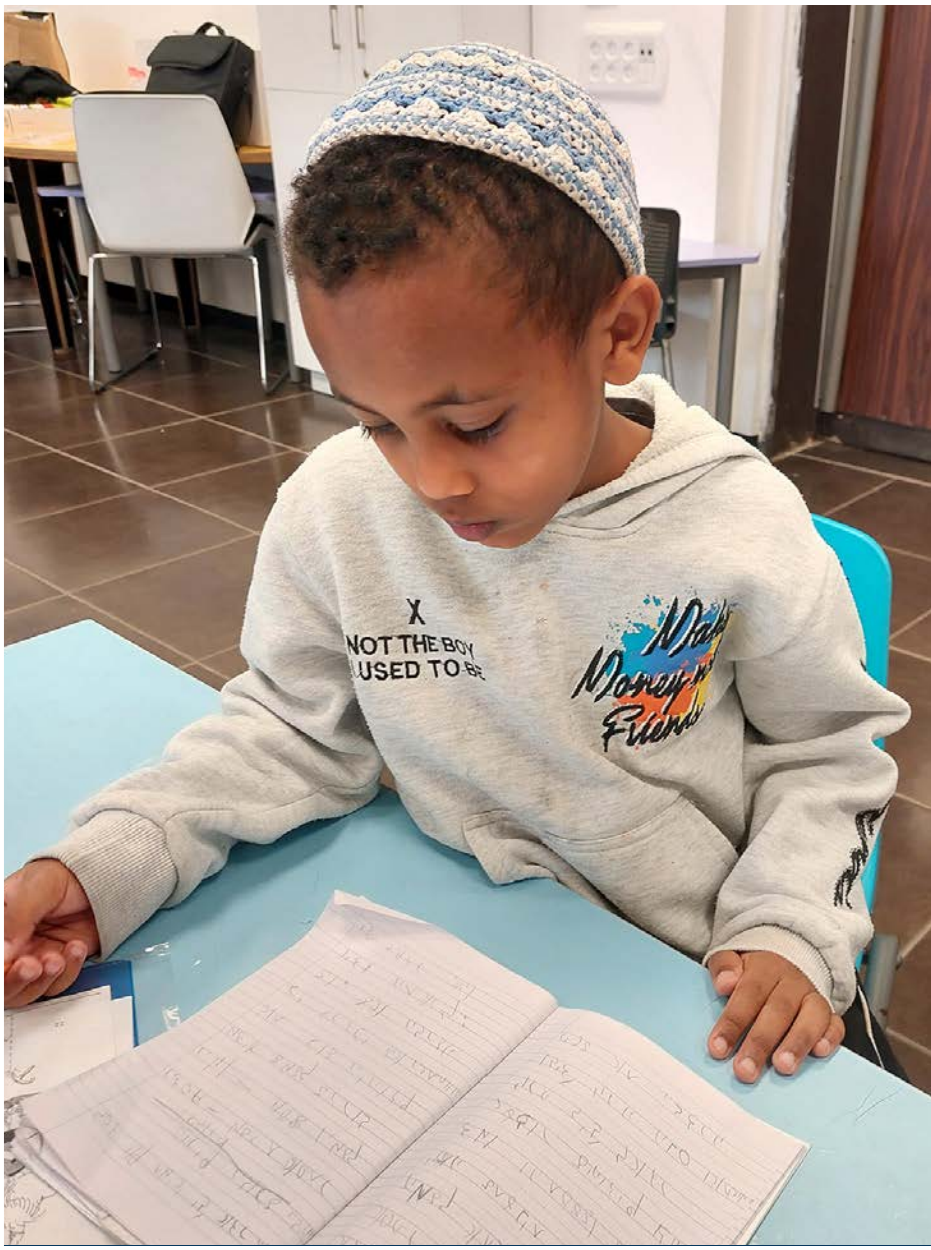
2025 Annual Report

NACOEJ: 43 Years of Critical Education, Aid, and Advocacy for Ethiopian Jews







NACOEJ North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry

This report covers the 2024-2025 academic year and the 2024 fiscal year.

Mission Statement

The North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ) is a non-profit organization founded in 1982 with four mandates:

- To help Ethiopian Jews survive in Ethiopia.
- To assist them in reaching Israel.
- To aid in the absorption of Ethiopian Jews into Israeli society.
- To help preserve their unique and ancient Jewish culture.



Message from Our President

Peter Halasz
President

This has been another difficult year for the Ethiopian-Jewish community, one in which NACOEJ accomplishments remained as important as ever.

In Israel, Hezbollah to the north and Gaza to the south continued to present a threat, and the 12-day war with Iran in the summer added unwelcome and surprising stress.

Students in the NACOEJ College Sponsorship Program (AAS) were still dealing with months of reserves, missed classes and exams, all of which were ameliorated to some degree by the support of their NACOEJ sponsors.

