

Happy Hannukkah!

Thank you for bringing light to so many !

Investing in professional training: the 10-year story of one nurse

This is what we wrote **10 years ago**:



Sara (Baraké) S. ... lives in Safed with her parents and siblings. In the photo she is with a niece. She is studying at the **School of Nursing** at the **Safed Hospital**, where she is regarded both as having a singularly attractive personality, and as a very hard-working and able student, with excellent grades. Last year she received (from another source) a very generous scholarship, and she still hopes to get other help this year; however, she has to pay the **first part of her fees**, which is where we stepped in, with **\$600**.

Today Sara is a qualified nurse, married and mother of three, living in Or Yehuda (near Tel Aviv), and working in the Clalit Sick Fund clinic in her home town. She has now embarked on a three year **B.A. program in Health Care Administration**, which is one of the most sought-after professions in the contemporary job market. This is an interdisciplinary course of study, which incorporates instruction on the classification and diagnosis of a variety of health conditions, their effective management, preventive medicine, and guidance on promoting healthy work and living environments. The curriculum includes the provision of a broad range of courses from the fields of business management, behavioral studies, and industrial and management engineering in parallel to learning the components of the health and medical system.

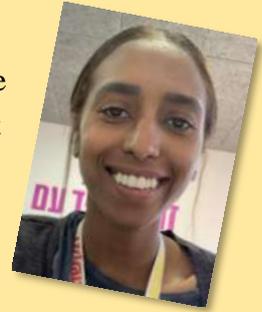


The tuition totals \$19,500 for the whole three year program, but Sara qualifies for a 50% reduction as she is also taking biotechnology courses. Effectively she has to pay \$3250 a year. Her parents have both died, her husband B. is an unqualified health worker in the Sheba Hospital, so she doesn't have many resources to support her. In addition, they are paying over \$1450 a month for their mortgage and – in common with many Israeli families – they have a large bank overdraft.

Our Committee, as always, regards the acquisition of higher professional qualifications as one of the best ways to advance the Ethiopian Jewish community, and **we have undertaken to pay the whole of her fees (plus extras) for this year, in 12 monthly installments of \$295.**

More professional training ...

We made **part payment (\$2320)** of a **digital design course** for Simha K. The total cost is \$6340; she was able to use her post-National Service grant of \$4020 for the rest. She had to pass an ability test before being admitted to the course, which should prepare her for a well-paid job in high-tech. She's the eldest of three girls.



Justice ... up to a point.

This is what we wrote **2 years ago**:



Legal aid: Mr. Destau K. worked for many years as a night porter at one of the local hotels. One of our Committee members, Mr. Benny Cohen, was sure that Destau was being cheated of his pension and severance pay rights. We took the case up with a lawyer specializing in labor relations, and he found that Destau was not only owed at least \$100,000, but also that he was being underpaid on his current wages... We have paid all the **legal fees** to handle the case: **\$6460**. The lawyer has now submitted the claim to the Labor Court in Nazareth...

In the end Destau agreed to arbitration, and was awarded **\$44,000**. This was by no means as much as we had hoped for, but the judge ruled that the claim could not go back further than seven years, and he evidently took into account other factors. This was a disappointment, but had we not taken up the case, Destau wouldn't have received anything close to this sum.



Dowering the bride



Recently Mrs. Ilana Chokol, a member of our Committee, asked us to pay for the hire of a wedding dress for Hanna A., 27. We paid **\$160**. She and her husband, Tsagaya, came on aliya two years ago. At the moment she lives in Safed and he is still in the Bet Alfa Absorption Center, as they have not found an apartment here. He works in a factory and she works as a cleaner in the Sieff Hospital in Safed. Aside from our help, they paid for the whole (modest) wedding themselves, as their parents could not help.

Is there a connection with the next item ?

"And I will betroth thee unto Me for ever ..." (Hosea 2 21)

These are part of the words said as we tie the *tefillin* straps on the finger. New immigrants receive *tefillin* from the Jewish Agency, but some slip through the system and are left without. We subsidized 63% of the cost (totaling **\$970** out of \$1550) for three brothers who come to pray in Pinhas Buhnik's synagogue. Pinhas (in the photo) is an active Committee member, who does everything he can to strengthen their Jewish and Israeli identity. On the right is his "right-hand man", Dessay.



