

# The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed

የኢትዮጵያ ይህዲዎች ኮሚቴ በሰፋት

Anilewicz 5, 13400 Safed, Israel

[ysivan@hotmail.com](mailto:ysivan@hotmail.com)

## Newsletter

December 2009 – טבת תש״ע

Twenty four years have passed since our Committee was founded. We have managed to help, and we continue to help, many Ethiopian Jewish families both in Safed and elsewhere - all thanks to the **very** generous help of a relatively small number of donors.



One of the biggest changes which have taken place in this period is that we see a generation of young people going on to **higher studies in colleges and universities**. Many receive free tuition and other grants, but they still find it very hard to make ends meet, and they turn to us for that little bit extra which enables them to study without perpetual financial worries.

Adina T. has embarked on a four year B.Sc. program in **Pharmaceutical Engineering** at the prestigious Jerusalem College of Engineering; a graduate of the Amit Ulpanit in Safed (where, along with other Ethiopian girls, we subsidized her to the tune of about \$260 every year), she did two years National Service, and qualified for free tuition. She earns some money as a mentor for school children, but she and her sister (also a student) share an apartment for which they have to pay over \$600 a month. After using up all her savings from summer work, she turned to us for help. We give her a modest **monthly stipend of \$55** (\$440 until the end of the school year). Meseret F. is studying at the Sapir Regional College; she is also exempt from tuition, but has to pay rent for her apartment, as her home is in Netanya. She would happily work, but none is available in Sderot (near Gaza), where she lives. A recent immigrant, she has to make up her matriculation qualifications, and then she plans to study **nursing**. We give her **\$110 a month**.

Maor M., 13 years old, has been diagnosed with **Perthes disease**, and has to remain at home with his right leg under traction for several months. During this period he has to do home physiotherapy with a **Continuous Passive Motion machine**. His parents had to pay a **deposit of \$2160** to rent the machine, and in addition have to pay a non-returnable fee of about \$160 every six months. Thanks to our grant from the USCJ Tikun Olam Fund, earmarked for **interest-free loans**, we were able to loan the M. family the whole deposit sum.

Teen-age boys are at risk on all sides, not least to spend too much money and to get into undesirable situations. To provide them with tools to cope, Mr. Charlie Shriki (of **Yedid**, a social justice organization) gives a Budget Management course at the Amit High School to 11<sup>th</sup> grade boys, in which they also learn about rights and duties of employers and employees, labor laws, the dependence of wage scales on the level of education, etc. Those who successfully complete the course receive a wonderful bonus: a five day self-catered **scuba diving course** in Eilat. This presents them with many challenges: they buy and cook their food, pay attention to the environment, learn to live together (no alcohol !); in addition the course is *very* demanding, learning the relevant



chemistry, physiology and technical studies (with an exam at the end); they have to cope with fear in a potentially dangerous environment, and only succeed by will-power. No school teacher accompanies them, only Mr. Shriki who shares the whole program with them, no doubt contributing to its success! Last year 10 went, including two Ethiopian boys, and the same again this year: each boy's parents paid \$55 and we paid the remaining \$475 (total: **\$950**).



Shato and Tadesse are two-year old twins whose families arrived this past year. They are enrolled in an infant school, where more than half the children are Ethiopian new immigrants. However, Shato is **completely deaf**, and his sister is very hard of hearing (and in addition has a heart defect). Although Shato should be placed in a special school for the deaf, this has not yet been arranged, and the staff find it very difficult to cope with him, especially when he is about to do something dangerous. At their request we are paying Deganit Y., an Amharic speaker, to act as a part-time assistant with these two children. We pay her **\$540 a month**, and will probably have to pay for **three months (total \$1620)**, until Shato is moved. The staff are extremely grateful; at last, they say, they can give full attention to all the other children.

Thanks to our generous donors (2008). New donors in 2009 are not included in this list.

