



Shalom from Fidel!

We are pleased to send you the first Fidel Newsletter. The bimonthly newsletters will provide updated information about our activities, events, and new programs, alongside personal stories. Visit our [site](#) to learn more about the **Fidel Association**.

From the Executive Director

Dear friends and colleagues, I recently assumed the role of Executive Director of the **Fidel Association**. I am grateful for the opportunity and welcome the challenges of promoting the Ethiopian community, especially its youth, and of facilitating its integration into Israeli society.



Fidel (Amharic for alphabet) was established in 1996, and its primary goal is promoting and strengthening the community's youth through education and social integration. Today our activities span:

- 32 Education & Social Mediators trained by and employed by Fidel in 58 schools across Israel.
- The Crisis Intervention Center in Tel Aviv, which locates and treats distanced youth, school dropouts and youth-at-risk within the community
- 7 Youth Centers across the country, for afternoon enrichment programs (another soon to open in Petach Tikva).
- 61 Parent Groups, bridging the generation gap while encouraging involvement in children's education.
- In collaboration with the Moriah Fund, the development of a model of Community Schools, with an emphasis on reading skills in 4 schools in Netanya and in the Yona Bugala School in Kiriat Moshe, Rehovot.
- Scholarships for Ethiopian University Students.

I am confident that all our goals will be fulfilled, and that we will forge a new cadre of leaders of Ethiopian Jews in Israel. Achieving this will change perspectives about this community, both from within and without. I would like to thank our friends, supporters and partners who have helped us along the way. Wishing us all much success,

Dessie (Ronie) Akalie
Fidel Executive Director

Youth Centers

For over two years, **Fidel's** Youth Center in Kiriat Gat has organized a boys basketball team for youth-at-risk, ages 13-16. Today, this team plays in the National Youth League's Southern Region. Participation in the league is the result of **Fidel's** efforts and belief in the boys' abilities. Efrayim Akawe, who runs the Youth Center, relates: "It is hard for me to imagine where these boys would be without Fidel. They are fully professional sportsmen, and now act as role models for other youth in the area. The sports activities provide them with motivation – both for studies and socially."



What is a Fidel Mediator?

A link between students, parents and the school system, the Mediator serves as an embracing figure and role model, assists in enhancing scholastic achievements, prevents dropout rates—both implicit and explicit, and conducts cultural activities which preserve customs and holidays.

We currently employ 32 Fidel-trained Education & Social Mediators in 58 schools across Israel, serving some 4,000 children and their families.

Crisis Intervention Center in Tel Aviv



On Friday, Dec.7, Fidel's Crisis Intervention Center in Tel Aviv held a night patrol, as part of the *Mevalim B'shalom (Partying in Peace)* program, with representatives of the ENP, the Ministry of Education, IAEJ

and the Nachalat Yehuda dormitory. Despite the torrid rain, the patrollers visited dance clubs and pubs in downtown Tel Aviv. A table was set up with coffee and *sufganiyot*, where club-goers signed the *Mevalim B'shalom* petition against violence in nightclubs.



Parent Groups

In the 2006/07 school year, 427 parents participated in 40 Parent Groups, in 6 cities. These groups were operated by **Fidel** with the purpose of bridging the generation gap while encouraging parental involvement in their children's education.

In the coming year, we will launch 61 groups, with over 700 participants.

