

## Project Renewal

It can be said that there are two Israels. There is an Israel of great achievement — of pride, of participation in a society which, despite war and terror, record taxes and severe economic difficulties, has created a vibrant living space out of the desert, has been innovative and productive in its agriculture and industry, and has created great universities and research centers for the benefit of all mankind. This Israel cares deeply for the welfare of all its people, longs for and works toward peace and is, day by day, struggling to find the ways and means of realizing the age-old dream of a Jewish homeland which will be "a light unto the nations."

Ninety percent of Israel's Jewish population lives and learns, works and raises families in this Israel.

There is another Israel — an Israel where 300,000 Jews live in social and economic isolation, where helplessness and uncertainty are part of everyday life and the promise of an equitable Jewish nation has not yet been kept.

In 1948, the State of Israel was born, and during the next five years more than 700,000 immigrants flooded into the tiny Jewish nation, doubling the population. World Jewry pledged to help in the resettlement of new immigrants. The Jewish Agency, the Israeli governmental entity charged with refugee resettlement, and the people of Israel made heroic efforts to absorb them all into the rapidly expanding society.

For the most part, this absorption was successful. But some people were bypassed. War and a volatile economy disrupted the absorption. Those bypassed remained in pockets of poverty — "distressed" neighborhoods — in urban communities and in the countryside throughout the Jewish homeland.

Children grew, married, had children of their own, continuing the circle of poverty. Inferior and overcrowded housing deteriorated. Community facilities were too few and social services were inadequate. Education levels remained low; family incomes fell below the national average. School dropouts increased. Residents became alienated, frustrated and angry. The "other Israel" was created.

These residents of distressed neighborhoods felt they were not included in the partnership pledge by world Jewry with the people of Israel. In 1978, a new approach to speed the elimination of the "other Israel" and to strengthen the fabric of Jewish society was born. Project Renewal was proposed by then Prime Minister Menachem Begin as a cooperative venture — partnership of resources and talent, linking a Diaspora community (or group of communities), the Jewish Agency and the Israeli government, with the residents of each distressed neighborhood in a joint rehabilitation process.

Reprinted from *The Southern Israelite*.

# FEDERATION/UJA

## Focus on the For You and

### Jewish Facts of Life

When you read that the Federation supports the JCC, Hillel or the Blumenthal Home, the names and faces of your family and friends who use these services will, hopefully, come to your mind.

But, when you read about the needs of "Jews in Israel and around the world," there are no faces attached to the statistics. But the faces are there. You can't see them but they are looking to you with hope born of need and belief in Kal Yisrael — the PEOPLEHOOD OF JUDAISM — Frankly — they have no where else to look.

#### IN ISRAEL

The 1984-85 Jewish Agency budget of \$360 million for human-support programs directly and indirectly touches the lives of 600,000 people. Budget lines show little change from last year. With the 400% inflation rate virtually unchecked, the buying power of the Agency's shekels has declined, severely straining its ability to maintain services at last year's level. In all program areas, tough priority decisions have had to be made, protecting and expanding some services at the expense of others.

**Immigration/Absorption: \$52,000,000** — There is total commitment to maintaining all absorption services for more than 6,000 Ethiopian Jews who have reached Israel, and to providing them in full to additional families expected this year. The comprehensive absorption process is several times lengthier and many times costlier than the absorption of any previous group.

**Rural Settlement: \$70,000,000** — Three years ago, 122 of some 500 kibbutzim and moshavim established by the Jewish Agency through the years with funds from free world Jewry remained short of economic independence. Plans for their "consolidation" were dropped each year since. This year, funds have finally been budgeted for the first 27 of them. Those funds, however, were diverted from the already overdue construction of eight new settlements in the underpopulated stretches of the Galilee, Negev and Arava, with the result that only three will be built this year. There will be some "thickening" of Galilee mitzpin (pre-settlements), adding a few families to these isolated hilltop outposts. And a special program will provide the younger children of original moshav settlers — unable to acquire land on their home grounds — with living and farming space for their families on moshavim elsewhere.

**Youth Aliyah: \$52,000,000** — Of nearly 18,000 students enrolled by Youth Aliyah for education and training in its boarding schools, villages and day centers, some 16,000 are disadvantaged youngsters from distressed neighborhood and family situations. Many of the youngest — ages 12-13 — are nearly totally illiterate and must receive special personal and programmatic attention. The others are boys and girls coming to Israel without parents, some whom Youth Aliyah carries on its historic role of caring for the orphaned and the isolated. In recent years, 1,500 Jewish children from Iran, mostly parentless, have been successfully passing through the Youth Aliyah system.

Today, there are 700 Ethiopian Jewish children, arriving without parents, for whom Youth Aliyah has developed brilliantly successful mini-absorption centers equipped with special teaching aids for small groups receiving intensive personal attention. But budget limitations are again preventing Youth Aliyah from taking in an additional 2,500 teenagers it has the space, staff and resources to serve, turning dropout street lives into useful futures in the mainstream of Israeli society.

#### THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

This year's worldwide JDC budget of \$46.5 million will help an estimated 500,000 people in more than 30 countries around the world. Celebrating its 70th anniversary, JDC maintains a life line of health, education, welfare, geriatric and child-care services to remnant and distressed Jewish communities in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa this year, including a new presence among the tiny Jewish community of Alexandria, Egypt, and in continuing to make a substantial difference in the lives of the young, the elderly and the handicapped in Israel.

### The Charlotte Jewish



## UJA At A 60% of the 1985 Campaign

United Jewish  
Receives its funds

**200**  
Community Federations  
and Welfare Funds

Support

#### United Israel Appeal (UIA)

The United Israel Appeal is the major beneficiary of funds raised by the United Jewish Appeal. It evaluates projects and programs carried out by the Jewish Agency, its agent in Israel, and determines the appropriate use of UJA funds for the support of the agency's work with immigrants, their integration into Israel's life, their health, housing, education and job training. In addition, funds are provided for pre-school and higher education, agricultural settlements and youth services.

#### American Distribution Committee

Including  
Provides a wide range of welfare, rehabilitation and cultural services to Jews in 30 countries around the world, including

