



MITZVAH EVENT INFORMATION

Valley Jewish Community Cooperative School
and Corvallis Hadassah

Walk-a-Thon for Youth Aliyah/Children At Risk

Sunday, June 8, 2008 Midge Cramer Path - Benton Co. Fairgrounds, Corvallis OR

Please make your tax-deductible donation checks payable to Corvallis Hadassah.

Youth Aliyah/Children at Risk

- ◆ Hadassah-supported Youth Aliyah/Children at Risk sets Israel's disadvantaged children on the path to a successful future.
- ◆ Since 1934, over 300,000 young people from 80 lands have graduated from Youth Aliyah.
- ◆ Young immigrants and "at-risk" native Israelis, many of whom are victims of abuse, receive counseling, education, supportive services in Youth Aliyah day centers, and youth villages.
- ◆ From Hebrew language lessons and classes on Jewish heritage to athletic opportunities and art programs, Youth Aliyah students are given the extra help and attention they need to become productive members of Israeli society.
- ◆ Your gift will provide therapeutic educational and social services for youth at risk throughout Israel.

One example of how your gift helps...

Hadassah's Children at Risk program provides part of the operating budget for a clubhouse in the town of Yavne, Israel called *Tasfachin*, which means "our hope." One-hundred fifty at-risk teens, the vast majority of them Ethiopian immigrants, spend their afternoons at the clubhouse. These young people have many resources available to them, including a computer room where they can research their family roots, a carpentry shop where they work on making African wooden table games and coffee trays, and a recreational area with a ping-pong table, couches, and a television set.

"It's all about self-confidence," says Uvi Tashomen, 28, an Ethiopian-born counselor at the club. "Even though I'm black and speak Amharic, the kids couldn't believe I was Ethiopian because I graduated from college and work as a nature guide. They have to change their self-image." He has inspired young immigrants like seventeen-year-old Avi, who now wants to follow in his footsteps. Avi has already taken part in the nature hiking club, and he wants to study biology after serving in the army.

Moishe Shaked, 58, volunteers at the clubhouse teaching business skills to the teens. He is trying to develop their entrepreneurial skills by creating a product they can actually sell. One project is creating a cookbook. As Sara, 16, explains, "Other Israelis always make fun of our food. This way we can demonstrate that our food is healthful and tastes good while we're building bridges to the rest of Israeli society, from which we're often isolated." Having piloted the first plane that picked up Ethiopians during "Operation Solomon." Shaked says, "Now I want to make sure their children make it in Israeli society!"

Based on an article in Jerusalem Netletter, IYAR, 5765, MAY 10, 2005