The Limudiah program for elementary and middle school students continued to provide Ethiopian-Israeli children with a warm and nurturing learning environment while the augmented studies for high school students in Sderot and Kiryat Gat, two communities close to Gaza, helped make up for educational gaps due to the long war.

In Ethiopia, the approximately 14,000 Ethiopian Jews remaining in Ethiopia continued to face militia activity, drought, unemployment, and inflation. Our regular grain distributions helped prevent severe hunger in the community. NACOEJ feeding programs for malnourished Jewish children and pregnant and nursing mothers continued to grow. We also funded lunch for thousands of children in the summer camp.

NACOEJ remains the only organization fighting for the health and education of Ethiopian Jews both in Israel and in Ethiopia. Our work remains indispensable.

NACOEJ Limudiah Intensive Education Program for Ethiopian-Israeli School Children



Unfortunately, studies by the Ministry of Education still show significant gaps between the achievements of Ethiopian-Israeli students and those of the general population. These gaps, which begin in elementary school and continue through middle school, lead to tracking in high school into lower quality matriculation paths that do not allow access to higher education, particularly in fields that support economic mobility.

Professor Svetlana Chachashvili Bolotin, Head of the Institute for Immigration and Social Integration at Rupin Academic Center and a member of NACOEJ's Isreal Board, warns that studies show that social and educational gaps in Israel are expected to deepen because of the war, particularly in education.

The Limudiah Program, providing 10 weekly hours of intensive study in Hebrew, math and study skills, is therefore an invaluable resource for the students who participate.

During the 2024-2025 academic year we served 344 students in schools in six cities: Bat Yam, Bet Shemesh, Jerusalem, Kiryat Ekron, Lod, and Rehovot.

In most schools Limudiah ran classes during school hours due to a long school day. Students are taken out of the classroom to learn Hebrew during their grammar or text lessons. They are taken out of math classes to learn math, etc. When Limudiah is held after school, students are first provided with a hot meal.

NACOEJ Limudiah teachers meet with schools' administrative staff to fine-tune goals and choose the students for each learning group. Participation in the program depends on the educational, emotional, and social situation of each student. Students with disciplinary issues and special education students are not included in the Limudiah. As always, at year-end meetings, school administrations and municipal partners expressed appreciation for the program and recognition of its accomplishments. ■



Middle School Limudiah: *AL* – Rising to Excellence

Ethiopian Israelis are significantly underrepresented in STEM fields in both academia and the labor market. The primary barrier is the gap in high-level matriculation certificates, which is a necessary condition for admission to prestigious academic programs. To address this, NACOEJ recently initiated two programs.

In Jerusalem and Lod we worked with municipal leaders as well as principals of schools such as the Hebrew University High School (one of the most prestigious high schools in Israel) toward the goal of having Limudiah students accepted into these high schools. The Limudiah taught English, language arts and math.

The program enrolled middle school Ethiopian-Israeli students with motivation and good grades. The goal is for them to finish high school with a high-quality matriculation exam score so they can study in universities and acquire degrees with high potential for good employment and social mobility. In Lod, six eighth-grade students were accepted to high-quality schools in the city, one student moved to Modiin at the end of the year, a town with better schools overall, and one student chose a vocational school related to the aerospace industry.

Of the 20 sixth-grade students who participated in Jerusalem, 17 students were accepted to high-quality schools in the city.

2024-2025 Limudiah Programs
366 students · 15 schools · 7 cities

- **Beit Shemesh - 16 students**
  Uziel School
- **BatYam - 83 students**
  Ben Gurion School, Harel School, Yitzhak Sadeh School, Jerusalem School
- **Kiryat Ekron - 30 students**
  Ohel Meir School
- **Jerusalem - 54 students**
  Guatemala School, Reishit School
- **Lod - 136 students**
  HaMaapilim School, Levi Eshkol, School Noam Hameiri School, Noam Neriya School Rambam School
- **Rehovot - 22 students**
  Awakat Center
- **Rishon Lezion - 25 students**
  Yeshurun School



Academic reinforcement for students in communities near the Gaza border:

A new high school program provides academic support to students from Sderot and Kiryat Gat, focusing on mathematics, English, and science, to close war-related gaps and ensure high-level matriculation certificates. Studies take place in 4- and 5-unit tracks for their matriculation exams, in small groups, with personalized support. We are partnering with the 8200 Association (graduates of the elite IDF intelligence) to add entrepreneurship and technology to the curriculum. ■

NACOEJ High School Program

This program allows Ethiopian-Israeli students to take full advantage of all the educational and recreational activities in their schools. Basic tuition is free, but schools charge additional fees which many Ethiopian families can't afford. Worse, better-quality schools with higher expenses, some of which are semi-private, may not accept Ethiopian students, assuming that they cannot afford these extra costs. This NACOEJ program provides these crucial funds.

