



From Risk to Opportunity: Providing a Computer Lab for Advancement in Acco

A proposal presented to

UIA FEDERATIONS CANADA

May 2008



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There are talented and motivated children and youth across Israel who, through no fault of their own, are trapped by a shortage of resources that prevent them from advancing and achieving. Without basic skills necessary to succeed in today's world – education, technological know-how and professional training – these young people will be left behind, without much hope for the future.

The impact of this crisis must be addressed before their despair permeates the community at large.

Responding to this crisis, the Jewish Agency seeks your support to create a new computer lab in one of Acco's active community centers. The Jewish Agency is already actively engaged in promoting at-risk and disadvantaged youth in this community through targeted programs at one of the local community centers.

We seek your partnership of \$30,000 CAD to join our efforts to improve and propel Acco's youth and community onto a new pathway to personal, academic and social success.

This targeted program will not only advance local youth but also provide new opportunities for residents of all ages to achieve higher levels of personal success.

PROGRAM RATIONALE

Even within Israel's bustling city centers, there are children who find themselves falling through the cracks of Israel's educational system. Whether from personal struggles, family dysfunction or social isolation, these children face insurmountable obstacles that prevent their advancement. For some, their school demonstrates consistently low academic achievement and has limited staff to dedicate to reinforcing poor performers; for others, limited family income precludes their enrollment in afternoon enrichment activities.

Without a proper framework of support, youth from these communities face a lifetime of underachievement, underemployment or even unemployment – a vicious cycle which bears larger consequences for the surrounding community.

Despite large industrial areas in the northern city of Acco, many local residents are plagued by unemployment and low income jobs. Acco's community centers offer recreational and educational programs in an attempt to boost the local Arab and Jewish population. One of the community centers contains 2 computer classes – one of which was upgraded six years ago. The demand for technological programs that will train and advance the population is incredibly high – and one community center is ill equipped to meet this growing and important issue.

Creating an additional computer center will not only enable additional technological programs such as Net@ to be taught to the city's disadvantaged youth, but will also provide community residents of all ages with additional resources for personal and educational advancement.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To advance community residents of Acco, including disadvantaged and at-risk youth, by creating a computer classroom that brings opportunities for personal, academic and professional success.
- To provide 20 new computers and all related equipment – including printers, scanners, internet and network connections, etc. – to one of Acco's community centers
- To bridge the digital gap that threatens the advancement of social and geographical communities
- To improve local resources that strengthen communities across Israel

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Acco's community centers operate a range of recreational and educational programs that support and advance their local population of both Arabs and Jews. Among the programs offered in conjunction with the Jewish Agency are: THE ENRICHMENT FUND/ THE DAY AFTER PROGRAM which was designed to reinforce and rehabilitate northern communities that were affected during the Second Lebanon War; and NET@, TECHNOLOGICAL ENRICHMENT FOR AT-RISK YOUTH.

Net@ is a four-year program that targets young people from Israel's social and geographical periphery and propels them onto a track of personal, professional and academic success combined with a commitment to local community leadership. Through a comprehensive educational and experiential program, Net@ complements academic studies in computer and network technology via practical, hands-on training to ensure participants' academic and professional advancement. Courses culminate with international certification exams to become advanced PC technicians and Cisco Systems network technicians. Additional activities that involve students in their surrounding communities through volunteer work and tutoring create new opportunities for individual and community growth and empowerment. A collaboration of the Jewish Agency with Cisco Systems, Inc., Tapuach and Keren Hayesod, Net@ has a proven success record, changing the lives of hundreds of high school students from 24 localities across Israel, since 2003.

An additional computer room at one of Acco's community centers will enable the center to expand its operations, to allow for additional Net@ classes as well as general enrichment programs. Additionally, the computer room will be open to all residents to use as a resource to gain valuable information via the web, this includes courses for the personal interest for the elderly and job searches for the unemployed.

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contribution of \$30,000 CAD will create a computer lab at one of Acco's community centers enabling thousands of local residents – both Arab and Jewish – to benefit from an expanded array of local resources for their personal advancement.

BUDGET

| ITEM | DETAIL | COST IN CAD\$ |
|--|---|---------------|
| EXPENSES | | |
| Computers | 20 Computers | 16,600 |
| Communication network | | 3,500 |
| Electricity works | | 3,400 |
| Unexpected | | 3,500 |
| Additional equipment | Printers, scanners, network connection, cables, screens, etc. | 3,000 |
| Operating licenses for Windows XP | | 5,500 |
| Installation of network connection | | 3,500 |
| Total | | 39,000 |
| INCOME | | |
| Operating licenses for Windows XP | Provided by Tapuach | 5,500 |
| Installation of network connection | To be performed by Net@ students as part of their training | 3,500 |
| Requested from partnering donor | | 30,000 |
| Total | | 39,000 |

The Jewish Agency for Israel: Who we are and what we do.

We are a global partnership committed to securing the Jewish future that stands on a history-making track record. Together, our partnership has brought 3 million people to Israel; we have built a nation. Together, we are meeting the challenges of today and our aspirations for the future.

Founded over 75 years ago, the Jewish Agency for Israel partners with communities around the world with the dual purpose of facilitating the return of as many Jews to the Jewish homeland and bringing Israel into the lives of the next generation of Jewish leaders throughout the world.

As Israel's largest and most effective nonprofit, we aspire to create an Israel of equal opportunity. A place where risk is transformed into possibility for every young person and every community. A place where every voice is heard.

Our work is all focused on achieving these goals through:

ALIYAH The return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel is an integral part of what Israel stands for, and the Jewish Agency's plays a dynamic and unique role in every aspect of shaping Israel's demographic and social future. We are committed to maintaining Israel as a prominent focus of Jews everywhere, and to stimulating interest in Israel as a viable living option.

JEWISH-ZIONIST EDUCATION Connecting the next generation with Israel and Jewish people as a core part of Jewish identity is central to securing the Jewish future. This single action has the power to build Jewish identity even for young people not previously connected. We do this by cultivating dynamic leadership, promoting innovative training and identity programs, and tailoring educational needs to individual communities around the world.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH ISRAEL In order to create a strong Jewish future it is essential that we involve world Jewry with Israelis, making them all an active part of shaping the future character of Israeli society. Notwithstanding the miles and oceans and experiences that separate us, we are indeed one nation. And that is why we are intensifying opportunities that engage world Jewry with the people of Israel to effect transformative change, facilitating people-to-people and community-to-community opportunities, and creating new paradigms that bring philanthropists from around the world together around one common issue: building a strong future for the Jewish people.