

Opening of Integrated Clubs for the Negev Bedouin

Excerpted from a report by Daniel Kahn, Negba Board Member

"I just returned from Abu Krinat. I participated in the preparations for the opening of three Integrated Clubs for 45 children ages 6-12, based on Negba's Houses of Hope model.

Because of the security situation, and the fact that the Bedouin living in unrecognized villages lack rocket attack sirens and secure bomb shelters, it was decided to open the Clubs tomorrow, Monday, July 21, earlier than planned. The tragedy that hit an entire family yesterday reminds us how vulnerable the Bedouin are. The Clubs will provide the only accessible shelters in an area where most of the population lives in temporary structures scattered across a large expanse.

The training team began its work last week. I had a short meeting with the educational staff. In addition, they will receive a training workshop of four hours directed by Gita Eshel. We must complete the training of counselors.



One of the Bedouin children injured by rocket fire, visited by Israel's Minister of Education

The team visited families in their homes, according to the recommendations of the Neve Midbar Regional Council's welfare department, the result of which was the assured absorption of 45 children into the program. The Club's facility is designed for three groups and the equipment is in excellent condition."

About the Abu Krinat Village



The Bedouin Village
Abu Krinat, Southern Israel

The Bedouin living in Israel are among the most vulnerable communities in the country. They are citizens with equal rights and many of them serve in the IDF. At the last Independence Day ceremony, a Bedouin woman who lives in Tel Sheva was chosen to light one of the torches. This symbolic event demonstrates the depth of the gap between the recognition which the Bedouin receive from the authorities and the poor conditions in which some of them are forced to live. It is appropriate that Negba take an interest in the Negev Bedouin, most of whom are concentrated south of Beersheva and close to Negba's offices.

It's not only the physical proximity, but also the scope of our mission and of our skills, that drives our concern for, and investment in, the Bedouin sector. The experience we have gained over the years and our success in the treatment of children at-risk may provide effective help for children at-risk in Bedouin communities. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs, we implemented a cooperative venture with SOS-Children's Villages, which already possessed infrastructure operating in this sector. This initiative expresses the desire of the State of Israel to improve the quality of life for the Bedouin by investing in the development of its youth.



The Abu Krinat Integrated Club