In the 2024-2025 academic year, donors supported 55 students in 12 schools (including two students in a private school).

NACOEJ College Sponsorship Program (AAS)

AAS is our longest running program, started in 1987. Through AAS, thousands of Ethiopian-Israeli students have received financial support, helping them complete their degrees.

The recent transfer of responsibility for students from the Ministry of Absorption to the Council for Higher Education has negatively affected Ethiopian-Israeli students. In the past, full tuition and a living stipend of about 600 NIS were provided. Today, tuition is not fully covered, there are no living stipends, and eligibility is assessed individually rather than automatically.

Ethiopian-Israeli students, often the first generation in higher education, lack financial support from home and sometimes must support their families. This forces them to work long hours during their studies, which can harm academic performance and professional development, ultimately affecting their bargaining power and starting salaries.

Further, the war has directly affected AAS scholarship recipients, many of whom serve in active reserve duty for extended periods, while others face personal and economic consequences. A recent study from the Adva Center (a leading Israeli think tank, founded in 1991) that monitors social and economic developments shows that despite increased enrollment, Ethiopian-Israeli graduates still face structural barriers, wage gaps, and underrepresentation in senior positions. First generation students face financial hardships, lack of networking opportunities, and persistent stereotypes.

In the 2024-2025 academic year, NACOEJ donors sponsored 149 students in 33 institutions of higher learning.

AAS Conference



To provide support for our hardworking students during a very difficult year, NACOEJ created a special conference on career development in December 2024. Initial speakers, all Ethiopian Israelis, were Knesset Member Moshe Salomon, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, and member of the Finance Committee; Avi Yalo, CEO of the Hinni Association; and David Mihret, NACOEJ Israel Director. This was followed by a panel whose members were Ethiopian Israelis with impressive professional achievements including one who years ago received a NACOEJ College Sponsorship for a dual degree in law and psychology, Einav Biadgo. Finally, there was a talk by Tali Samani, also an Ethiopian Israeli and a practicing clinical psychologist and doctoral student in psychology at Ben-Gurion University. She is a consultant to senior managers, teaches at Achva College and lectures regularly. ■

ALEKA Educational Leadership Program

This NACOEJ program, in partnership with Herzog College, prepares Ethiopian-Israeli teachers for leadership roles within the education system, to increase their representation in senior and management positions. The program includes lectures, professional workshops, and a two-day summer seminar. Each teacher also receives personal guidance from a mentor.

The program is recognized by the Ministry of Education; teachers accrue sixty annual credits, which automatically raises participants' salary. At the end of the 2024-2025 academic year there were over sixty graduates.

In Ethiopia

NACOEJ provides crucial assistance to the Jewish community in Gondar City and Addis Ababa Ethiopia. In the period covered by this report, NACOEJ funded food aid to a community of about 14,000 while educating the American public about the issue.

Grain Distribution

NACOEJ's provision of food for the entire community, has for years kept this population from severe malnutrition, stunting and even starvation.

For many years now, Jews in Ethiopia have dealt with the rising price of food due to civil war, drought, and other factors, including the ongoing war in Ukraine and Iran. Militias continue to target the supply routes in Gondar, where most of the community lives, causing food shortages and security risks. Shootings and kidnappings proliferate. Members of the Jewish community have been abducted and held for ransom, because there is the perception that their families in Israel will pay. There are few jobs in Gondar due to the ongoing militia warfare. Limited fuel supplies are affecting the price of food, and also its availability. NACOEJ continues to fund grain distributions for the entire community in an ongoing effort to ameliorate the hardship and hunger. As in past years, many people reported that these distributions were lifesaving.

Feeding Center

Our meal program for children under five and pregnant and nursing mothers continued to grow, with well over a thousand children and mothers in the program. Meals consist of weggs, milk, potatoes or fortified porridge, vegetables or fruit and bread, and are provided to about 1200 people daily.

Malnourished children under five are the most vulnerable to stunting, disease and death, outcomes which this feeding program has prevented. Malnutrition during pregnancy can cause anemia, pre-eclampsia, hemorrhage and death in mothers, and lead to stillbirth, low birthweight, and developmental delays for children, while nursing women need extra calories to aid milk production.

