

NACOEJ/VIDAL SASSOON ADOPT-A-STUDENT COLLEGE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Adapting to Life in Israel: Adana Tizazo's Story

I was born in a small village in Ethiopia called Wazba in 1985. I first came to Israel in 1991 together with my mother and my grandmother with Operation Solomon. When we first arrived here, we were given a place to live in Ashkelon before moving to an absorption center in Bat-Hatzor.

After completing my high school studies, I did two years of national service. During the first year, I worked as an assistant teacher at a primary school in the Jewish quarter of the old city. I spent the second year of my service as an assistant nurse at the Kaplan Hospital, where I worked in the oncology ward.

I am currently a second year student of pedagogic counseling at the University of Haifa and I live in Rehovot together with my mother and my two brothers. My absorption here in Israel and assimilation of the Israeli culture were always accompanied by personal questions about my identity, and I have always felt a tension between wanting to preserve our Ethiopian traditions and way of life and wanting to become a more integrated part of the society in which I now live.