



# Bridges



THE NACOEJ/EDWARD G. VICTOR HIGH SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

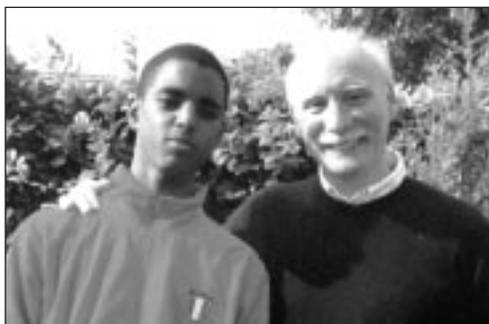
## Welcome to “Bridges”

It is our pleasure to introduce you to “Bridges”, the brand-new newsletter of the NACOEJ/Edward G. Victor High School Sponsorship Program. We are calling it “Bridges” because your support builds the bridges that enable our Ethiopian youngsters to walk away from poverty, crossing over to excellent academic high schools. This strong step leads to university, high level vocational training, and careers of distinction and success.

“Bridges” will bring you news and stories about the High School Sponsorship Program so you can see and feel the importance of your participation. It gives us a chance to express our gratitude and that of your student/s. You are changing the future of the Ethiopian-Israeli community, one young person at a time.

**Thank you and welcome...**

## Stories to Warm the Heart



*Yitzhak and his sponsor Mel Garfinkel.*

### Meeting his Student, and Renewing Old Ties

In November 2005, sponsor Mel Garfinkel traveled to Israel. He spent time with our NACOEJ staff in Jerusalem and visited many of our educational programs. He sent this note upon his return:

“My stay in Israel was doubly blessed. Not only did I meet my high school student, Yitzhak (with me in the photo), but got to renew old ties with Shai, my former student. Shai is presently located in Safed where he studies at a prestigious school of nursing. I can’t wait for my next visit to Israel in the fall.”

In addition to being a high school sponsor, Mel has also recently become a deeply appreciated volunteer in our New York office, working on the school supplies program!

### From Our Israel Staff

Edna Shavit and Leah Barkai, the Israel side of our high school program team, shared a story that particularly touched them.

“Sponsoring students has developed a warm relationship between the George and Judith Cohen family in Rhode Island and the Rata family in Ashkelon. The Cohens supported Mazal Rata through high school. Mazal has successfully graduated and is doing her National Service (voluntary service for one to two years). The Cohens are now supporting Mazal’s two younger brothers, Joseph is a senior in high school and David is a freshman. All of the Rata kids call the Cohens “Uncle” and “Aunt”. The Cohens are presently planning a trip to Israel in October for Sukkot. On the itinerary is a visit with the Rata family. These ties of warm familial relationship are among the many wonderful outcomes of this very unique program.”

## WE’D LIKE YOU TO MEET EDWARD G. VICTOR

Through the generous, ongoing commitment of Mr. Edward G. Victor of California, since 2005, this program is proud to be known as the NACOEJ/Edward G. Victor High School Sponsorship Program.

Mr. Victor’s generosity covers much of the administrative costs of the program, enabling even more funding to go to the students’ needs. It is surely a gift for the present and for the future as more and more Ethiopian-Israeli girls and boys receive the education they need to assure successful lives.

Thanks, Mr. Victor, for your faith in our young people.



# Some Fascinating NUMBERS



## OUR STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

### INTRODUCING: Yitzhak

Yitzhak Tengenja has just finished ninth grade in an academic high school, Yeshivat Elyashiv. He dreams of becoming a doctor.

Under ordinary circumstances, Yitzhak's dream might never come true. His parents are unemployed and can't afford the essential costs of a local academic high school. Yitzhak was afraid he would have to go to a government-subsidized vocational boarding school where he could not prepare for higher education.

A NACOEJ sponsor, Joan D. Kleinman, from Potomac, MD, came to Yitzhak's rescue, as she has done for other Ethiopian-Israeli students. Her gift covers the costs of Yitzhak's education in a supportive school where he can prepare to realize his dream, while living at home with his family.

Yitzhak adds, "Because I am here, I can volunteer after school and do lots of things." He tutors younger children and works with the handicapped. Yitzhak also hopes to volunteer to assist medics on a

Magen David Adom ambulance.

Thanks to his sponsorship, Yitzhak can work toward his dream, achieve for himself, his family and his community, and strengthen all Israel in the process.



We thought you would be interested in knowing the final figures for the High School Program in the 2005/2006 school year in Israel.

Here they are:

- 1212:** Number of students receiving our sponsorships.
  - 47:** Number of schools in which students receive support.
  - 12:** Cities in Israel with sponsored students – Jerusalem, Lod, Ramla, Tzfat, Rehovot, Ashkelon, Kiryat Malachi, Tel-Aviv, Bat-Yam, Netanya, Yavne, Rishon LeZion.
  - 700:** Number of students still waiting for sponsors.
- Can you help bring in new sponsors for these students?*

## There you have it!

Our first edition of "Bridges"! We hope you've enjoyed reading it as much as we've enjoyed creating it. Please pass along the enclosed high school brochure, and perhaps "Bridges" as well, to friends who might be interested in sponsorship. You are really an ambassador for this wonderful program.

*Don't forget the 700 boys and girls still on our waiting list.*

Your endorsement and encouragement will go a long way toward enabling them to get the education they need. Thank you.

*And, by the way, a new director has been appointed for our high school program – Lisa S. Kovitch. Don't hesitate to contact Lisa with any comments or questions – 212-233-5200, Ext. 232, Tuesday –Thursday.*

*Thank you for helping  
pay my school fees.  
You really made it  
easier for my family,  
and I really appreciate  
what you did for me,  
even though you don't  
know me.*

*I and my family want  
to thank you, dear  
sponsor!!!*

*Thank you.  
Yaffa sahalu*



**NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIAN JEWRY  
NACOEJ/EDWARD G. VICTOR HIGH SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

132 Nassau St. • NY, NY 10038 • 212-233-5200 Ext 232 • Fax: 212-233-5243

E-mail: [highschool@nacoej.org](mailto:highschool@nacoej.org) • Web: [www.nacoej.org](http://www.nacoej.org)