Finally, NACOEJ provided nutritious lunches for about 2000 children in “the months-long Kaytana "summer camp". This was often the children's only meal of the day. ■



Statement of Financial Position and Activities

North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, Inc. and Affiliate

Combined Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2024

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 713,708	$ 250,373	$ 964,081
Contributions receivable, net	56,447	17,199	73,646
Prepaid expenses	106,954		106,954
Investments	3,281,136		3,281,136
Right-of-use assets	41,775		41,775
Security deposits	15,553		15,553
Total assets	$ 4,215,573	$ 267,572	$ 4,483,145
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$ 175,244		$ 175,244
Lease liabilities	44,871		44,871
Deferred public support	250,373		250,373
Total liabilities	470,488		470,488
Net assets:			
Without donor restrictions	3,745,085		3,745,085
With donor restrictions		267,572	267,572
Total net assets	3,745,085	267,572	4,012,657
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 4,215,573	$ 267,572	$ 4,483,145

North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, Inc. and Affiliate

Combined Statement of Activities
December 31, 2024

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Operating Activities			
Revenues and Other Support:			
Public support	$ 935,188	$ 675,278	$ 1,610,466
Sales, net	770		770
Other income	1,562		1,562
Interest and dividend income	150,861		150,861
Net assets released from restrictions	611,931	(611,931)	
Total revenues and other support	1,700,312	63,347	1,763,659
Expenses:			
Program services:			
Relief in Ethiopia	1,197,178		1,197,178
Assistance in Israel	1,141,867		1,141,867
Information and Education - USA	190,635		190,635
Total program services	2,529,680		2,529,680
Supporting services:			
Management and general	217,365		217,365
Fundraising	266,116		266,116
Total supporting services	483,481		483,481
Total expenses	3,013,161		3,013,161
Change in net assets from operations	(1,312,849)	63,347	(1,249,502)
Nonoperating Activities			
Investment return, net	85,413		85,413
Total nonoperating activities	85,413		85,413
Change in net assets	(1,227,436)	63,347	(1,164,089)
Net assets, beginning of year	4,972,521	204,225	5,176,746
Net assets, end of year	$ 3,745,085	$ 267,572	$ 4,012,657

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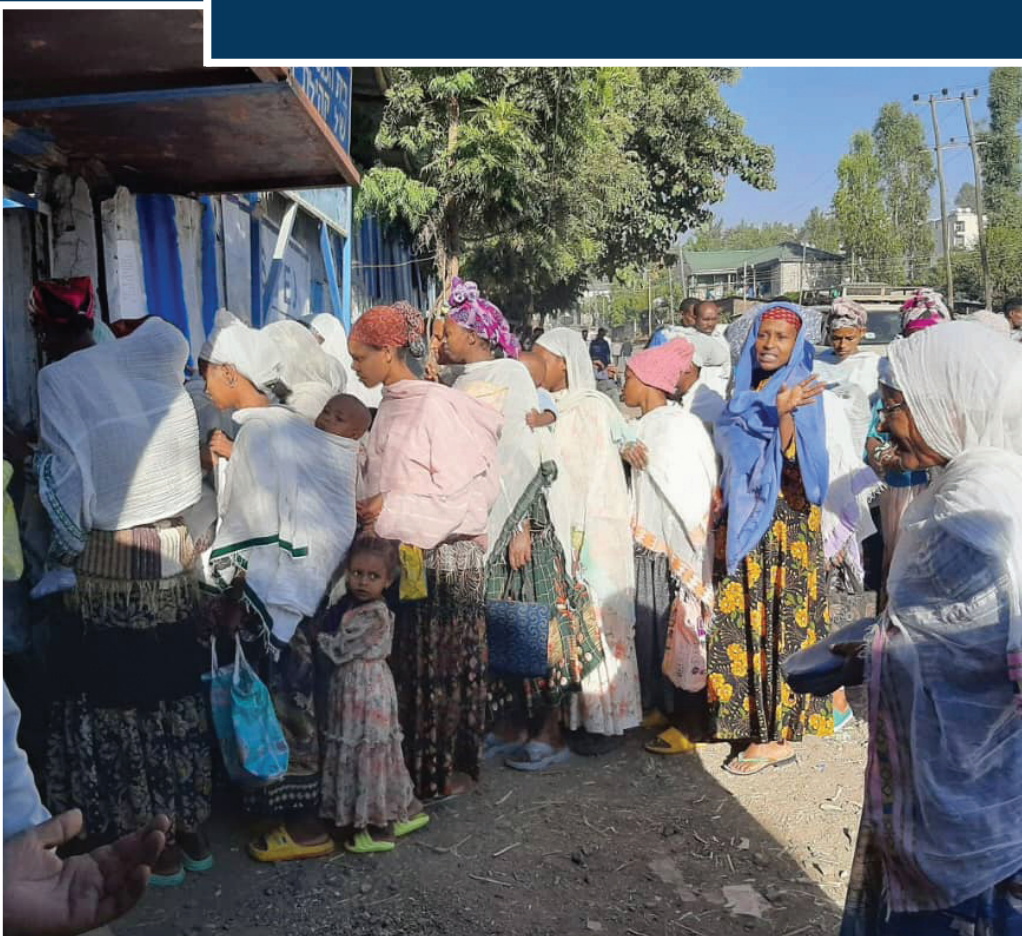
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