

Negba Launches "Eyeglasses for Every Visually Impaired Child" Project



As part of Negba's mission to improve the opportunities of the children at-risk in its care, Negba partnered with *Amutat Mishkan HaRe'iya-La Fondation Optical Center* to check the vision of 150 children at Negba's Beersheva's Houses of Hope. Optometrists from the *Optical Center* traveled to Beersheva to administer the physical eye exams, and determined that over 40 of Negba's children require eyeglasses.

In the coming weeks the 40 children requiring eyeglasses will travel to the *Optical Center's* headquarters in Jerusalem, undergo a thorough eye examination, and receive a pair of eyeglasses on the same day. Negba plans to offer the eye exams for the rest of its children in the near future.

Negba is grateful to the *Optical Center* for underwriting the full cost of the exams, the transport to Jerusalem, and for providing the eyeglasses. Thanks to the *Optical Center's* important contribution, Negba's children at-risk will see and read more effectively, and feel more self-confident. Just like a regular child should.

It's in his Nature: USA Volunteer Felix Lufkin Spends a Week at Negba Leading Projects about the Environment



A trip to Israel is unlike any other vacation. Anyone who's traveled here knows there's so much to do, and never enough time to do it all; historical sights, tours, friends and family to visit, and more. So when Felix Lufkin spent a week volunteering with Negba's children at-risk on his recent Israel visit, Negba was delighted, particularly given the Northampton, Massachusetts resident's expertise in nature education.

"Felix led a series of projects with children at one of our Beersheva after-school Houses of Hope, and he was amazing," said Sapir, a program coordinator who worked with Felix. "He and the kids created an impressive nature wall mural, which brightens up their day when they arrive at the

House of Hope. The warm atmosphere will help the children succeed in the many areas they strive to improve in at Negba."

Felix also led workshops using organic materials to create jewelry, crafts and even start a friction fire, infusing a strong sense of appreciation for the environment into Negba's culture. "Eating orange peels and sabra leaves was a bit weird, but all the activities were great," said Annael. Avraham agreed. "It was really fun to light a fire without matches and make other things with Felix," commented Avraham.

For Felix, the visit was just as meaningful as it was for Negba's kids. "I'm very grateful Negba accepted my unconventional proposal and that I was able to spend time there. It was a very special week that I'll always remember. This experience reaffirmed in me the oneness of our human family, our shared values of curiosity, humor, caring, a sense of place and community, and a desire to understand ourselves and the other."

Negba is grateful to Felix for his commitment, and hopes that he'll make Negba a regular stop on his future Israel trips.

How Do You Say "Huff and Puff and Blow Your House Down" in French?



As part of Negba's activities to disseminate French culture across the agency, first and second graders at the Helene and Nathan Samuel House of Hope in Beersheva listened to the story of "The Three Little Pigs" in French. Though the children do not speak French, the animated intonations and movements of some very creative storytellers enabled the kids to follow the colorful storyline, and they even memorized some key words in French that repeat throughout the tale. The children are looking forward to the next story!

This infusion of French culture throughout Negba is part of the Partnership between Negba and the France-Israel Foundation.

Back to School Days for Negba's Parents

Negba continues to offer activities for the parents of its children as part of Negba's strategy to further engage parents as partners in their care.

The bi-weekly "Parents' School" days have resumed at the Franck Levy House of Hope in Beersheva, offering the 15 mothers seminars on how to improve communication with their children, as well as arts and crafts workshops and other projects to strengthen their self-esteem.

Last year's "Parent's School days successfully encouraged a number of mothers to find employment, and Negba hopes to build on those successes this year.

