At-Risk Youth in Israel

Hadassah supports two Youth Aliyah villages in Israel where Israeli Jews, Muslims, Druze, Bedouins and Christians—as well as immigrants from around the world—live and study together. The students at Hadassah’s Youth Aliyah villages come from around the world and from the streets of Israel. Approximately two-thirds of the students at these youth villages include young immigrants who come to Israel alone from countries where it is no longer safe to live as a Jew, or who are with family, but have difficulty adjusting in their new country. Many suffer from severe emotional, behavioral, learning and family problems stemming from poverty, neglect and abuse.

For more information about the Hadassah’s Youth Aliyah villages or to make a donation online, please visit hadassah.org/youthaliyah.
Success Begins at Hadassah Youth Aliyah Villages

When Rachel was 15, she arrived at the Hadassah Neurim Youth Village from Moscow with the Naale Elite Academy, an international program of the Jewish Agency. An only child of a single mom, she was eager to make new friends.

“I didn’t have a dog back in Moscow, but I loved playing with the dogs of friends and neighbors,” says Rachel. She volunteered for the dog rehabilitation project, a program for abused and abandoned canines.

“I connected with a street mutt named Mojito,” says Rachel. “He was about 10 months old, undisciplined and afraid of humans. I took a liking to him because of his energy and cheerfulness. Slowly I trained him, and we played together and went on walks. I cared for him and he gave me the feeling that he loved me.”

Rachel is delighted that she chose to move to Israel to attend Hadassah Neurim: “In Neurim, we have so many activities like surfing, studying to become a DJ and our dog shelter. This place is beautiful outside with views of the sea and beautiful inside with our teachers, activities and atmosphere. For me it was the best time of my life and I urge others to follow.”

How Can You Help?

In honor of your students’ bar or bat mitzvah, you can encourage them to support their extended family in Israel by participating in Hadassah’s B’nai Mitzvah Project. Through this program, teens will perform acts of tikkun olam that will help repair the world of youth in Israel who face serious economic and social challenges.

Meir Shfeyah, with 600 residential and day students, is one of the last comprehensive agricultural high schools in Israel. The village’s science, music and agriculture programs have received awards from the Ministry of Education for their excellence.

Hadassah Neurim is a sanctuary for youth both from Israel and around the world. The village’s vocational training focuses on high-tech motor vehicle maintenance and sound/light engineering. The Hadassah Neurim National Center for Young Athletes is renowned for its students’ achievements in national sports competitions, and the robotics team has competed successfully in international competitions.