



Greetings!

Volume 3, June 2008

The Fidel Offices have moved to a new location - 43 Haatzmaut Way, Yehud 56302. Our new phone number is 072 250 7400, and our fax number is 072 250 7444.

The Netanya Initiative - Success on all Levels

As a joint venture between the Moriah Fund and Fidel, based on the experience accumulated in the Yona Bugaleh-Hadarim school in Rehovot, a model was developed for elementary schools with a high ratio of Ethiopian students. The needs we found were those of raising scholastic performance and improving school environments in a multicultural perspective.

For this purpose, the Netanya Initiative works on 3 levels: principal mentoring, literacy coaches, and community work. For the first time in Israel, student achievements as an individual are viewed alongside the surrounding network, of school, family and community.

The success of each student depends on meaningful dialogue and cooperation between student, parents and staff. Therefore, Social Educational Mediators operate in each of the schools, empowering parents, explaining the importance of active involvement in their children's education. They raise school staff awareness to the culture and heritage of Ethiopian Jewry, as well as to the unique needs of this community, and organize events within the school connected to the Ethiopian culture, including the Sigd holiday, commemorating those lost in Sudan, and holding exhibitions on the students roots.



The cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Netanya Municipality has led to the project's success, and in the coming year the Initiative will expand from 4 to 7 schools. We believe in the continuing success of the Initiative, on all levels – management, pedagogy and especially that of community work.

Michal Samuel Avera

Deputy Director and Director of Professional Training

New Center in Petach Tikva

A new youth center, funded by the ENP and established in cooperation with the municipality, was opened in Petach Tikva. The center, operated by Fidel, is visited daily by some 60 youths, who frequent its computer room and social activities.



Training Mediators

On June 19, the graduation ceremony for the Beit Berl mediators course was held. The 16 students who completed the course are employed by Fidel, through funding of the ENP. Also, the second class of mediation studies began at the Ruppin Academic Center. In addition, in response to emergent needs Fidel is developing a training program for mediators in elementary schools.



Fidel in Ashdod

An ENP-funded Parents Group meeting in the Regional G High School hosted youth, in an effort to bridge intergenerational gaps. Through poems, participants expressed - both in Hebrew and Amharic - emotions, from parent to child and vice versa. Then the group was shown approaches to joint problem-solving.

In addition, in the graduation ceremony of Regional D High School, Fidel Board Member, Brig. General (res.) Assaf Agmon gave a riveting presentation on the Aliya of Ethiopian Jewry.

Violence Stops Here



On Friday, June 20, Fidel, four nightclubs, volunteers and artists worked together, under the joint message that "Violence Stops Here". At each club, club-goers signed the petition against violence, voiced their opinions on the subject, and were presented with a small souvenir. During the evening, artists performed in each of the clubs, and to close the events, the artists performed together in the Vibe Club, where they were presented with certificates. Fidel chairperson, Mirla Gal, Fidel Executive Director, Ronie Akalie and many volunteers participated in the event.

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A Mediator's Success

"I met David in the special education class. He suffered from both scholastic and behavioral problem and had threatened to commit suicide. His father had left home for another woman, and his mother was not functioning; he had become the dominant figure at home for his brothers. In one-on-one conversations, he spoke of trouble with the police, alcohol and narcotics abuse, and that he was the leader of a street gang.

"His eyes cried for help – I had to intervene. I informed the school and social services, and together it was decided to transfer David to a dormitory. His mother objected, but it was clear to me that unless we acted immediately to remove him from his environment and to provide rehabilitation, it would be too late. I insisted, and today, one year later, David is happy. He has progressed in his studies, has relaxed and has found new friends".

Avi, an Educational and Social Mediator

