

New School Year Commences at Negba's After-School Homes in Beersheva and Jerusalem



Scores of smiling children returned to Negba's Houses and Teen Clubs in Beersheva and Jerusalem this fall as activities resumed at the beginning of the new school year. Over the summer Negba's staff invested preparation time, and was delighted to receive the children back. After some icebreaker activities, Negba's varied educational, social, emotional, and cultural programs are already in full swing.

When the children arrive each afternoon at Negba, the first order of business is a learning hour to complete homework, use the

"Cheshbon 10" computers math program, and reading work.

For kids possessing difficulties in a particular subject, Negba's counselors and volunteers work with them independently or in small groups and provide a plan of study to facilitate progress. After the learning hour the children engage in a diverse schedule of enrichment and group activities based on their interests such as art, science, soccer and Zumba. Some fun outings in the first month included a pool swim, a treasure hunt, a beach trip, and outdoor training for the teens. Negba's kids are enjoying every moment....and most importantly, already making progress.



Negba Holds Team Building Seminar for Incoming and Returning National Service Volunteers

Prior to the commencement of the 2015/2016 school year, an intensive two-day group dynamics and team building seminar for national service volunteers was held at Negba in Beersheva. The *Sherut Leumi* volunteers, young women between the ages of 18-20, assume important roles during their time at Negba- from one to two years- and make a significant impact on the personal development of Negba's children at-risk. The seminars aimed at strengthening their professional capabilities, equipping them with skills and knowledge to start off the school year well prepared.

"The creative thinking teamwork challenges were a lot of fun," said Na'ama, an incoming National Service Volunteer. "The seminar gave me a chance to meet other volunteers and to develop a working relationship with them. I also had an opportunity to learn more about Negba's mission, and to explore what it expects from me next year in my work with the children."



The seminar also allowed Negba's permanent staff to get to know the volunteers and then assign them an appropriate position. 14 new National Service volunteers join the 6 returning for second year, bringing the total to 20 for school year 2015/2016.

Ceremony Marks Successful First Year of Integrated Clubs for Children At-Risk for Bedouin Negev Community

A festive ceremony was held at the end of the summer in Abu Korinat to celebrate a successful first year of activity at Negba's six after-school clubs for the Negev Bedouin, serving 90 children aged 6-12 in the villages of Abu Korinat, Kasr-a-Sir and Bir-Hadaj. Knesset Member Revital Swid (Zionist Camp Party), a member of the Knesset's Lobby for Children and Youth at-Risk, addressed the crowd of children and distinguished guests, noting the positive impact of the project. Invitees were treated to a tour of the facility housing Abu Korinat's three clubs, and to a tasty buffet of Bedouin cuisine prepared by members of the local village. They also enjoyed a colorful performing arts recital by children of the clubs.

"The clubs were established as a result of a shared vision for a better Israel which helps all members of society," commented Negba Board member Danny Kahn, who manages the initiative at Negba. "This first year was a positive step in that direction, and we hope to do more for Israel's Bedouin community."



Other honored guests included Neve Midbar Regional Council Head Rachamim Yona, Neve Midbar Regional Council Director of Social Services Dr. Al-Atauna Magid, leaders of the Bedouin community, and representatives of the SOS Children's Villages, Negba's strategic partner in the project. All offered warm words for Marinette Vaknin, Director of the clubs in Abu Korinat.

The project is supported by Israel's Ministry of Welfare.