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Alperin, Sykesville, MD  
 Mr. Yosef Azulai, Safed, Israel  
 Dr. & Mrs. Laurie Blendis, Jerusalem, Israel  
 Ms. Hilda Corak, Annapolis, MD  
 Mr. Daniel Flatauer, Safed, Israel  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Friedman, Miami, FL  
 Mr. Stanley Ganer, Mount Vernon, NY  
 Mr. Jerome Greenberg, New York, NY  
 Mr. & Mrs. Karl Kaplan, E. Brunswick, NJ  
 Mr. Leonard Kaplan, Scotch Plains, NJ  
 Mr. Mark Krieger, Har Haluz, Israel  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Landy, London, UK

Mr. & Mrs. Avraham Loewenthal, Safed, Israel  
 Mr. S. David Moche, New York, NY  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mond, Safed, Israel  
 Mr. Lionel Okun, Seal Beach, CA  
 Ms. Ateret Polsky, Safed, Israel  
 Mr. Alan Sacks, Dresher, PA  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Sher, Jerusalem, Israel  
 Mrs. Susan Steinberg, Livermore, CA  
 Bernard M. & Caryl H. Susman Foundation,  
 Wilmington, DE  
 Lady Lira Winston, London, UK  
 Mr. Gevyo Yaakov, Safed, Israel

Special thanks are again due to Mr. Ben Frankel, Chairman of P.E.F., for reaffirming their trust in our organization by making a very generous unsolicited grant (see the Financial Report). Similarly we are deeply grateful to the Tikun Olam Program of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, who have generously supported our activities for 20 years.

Apart from financial contributions, we also raised over \$3500 by recycling 50,000 bottles and cans, and claiming the deposit (this year we reached 60,000!). Amongst the places from which we collect regularly, we want to thank the Canaan Gallery, the Mul HaHar restaurant, Art Café, the Schnitzel Bar, the snack bars at the bus station and at the law courts, the Merkava restaurant in Kadita, Livnot U-Lehibanot, the inhabitants of Har Haluz, near Carmiel, as well as the many, many individuals who also collect for us, including several Ethiopian families.

Please use the form below, and also publicize our activities amongst your friends!

To: P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds, Inc.  
 317 Madison Avenue, #607  
 New York, NY 10017

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_\* with a recommendation to your trustees that it be used for The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed, Anilewicz 5, 13400 Safed, Israel.

\* Gifts are US tax deductible if of at least \$25 and made payable to P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds, Inc.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Report 1.1.2008 - 31.12.2008 (all figures in \$US)**

|                             |  | <b>31/12/07</b> | <b>31/12/08</b> |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Opening cash balance        |  | 3632            | *481            |
| Closing cash balance        |  | *424            | 3300            |
| <b>Liquid Assets</b>        | On deposit   | 1074            | 1415            |
| <b>Total assets</b>         |  | <b>1074</b>     | <b>1415</b>     |
| <i>Donations</i>            | From Israeli contributors                            | 3592            | 2455            |
|                             | From contributors abroad (mainly via P.E.F.)         | 38364           | 16194           |
|                             | Unsolicited special grant from P.E.F.                | 5000            | 10000           |
|                             | From USCJ Tikun Olam Fund                            | 2000            | 2000            |
| <i>Loan repayments</i>      |  | 3783            | 6858            |
| <i>Recycling</i>            |  | 1720            | 3542            |
| <i>Other refunds</i>        |  | 0               | 175             |
| <b>Total income</b>         |  | <b>54457</b>    | <b>41224</b>    |
| <b>Expenditure</b>          | Grants to university & college students              | 4313            | 2615            |
|                             | Subsidies & enrichment for secondary school children | 2239            | 3175            |
|                             | Subsidies for primary school children                | 1763            | 2517            |
|                             | Equipping Snoezelen Room at Primary Schools          | 0               | 284             |
|                             | Subsidies for infants in pre-nursery school          | 3580            | 2738            |
|                             | Equipment for primary/secondary schools              | 1875            | 908             |
|                             | Jewish education in Absorption Centers               | 1808            | 2438            |
|                             | Religious needs (bat/bar mizva subsidies, tefillin)  | 750             | 1021            |
|                             | Loans  | 5910            | 5079            |
|                             | Help for the needy                                   | 6031            | 5821            |
|                             | Home repairs, replacement of appliances, etc.        | 4645            | 4295            |
|                             | Dental treatment                                     | 17314           | 4730            |
|                             | Other health needs                                   | 1621            | 553             |
|                             | Professional training                                | 3625            | 465             |
|                             | Legal expenses/aid                                   | 968             | 75              |
|                             | Postage, office supplies and fund-raising            | 26              | 112             |
|                             | Bank charges   | 125             | 164             |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>    |  | <b>56593</b>    | <b>36990</b>    |
| <b>Income – expenditure</b> |  | <b>~ 2136</b>   | <b>4234</b>     |

\* The closing cash balance for 2007 and the opening cash balance for 2008 were in fact identical, when expressed in Israeli currency. However dollar values have been calculated on an average rate of exchange for the year and these were not identical for 2007 and 2008.

**Please continue to support us ! A donation form is on Page 2.**