



## We Know More is Better...

...but sometimes more can present a huge challenge.

The programs in Ethiopia which NACOEJ is helping to fund have grown much bigger. For good reason: they provide food, and Ethiopian-Jewish children, and pregnant and nursing mothers in Gondar face daunting hunger and even life-threatening malnutrition every day.

When NACOEJ began, we set out to save the lives of as many Ethiopian Jews as we possibly could.

Now, **thanks to you**, we're saving thousands of lives in Ethiopia through feeding programs and summer day camp programs.

Today more and more children, teens, and mothers have turned to these programs to stave off the malnourishment, which can lead to underdeveloped brains, illness, and even fatal diseases.

In close partnership with our sister organization, Struggle to Save Ethiopian Jews (SSEJ), our work is essential to the thousands of long-suffering Jews still in Ethiopia, praying for their turn to make aliyah to Israel.

At the moment, sadly, nothing is happening with the aliyah. During 2019, out of 1000 Jews meant to make aliyah, only 600 have been allowed to come to Israel.

As of this writing, the rest remain trapped in poverty and hunger along with the remainder of the community.

As we enter a new year, here is what we are doing to help them survive.

- Kaytana, the Jewish day camp in Gondar and Addis Ababa, provides several weeks of fun and games and Jewish learning staffed by young Israeli volunteers. With NACOEJ now providing funding for modest lunches, it increased substantially. This past summer, 2100 children were registered.
- Doctor-supervised, twice-a-day feeding programs for severely malnourished Jewish children under the age of five are taking place in Gondar and have increased by 25%. Eighty additional hungry children, siblings of children in the feeding program, also receive some food.
- About 100 severely malnourished pregnant and nursing mothers are attending the feeding program, double the number from last year when only the pregnant women were included.

The lives of all these children and mothers would be in danger without these programs. And there is a constant influx of more, as the level of poverty and hunger increases in these Jewish families.

## **We Know More is Better...** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

With your loving, caring support this past year and a half, there have been **no fatalities** – even from malaria – among our feeding center children.

Compare this with a general death rate of 5.7% in Ethiopia's young children. These are successes you've generously helped to achieve. Your help is saving lives.

But, with each new month and each success, the need for nutritious meals for additional children and

mothers increases, while inflation drives up the cost of food.

**Only your ongoing generous support will provide enough simple, nourishing food for these Jewish children and pregnant and nursing mothers whose lives will be in danger unless we continue feeding them.**

**Please help.**

## **HIGH SCHOOL SPONSORSHIPS CHANGE LIVES**

*Editor's note: The best way to show you the special relationships between students and their sponsors is to show you their letters. This one is from Merav-Yona Yamara updating her sponsor, Dona Teplitz (who's been sponsoring her since 9th grade!). We hope you enjoy it.*



Hello...this is Merav-Yona...I am now 17 years old, and in 12th grade.

I am on the Bible (3 units) and Communications (5 units) tracks and will take the communications matriculation exam...I will also be presenting a radio program with a

group of students about the periphery and the center of the country - the gaps between them, and what to do about it.

I'm also taking two other matriculation exams in Bible.

I was recently elected to the school council in the grade-wide elections to represent my class and grade. I have attended some student council meetings and the municipal conference of the various student

councils. It was interesting and fun. They brought someone to speak about leadership and our abilities. We also have elections for the municipal student parliament.

In August I began to work at the Aroma Café in Nes Ziona. It's a bit difficult to combine work with school and my tracks and the student council, but I'm managing. It's just a matter of organization and will.

Thank you for your contribution. It is not at all taken for granted that you have contributed to a person who you don't know and helped them. I do not take it for granted and I will invest in my studies as much as possible.

Thank you very, very much,  
Merav-Yona

## **Partners with NACOEJ Since 1987**



Dr. Jack and Judy Stern have partnered with NACOEJ in our work with Ethiopian Jews since 1987, maybe longer (our computer data base only goes back that far). Today they sponsor many high school students.

In a recent email from them, which included another gift to the High School Sponsorship Program, Jack wrote:

*Judy and I are in Israel regularly. We smile when we see those beautiful Ethiopian faces.*

*We were married in 1991, having supported the organization for the years prior, and we asked that there be no gifts, rather that donations be made to NACOEJ instead.*

*May 24th, the weekend of our wedding, was the weekend of the Operation Solomon Airlift! We still get emotional thinking about it.*

*Thanks for doing this important work,  
Jack Stern, MD, PhD*

# COLLEGE SPONSORSHIPS CHANGE LIVES

## Two Sisters, One Sponsor = a Beautiful Relationship

Karen Gens, our NACOEJ Director of High School and College Sponsorships, is herself a devoted sponsor and has been for many years.

