

Focus on Federation — Part V

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and industrial production and conducts projects for regional enterprises and water supply. It makes sure that each settlement, no matter how small or isolated, has access to medical, education and cultural services.

The Vision of Project Renewal

Since 1979, hundreds of thousands of American Jews have supplemented their regular Campaign commitments with contributions to the communities' twinned Project Renewal neighborhoods. Charlotte's "twin" is Nazaret Illit. Project Renewal's goal is to raise the low standard-of-living, job-skill and educational levels in Israel's immigrant neighborhoods. The program links Renewal areas with Diaspora communities which fund physical, economic and social rehabilitation projects. Priorities are determined by neighborhood residents, in consultation with their linked Diaspora com-



JDC in action: Helps meet the needs of elderly Jews and makes it easier for them and others to enjoy their lives. Photo/Richard Lobell

munities, the government and the Jewish Agency.

Through visits to their twinned neighborhoods and participation in Renewal Committees at home, American Jews have built a strong working partnership with the people of Israel.

Caring for the Pioneer Generation

The number of people over

the age of 75 is increasing at a faster rate in Israel than in any other Western country. Through the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, American Jews support programs to keep Israel's elders independent of institutional care. The JDC also promotes research in gerontology, advanced training for social work professionals, job training for youth, and early-childhood detection of physical disabilities.

Amigour, the housing division of the Jewish Agency, provides homes for elderly immigrants and other low-income tenants. Building for the next generation, child development clinics, kindergartens, libraries and community centers in the Galilee and Negev are funded by the UJA-affiliated Israel Education Fund, which receives major capital contributions beyond the Regular Campaign.

The World Jewish Family

For more than 70 years, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has been helping Jews in need around the world. Active in more than 30 countries on four continents, the JDC lifeline for relief and rehabilitation sustains, educates, heals and comforts Jews who would otherwise have no outside contacts. The JDC sends Passover wine and matzot to hundreds



At the Kiryat Gat Absorption Center near Ashkelon, Israel, Marva Perlin, a National Women's Division Board member, visited with Ethiopian Jewish children. Photo/Donna Lee Goldberg

of thousands in Eastern Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. It supports Jewish schools in Morocco, a summer camp in Yugoslavia, Yiddish cultural activities in Poland, food and clothing distribution in Romania, vocational training in India. Wherever Jews live, wherever they need help, the JDC is there.

Challenge and Change

While UJA is primarily

Coordinating with other Jewish organizations, UJA is working to secure freedom for the tens of thousands of Jews seeking to leave the Soviet Union, and working to secure religious freedom for the Soviet Jews who wish to remain. UJA is also a strong voice in Israel on issues of concern to American Jews.

The UJA Department of Communications/Public Relations, Speakers Bureau, National Training Center and



Charlotte Jewish youth carrying banners in Soviet Jewry March, Dec. '87. Photo/Walter Klein

devoted to fund raising, the concerns of UJA include helping build a sense of Jewish unity and commitment within the generations of American Jews born after the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel.

UJA is the focal point for the American Jewish community to make known its views.

Community Leadership Consultation Program offer resources for Campaign development. All of these services are also available to smaller, non-federated communities which campaign exclusively for overseas Jewish needs.

UJA, Federation and You

You can work, through our Federation to carry on the Jewish tradition of *tzedakah* — to help strengthen our Jewish community — and to contribute to the progress and well-being of the Jewish people. More than one million American Jews make annual pledges to their local Campaigns. You can increase that number by making your commitment and by asking others to do so. You can learn more about Israel and world Jewry by traveling with a UJA/Federation overseas mission. And you can join others in your business or profession who help with the Campaign. You can take part in community planning, solicitor training and regional meetings if you are already involved. Choices are varied, the welcome warm and the satisfactions deep. If you want to learn more about our Charlotte Jewish Federation and get involved, call the Federation office, 366-5007.

(Information derived from "UJA and You" published by UJA National Headquarters, New York, NY.)

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