwide social impact and societal change. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, ENP has adapted the program to enable its continued operations in an on-line capacity where necessary, and provides a crucial continued lifeline for ENP's target population during a time of increased need.

ENP SPACE sets measurable goals and executes external evaluations annually since its launch in 2004-5. ENP's success is indisputable: SPACE participants now have surpassed the performance of the general Jewish population, reaching 78% matriculation vs 73% of Israelis in Hebrew-speaking schools. The program is demonstrated to have a significant impact on participants in comparison to students with similar characteristics who did not participate in the program.

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Participants in comparison

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The Impact of your Gift: A Transformative Matching Opportunity

Every philanthropic investment in ENP SPACE is matched by the Government of Israel or other sources. Together with this match, ENP aims to reach no fewer than 5,000 students annually. Your support, with the match, ensures children can participate in this life-changing scholastic, emotional, social and nutritional support program, and will contribute significantly to the maximal integration of the Ethiopian-Israeli community into Israeli society.

ENP invites you to play a leading role in this key initiative by providing the leverage to turn around the fortunes of the Ethiopian-Israeli community:

- Each \$1,250 gift will fund the participation in SPACE of one child for one year, and entitle ENP to a match so 2 children will participate.

Your contribution to SPACE is certain to be a wise and strategic investment, not only due to its match: rare is a program that so directly and greatly benefits each participant in so many facets and provides such evident, demonstrated outcomes. A multi-year grant will be life-changing for the participants, their families, the state of Israel and global Jewry, and ensure a continuum of response.



The impact you make will long be felt by each beneficiary and those around them: SPACE graduates readily share that the life lessons they learned, the confidence they acquired and the desire to give back remain with them at every important juncture in their lifetime.

A specific group of children can be identified whose progress will be tracked. A specific school/city can also be selected. Reporting will be provided including evaluation, narrative and financial reports with comparative data relaying impact.

We look forward to your playing a part in this critical endeavor and the opportunity, together, to transform the future of this remarkable community.

For more information contact:

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