

The Committee for Ethiopian Jews in Safed

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חנוכה שמח תש"פ - Happy Hanukkah 2019

We'd like to give you something to read about our activities for each day of Hanukkah - we'd be very happy if you decided to give a Hanukkah gift to enable us to keep functioning – see page 4.



Donors come to Safed: All too few of you get to visit us, and we are always happy to welcome you. This past year we were pleased to meet Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Knisbacher, who have been very generous contributors for the past thirty years. In addition, Mr. Lee Glassman, who is a well-known Israeli tour guide, brought a group to Safed and invited us to tell them about our work. Mr. & Mrs. Glassman have been contributing for almost 20 years.



Pre-school (day care): We want as many infants as possible to benefit from early education, which both prepares them for kindergarten, and also enables their mothers to work. Some, but not all, parents receive a subsidy; currently we are helping **two families** with \$290 a month (out of \$615): **total \$580 a month.**



College and professional education: Four years ago [we wrote](#) about Yemserach D., then in her first year at the [Technion](#). We have consistently given her a **monthly stipend** (currently about **\$140**); in a couple of months she should finish her degree course. She was one of five



Ethiopian Technion students on a panel at the "Excellence" event. The happening was designed to expose Ethiopian students to the possibilities of being accepted to and studying at the Technion, and the new horizons this can open for them. The following is from [the description of the event](#):

Yamserts Dasta, who is completing her degree in information systems in the Faculty of Computer Science and the Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management, successfully passed the Technion preparatory program and from there continued to pursue her undergraduate degree. "In my family and in my environment, there are no engineers, so that I had to learn many things on my own. Now I am nearing the end of my studies and I hope to find work in this field – something that will be interesting and satisfying."



Technically qualified young people make a good living, so we were happy to help Netanel Y. with a **\$575** contribution to his **tuition** at the [Kinneret Academic College](#), where he is studying in the [Practical Engineering electronics course](#). He received deferment from the army, and if - as he hopes - his grades are sufficiently high, the army will pay for him to do a full degree course.



Hanukkah is the time to remember a pious Jewish woman warrior: [Judith](#). In our own time, religious girls who wish to serve in the IDF have a role model in the late [Tamar Ariel](#) (right). The [Tzahali Academy](#) is in her memory. It empowers its students as women, increases their awareness of and openness for the diversity of Israeli society, and helps them to assume significant roles as women in Israel without losing their religious identity.



Mr. Gary Coleman was a founder of our Committee and is now a fund-raiser for the Tzahali Academy. He asked if we could help with **scholarships** for **three Ethiopian girls**. Tuition costs \$3630, of which Tzahali wishes to give a scholarship of \$2600 to each student, and they have asked us to contribute 50% of that: $\$1300 \times 3 = \3900 .

Here is some background material on these three girls. **Anyone familiar with the social and other problems of so many Ethiopian Jews in Israel, will realize just what a long-term contribution these young women will make both to their own community and to Am Yisrael in general.**



N.A. comes from a disadvantaged background. She felt that her neighborhood society had a negative influence and she wanted to have a real change, so she decided to enroll in Tzahali. At first it was a real challenge for her to adapt to the expectations of this framework, but after three months she has settled in and has set herself achievable targets, and she also contributes to her group. She plans to pay her share of the tuition, so taking the financial pressure off her parents.



O.Y. enrolled under her brother's influence; he is an army officer and **one of his soldiers was a Tzahali graduate. He was so impressed by her that he urged O. to join the program.** She is the youngest of 6 children in a one parent family. She has no contact with her father. Her mother had a stroke 4 years ago and no longer works.

Since joining Tzahali O. has made her mark as a very popular leader in her group. On her own initiative, she organized [Sigd](#) celebrations for all the Tzahali girls, including a presentation about her own family's *aliya* experience. At the recommendation of the staff, she has already been placed in the army framework of her choice.

She has been working part time since she was 15 to help support the family and her own needs. She hopes to continue working to pay her part of the Tzahali tuition.



N.O. is the youngest of 5 children and lives with her mother and two other family members; her parents are divorcing which adds stress to the family. Her oldest sister attended Tzahali in the past.

For years she couldn't adjust to a regular school framework, and she completed her high school studies as an external student. Settling in to Tzahali was hard for her, but after only three months she has become one of the most positive members of the student body, a leader who initiates ideas for her group. Originally she was going to do her army service in a unit for girls who have difficulty in adapting, but now - in view of her outstanding progress - she has succeeded in getting assigned as an army welfare sergeant, which was her dream.



Dental treatment: This year we have spent almost \$16,000 for 10 different people. We are very grateful to the [Clare Israel Foundation](#) for a special grant of **\$5000** to pay for Mrs. Radditch A.'s major treatment: for 5 years she suffered from poor vision and headaches as a result of her dental problems. We thank Mrs. Kay Weinberger, a trustee of the Foundation, for recommending this grant. At the same time, we extend our condolences to Kay and her family on the death of her husband, Dr. Tom Weinberger ז"ר, six months ago. A typical case is that of Mr. Atnau T., 28 years old, who had such severely impacted teeth that, according to the assessment of the [Department of Orthodontic and Craniofacial Anomalies at the Rambam Hospital](#) in Haifa, he needed specialist surgery which was unavailable at the Safed Hospital. The treatment should cost \$4270, but the Hospital reduced it to \$2850. Mr. T. has paid \$570 and the Absorption Center (whose social worker approached us in the first place) could only contribute \$285. We have paid the remaining **\$1995** in seven monthly instalments of \$285.



Caregiver: two and a half years ago [we wrote](#) of our contribution to the wages of a caregiver for Mrs. Bosana K.

Studies have shown that person-centered care at home has a greater positive impact on wellbeing, happiness and reduced hospital admissions than admission to a care home.

This might be the reason that Bosana is so well, in spite of her 95+ years ! We now contribute **\$430 a month to the caregiver's wages**.



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. The Israeli Labor Courts are very tough on employers who cheat employees, so there is a good chance that Destau will be adequately recompensed (in the case of judgment in his favor, the lawyer will receive 18%) and that the employer will have to pay legal fees. Because Destau demanded his rights, the employer dismissed him.

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. Obviously we anticipate our expenses being refunded, but we could never have laid this money out if it was not for the open-handed support of our donors.



Last day of Hanukkah, a good opportunity for summing up: at the end of February this year we reached **ONE MILLION**. No, not dollars nor Israeli shekels, but **bottles and cans for recycling**. We started 12 years ago, and today we recycle over 100,000 a year. That million came to about \$78,400 in revenue; **we don't just approach our supporters for donations, but we try hard to do our own share**. Here is a group of kids from the Berav Primary School, whose teacher, Mrs. Yehudit Abutbol, encouraged them to recycle so that we could subsidize their school trip to Jerusalem.



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

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