

Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City Program Grant Funding Information



1. Applicant Organization

American Friends of Nishmat
271 Madison Ave., 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10016

2. Contact person with email address and phone number

Margot Atlas
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3. Program Title

N.E.W. - Nishmat Ethiopian Women: Preparation for College and Beyond

4. Program Dates

On-going

5. Total Budget

\$460,000 for the 2009-10 school year based on 36 students

6. Grant Amount Requested

Sponsorship of two students for \$25,000

7. Description of activities of the program

- Nine years ago, Nishmat established N.E.W., a project of economic and social empowerment through education that targets the underlying issues affecting Ethiopian-Israeli students' performance in school and the job market.
- The program serves Ethiopian Army and National Service women veterans. It provides the extra help these students need to matriculate to a university and ultimately obtain good jobs. Most students come from very large families with at least one unemployed parent, and many are from homes where there is no breadwinner at all. All students will be the first in their families to attend college.
- All of the young women helped by Nishmat's program are economically disadvantaged—amongst Israel's poorest citizens. Moreover, State of Israel Education statistics show that 88% of Ethiopian Israelis do not pass their high school matriculation exam. We are proud that 90% of our graduates have gone well beyond that and to college-level studies.
- N.E.W. combines a full curriculum of English and math, Judaic studies, and a special preparation course for the high-school matriculation exams, as well as life-skills workshops, financial literacy, academic mentoring, one-on-one tutoring and guidance counselors.
- In many ways, Nishmat literally takes the place of the family in motivating these girls to advance themselves. Nishmat provides basic needs (housing, food, free tuition, and a monthly living stipend), career counseling, and a social-worker-in-residence who helps students negotiate the college-application process and deal with their families' daily struggle for survival.
- The program has a one-year option with a goal of passing the high-school matriculation exam, as well as a Joint College Program with several Jerusalem Colleges. The Joint College Program follows our students through college, while they continue living and receiving extensive academic, economic and social support at Nishmat.
- Without Nishmat's material and academic support, these students are not likely to be admitted to or successfully complete college. With Nishmat's support, they perform well with very few not completing their university education.

8. Population Served

The program serves Ethiopian Army and National Service women veterans.

9. Future costs

Nishmat in Israel, American Friends, Canadian Friends, and Swiss Friends of Nishmat are all committed to supporting N.E.W. Together, they have raised more than \$200,000 in foundation grants in the past academic year, in addition to gifts from private donors. We have pending requests totaling over \$250,000. Undesignated funds will be used to make up the balance of the budget.

10. Agency Website

For the US Office: www.afnishmat.org

For the school in Israel: www.nishmat.net