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A healthy mind in a healthy body

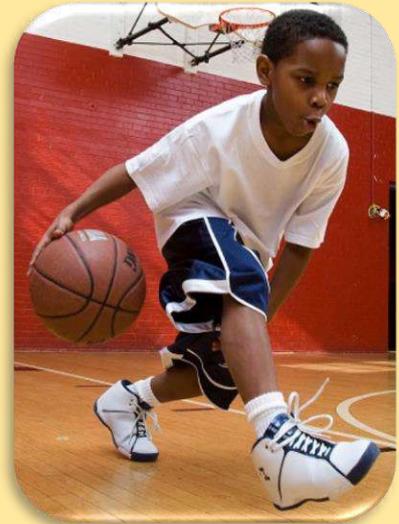
"Anyone who lives a sedentary life and does not exercise ... all his days will be painful ones and his strength shall wane." - Maimonides, Treatise of Hygiene (1199)

How do we want to see our children spending their afternoons ?

Like this ?



Or like this ?



At the request of Mrs. Chani Alkobi, the directress of the Zahal 9 Absorption Center, we have undertaken to pay for 18 7th to 9th grade boys to take part in [the Equalizer program](#). Originally based on soccer, our program is **basketball** centered. It provides an educational, social and sporting afternoon framework. Twice a week, over 32 weeks, the children will participate in basketball practices with qualified instructors, on rainy days there will be indoor enrichment, and there will be a monthly regional tournament. The program aims to empower the boys and build leadership skills. Through the monthly tournaments, the children mix with others with different backgrounds.

We are paying **\$3260** for this program, which actually costs \$14,660. The rest of the sum is provided from philanthropic donors and government bodies (see [here](#)).

Their toothache is our headache !

Here are just **some** of the **dental treatments** which we have subsidized or are still subsidizing this year:

- **\$2243** for Yastau K., a senior citizen who lives off a small pension, for false teeth.
- **\$1230** treatment for Hanna B., who has been suffering intense pain from impacted wisdom teeth, as well as other problems in her jaw.
- **\$1555** in part payment of Asmaro K.'s dental treatment totaling \$3650 [he is a firefighter who was awarded a medal for bravery; recently he was injured and off work for an extended period].
- **\$2590** (75% of the total) for medical (not esthetic) orthodontistry, for 28 year-old new immigrant Yanasau. The Absorption Center could only contribute \$195. Yanasau paid the rest.
- **\$1450**, being 66% of the money needed for Bakala T.'s treatment. Mother of five, she paid \$510, and the Absorption Center \$225.

We thank the [Clare Israel Foundation](#) (through the kind help of Mrs. Kay Weinberger) for the grant of **\$3500** and the USY's [Tikun Olam Fund](#) for the grant of **\$1500**, both ear-marked for **dental treatment**.



True then and true today

The Lubavitcher Rebbe greatly encouraged strong Jewish education for women. ... one of the reasons for the large-scale assimilation of the Jewish immigrants ... around the turn of the last century was the fact that the mothers were unable to answer the "Why?" questions of their children. They had great faith, but insufficient education.

Like all Ethiopian new immigrants today, Yerus B. completed her conversion course. However, she felt that this was only the beginning, and wanted to immerse herself in more intensive study. She enrolled in [Machon Ora](#), in Jerusalem. When she found that the cost of living beyond her means, she turned to her former Absorption Center social worker, Ms. Elya Sheleg, to see if she could help.

Elya turned to the Committee, and we have given Yerus a **monthly stipend of \$320 for eight months**.



She is third from the right in the back row in this photo, with some of her fellow students on an outing.

The Ramla Youth Center music & computer program

When the Committee was offered a substantial donation for an important project, we turned to [Dr. Wuvit Mengistu](#). With her professional knowledge, she recommended that we contact Mr. Nitzan Tafeta, the director of the Ramla Youth Center. The Center, supported by the Ramla Municipality, is also funded by [the Fidel Association](#), which is run entirely by young Ethiopian idealists, who aim to create their own leadership.

In common with many other charitable organizations, due to Covid the Center saw their support cut down, and as a result some of their activities were curtailed. They had two main needs:

1. To revive their music club. All over the world, people realize that music can bring marginalized youth back into a positive relationship with their wider society. They needed about **\$3600** to get back on track. We went ahead, and the club was a great success, giving about 18 teen-agers a valuable experience of responsibility and achievement, while enjoying themselves.
2. Lap-tops for those youngsters who were planning on taking their Bagrut (Matriculation), but couldn't participate in on-line lessons as they didn't have a computer. There were 7 kids in this situation, so we undertook to pay the **\$2100** needed. They all passed successfully.