Two of her sponsored students are sisters, Ricki and Tarik Goshu, with whom she has had a long and warm relationship.

She first sponsored Ricki in high school from 2003 to 2006. They stayed in touch during Ricki's years in National Service and then Karen sponsored her again during her college years from 2012 to 2019 through the NACOEJ AAS program.

Ricki first attended the College of Management, graduated in 2014 and went on to the Wingate Institute where she received another degree in 2019.

Karen then sponsored Tarik in the AAS program. Tarik received two degrees in Israel, the first from the Administration College in 2015. From there she went to the College of Management where she received a Law degree in 2017.

Tarik then applied to and was accepted to Cardoza School of Law at Yeshiva University where she received a Master's of Law degree.

Karen met both sisters twice when they were in New York, as well as their sister Angoch who lives in Brooklyn with her family.

Karen learned recently that Ricki was in our Limudiah program in Lod in the mid 1990's. Her history with NACOEJ is a long, fruitful and successful one.

Here are Karen's own words about her experiences with the Goshu sisters:

*I began sponsoring Ricki in high school about 15 years ago and we just clicked through our correspondence. She learned English quite quickly, which also helped. We stayed in touch through her National Service and I began her AAS sponsorship as soon as I got word that she was attending college.*

*And then when I got word that Tarik was attending college, I agreed to sponsor her. They are both very bright and beautiful with many interests and great senses of humor.*

*Although I majored in Anthropology, I've gained the knowledge that we humans are so much more alike than different. And the Goshu sisters just put a smile on my face all the time.*



▲ Karen Gens and Ricki Goshu

## You Too Can Have a Wonderful Experience...

You too can have the wonderful experience of getting to personally know an Ethiopian-Israeli high school or college student (or both!). You will be helping them to secure an excellent education that will position them to have good jobs and be able to build a bright future for them and their families.

Karen Gens will be delighted to hear from you and help you to get started. She will also tell you about what being a sponsor is like since she has sponsored many high school and college students herself. You can reach her at 212-233-5200, ext 230. Or email here at [education@nacoej.org](mailto:education@nacoej.org).



## A Huge Thank You!

All the children in our Limudiah programs in Israel are deeply grateful for the support provided by NACOEJ and you, our wonderful donors and friends.

## Correction...

In our last Lifeline, we spelled Daniella Symonds' name incorrectly and we apologize. Daniella, a wonderful young woman, asked her friends and family not to give her Bat Mitzvah gifts, but instead to make donations to NACOEJ.

Through our Mitzvah Project program, Daniella raised nearly \$20,000 to support a class in the NACOEJ Limudiah Intensive Education Program. The class was that of her Ethiopian "twin", Aviva Kesete.

Daniella made a huge difference for the children in that class. You can also! Check out our Mitzvah Projects page at [www.nacoej.org/get-involved/mitzvah-projects](http://www.nacoej.org/get-involved/mitzvah-projects)



## We Are So Very Grateful...

We are always very grateful to receive bequests from our donors. Some are completely unexpected. One such recent gift was from a long-time donor, Mrs. Paulette Buchbinder. Until her death at age 90, she was concerned about "anything Jewish or having to do with Israel," said her daughter, Estherbeth Buchbinder.

When she first heard about Ethiopian Jews, Mrs. Buchbinder no doubt went to the library and researched them, as was her practice with anything in which she was interested. She found her way to NACOEJ and this generous bequest has helped NACOEJ maintain its important programs.

We offer our condolences to her children, Estherbeth, Barry, Colman and Jonathan and to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who were blessed to have such a special person in their lives.

As the end of 2019 approaches and you review your financial decisions, please consider helping to sustain Ethiopian Jews through a legacy gift to NACOEJ. You can include NACOEJ in your will, or name NACOEJ as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or an IRA or another qualified retirement fund. For more information, please call Danielle Ben-Jehuda at 212-233-5200, ext. 227 or email [donors@nacoej.org](mailto:donors@nacoej.org). She will be very happy to work with you. And, thank you!



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