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Dear Friend,

As 2023 draws to a close, Israel is still in terrible crisis. Those of us here in the United States can only provide help from a distance. Together, we are doing just that - offering direct, vital and essential support for Ethiopian Israelis. On behalf of FEJ and the Ethiopian Israeli organizations who count on us, thank you very much for your help.

Now we ask you to consider a generous year end gift to:

- Expand vital mental health services and the emergency crisis hotline at Wuste Tzega. This has turned out to be one of the most important services during this critical time.
- Provide food supplies, toiletries and infant needs to relocated families. More than 2,000 Ethiopian Israelis have been evacuated and dislocated. Shavu Banim Community Center and other organizations are providing food, diapers, essentials and other support.
- Strengthen advocacy activities for Ethiopian Israelis, especially those who may not know what government assistance and services they are entitled to or how to apply at this critical time. The Association of Ethiopian Jews (AEJ) is on the job.



Here is the impact of your giving:

Wuste Tzega Crisis Counseling & Hotline

FEJ's online campaign for Wuste Tzega raised \$48,000 to launch a telephone hotline and crisis counseling in Amharic and Hebrew for Ethiopian Israelis, especially recent immigrants. Originally planned for one month, Wuste Tzega is extending their services as the psychological impact of the war continues. Other programs and hotlines are duplicating Wuste Tzega's approach by providing counseling in multiple languages. They are also asking Wuste Tzega's Director Yeshitu Samuel to train Israeli counselors on how to treat Ethiopian Israeli clients. And, Wuste Tzega has been asked by the government and municipalities to come to areas with relocated Ethiopian Israeli families and provide in-person counseling. These services will cost \$44,000 per month to continue.

That's why your Year-End gift is so necessary – to keep this program going!

"I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude. There are many Ethiopian Israelis among the evacuees and those who live in areas bombarded by Hamas, also parents to soldiers doing combat duty, and they are in a state of shock and trauma. Our trained professionals are there for them every day of the week and on our emergency hotline. In addition to workshops, we are providing culturally adapted psychotherapy for first responders. It is very much thanks to you that we can respond to this critical need." - Yeshitu Samuel, LCSW, Director

Shavu Banim Ethiopian Jewish Community Center, Beersheva

At Shavu Banim, Director Amram Aklum, and Educator Naftali Aklum are working tirelessly to serve the Ethiopian Jewish community in Beersheva (population 7,000) and the 250 dislocated Ethiopian Israeli families placed there – an additional 1,500 people. Naftali and Amram are distributing food, teff flour, diapers, toys, clothing and other basics, and they negotiated a deal with World Central Kitchen to provide free meals to the 250 relocated families! Naftali conducts educational programs and activities for children and young adults, and the Community Center serves as a staging area for everything. **Every dollar goes to essentials for the community!**



"Every morning I wake up and October 7th is in my head. I have been to 3 funerals in the past 3 days. We have now distributed thousands of diapers and thousands of food boxes to displaced families. Shavu Banim is the hub for the area. We are starting next week to help Ethiopian Israeli families in Ofakim, Kiryat Malachi, Netivot and more – wherever there is need. Thank you, our true American friends!"

- Naftali Aklum, Educator

The Association of Ethiopian Jews (AEJ)

As the veteran Ethiopian Israeli NGO, the Ethiopian Israeli community relies on AEJ to be a central outlet for vital information. The ongoing crisis disrupts social services and government aid, creating urgent needs. During this emergency, AEJ is serving as a clearinghouse, main address and intermediary platform to coordinate between various organizations, and to transmit information about existing initiatives while promoting best practices and actions to serve the community at this challenging time. AEJ represents the community during this time of evolving events and needs, and advocates for their protection.



"We are very moved by FEJ's concern, care and ACTIONS to help Israel and the Ethiopian Jewish community during the current challenges facing Israel at war. These are unexpected and difficult times. Thank you!" - Rina Ayalin-Gorelik, CEO of AEJ

As you know, FEJ is the only organization in the U.S. exclusively supporting the Ethiopian Israeli community. We at FEJ are directly connected to Ethiopian Israeli leaders and can address their specific needs. With most Ethiopian Israeli young adults serving in the IDF (More than 80% of young men and 60% of young women) those remaining at home or who are in temporary housing are struggling. **They are counting on you!**

If you have not yet given this year, please help with a generous year end gift. If you have donated, please consider another contribution. FEJ operates with very little overhead. So, you can be assured your gift will be responsibly managed and will directly help Ethiopian Israelis immediately.

Please use the enclosed envelope or go to www.friendsofethiopianjew.org/donate to make a secure online donation. Thank you!