Thanks to Mrs. Rosalind Goldstein and her sons, Colin, Robert and Edward, for their generosity in providing the funds for this project, in memory of Mr. Bernard Goldstein ז"ל, beloved husband and father.

Our faithful supporters:

These donations came into our account in the course of 2021. Our apologies if we have inadvertently omitted anyone.

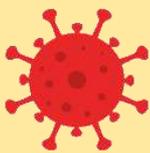
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 (in memory of my grandparents Abraham and Sarah Rubin)
 Mrs. Lillian Goldberg, Sarasota, FL
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 Ms. Lisa Haut & Ms. Lynne Byington, Norwalk/ Danbury, CT
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 (in memory of Libby Wolf)
 Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel Zivan, Safed, Israel
 Ms. Hana Zmiri, Jerusalem, Israel

☺ = Monthly donation (standing order)

Several people made more than one contribution, but they have been considered as one combined donation.

What's the connection ?



In 2020 **bottle recycling** provided 13% of our income. This would normally have been more, but the **Covid 19 pandemic** caused a major drop in the number of bottles and cans that we could collect: approximately 78% of the number we recycled in 2019. This year the numbers are up again, and we are back to the 2019 level (as of writing this Newsletter, over 106,000). Here are two of our volunteers, Emmanuel and Yosef, working on sorting the bottles. They enjoy the activity, and in addition appreciate that this is one of the ways we help pay for their grandmother's dental treatment.



You are reading the **Hannuka 2021 Newsletter** of **The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed**, now in its 36th year.

The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed

Registration No. 58-008-783-1

Financial Report 1.1.2020 - 31.12.2020 (all figures in \$US)

		31/12/19	31/12/20
Opening cash balance		4310	1439*
Closing cash balance		1382*	6896
Donations	From Israeli contributors	12128	8502
	From contributors abroad (mainly P.E.F.)	20367	21488
	From P.E.F. special grants	10000	10000
	From the Sobell Foundation (UK)	6657	0
	From the Tikun Olam Fund (USCJ) [for 2019 & 2020]	0	2453
	From the Clore Israel Foundation (for dental treatment)	5000	0
Loan repayments		16931	9391
Recycling		9284	8016
<u>Total income</u>		<u>80367</u>	<u>59850</u>
Expenditure	Grants to university & college students (6)	8367	7913
	Professional training (2)	930	2406
	Extra tuition & enrichment for secondary school children (6)	2458	2425
	Subsidies for primary school children	311	0
	Extra tuition for primary school children (2)	406	442
	School trips, extra-curricular activities (20)	1565	0
	Subsidies for nursery & pre-nursery school children (3)	2064	1906
	Computers and accessories	0	3850
	Religious needs (Purim, bar-mizva)	282	557
	Interest-free loans (22)	18810	10821
	Help for the needy (11)	7458	6842
	Home repairs, replacement of appliances, etc. (3)	1071	1166
	Dental treatment (12)	17915	6384
	Other health needs (1)	282	1985
	Assistance for the elderly (1)	5240	7563
	Legal aid (lawyer's fees etc. for claim against employer)	15934	0
	Postage, office supplies and fund-raising	50	56
	Bank charges	152	76
<u>Total expenditure</u>		<u>83295</u>	<u>54392</u>
<u>Income – expenditure</u>		<u>-2928</u>	<u>5457</u>

* The closing cash balance for 2019 and the opening cash balance for 2020 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 2019 and 2020.

A special thanks to Mr. Geoffrey Stern, Chairman of [P.E.F.](#), for the magnificent Special Grant (\$10,000), sent not only this year but for the last 14 years. We believe that this shows confidence that we use our resources wisely !

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US donors

- can make an [online donation direct to P.E.F.](#) (no commission) or
- can send a check to P.E.F. [using the form below](#) (no commission) or
- can make an on-line [PayPal donation](#) (a commission is taken)

Israel donors

- can send a check to us by post (address given in [P.E.F. form below](#)), or
- can make a **bank transfer** or **deposit a check directly** (preferred by us as they involve minimum handling) to our account: **Bank Leumi (10), Branch 975, a/c 2814303.** Please notify us that a payment has been made ! or
- can make an on-line [PayPal donation](#) (a commission is taken)

If you have any queries or comments, you can write to us at ysivan@hotmail.com

This form can be printed out separately (please distribute extra copies to potential donors !):

To: P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds, Inc.
630 Third Avenue, #1501
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, Lohamei HaGetaot 173, 1340172 Safed, Israel**

(Registration no. 58-008-783-1)

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

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