

Dear Friends and Partners,

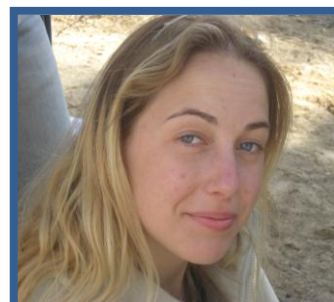
With our traditional Pesach greeting, please find enclosed several updates about IsraCorps' activities in preparation for the coming year.

IsraCorps – summary of special processes for 2008-9:

1. **Strengthening strategic partnership with Bank Leumi**: IsraCorps is affiliated to *Leumi Aharai – the Century Fund for Tomorrow's Generation*, established by Bank Leumi in 2002. This joint strategic partnership focuses on educational processes for IsraCorps volunteers, to provide the basic conditions for social mobility – completion of education. In addition, large numbers of bank employees adopt groups of volunteers operating in neighborhoods close to their branch. This year, *Leumi Aharai* representatives joined the IsraCorps board, and are therefore involved in strategic decisions and plans for the future. Please refer to the enclosed article, which appeared in the El Al airplane magazine *Atmosphere*, for a summary of the main focal areas of this partnership.
2. **IsraCorps' partnership with the Lautman Fund and the Ministry of Education** on young leadership in the Druze sector. This is a multi-year program to meet the needs of youths in Druze communities on informal subjects, with emphasis on young leadership. **Yael Ne'eman, Managing Director of the Lautman Fund**, initiated and designed the activity in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. IsraCorps is a partner in the process and serves as an executive arm for developing leadership and volunteering among youngsters from the Druze community. This year, within the framework of the project, IsraCorps will operate in five communities, aspiring to 12 within its five-year vision. The project is funded mainly by Israeli state budgets. This project enables IsraCorps to expand and deepen its young leadership activity in the Arab sector. *UJIA Great Britain is a strategic partner to the project.*



3. **Strategic process with Shaldor:** IsraCorps is conducting an in-depth, strategic process to define the continuation of its activity, in cooperation with *Shaldor* (please refer to enclosed abstract for more details). Thus far, the following processes have been implemented:
- Examining the IsraCorps paradigm and establishing an activity base drawing on academic research.
 - Examining IsraCorps activity spheres vis-à-vis competing entities in the market and finding the organization's uniqueness manifested in its core capabilities.
 - Building a definition and strategic focus for IsraCorps activity, including:
 - Core activity: continuation of volunteering programs for 18-21 year-olds, with emphasis on youth from the periphery.
 - Outsourcing – providing services to external organizations (civilian service, youth movements, social organizations) for topics based on IsraCorps' existing capabilities.
 - Business development department (greenhouse for initiatives and developing projects for leadership and volunteering, according to practical needs).
 Outlining an organizational structure to support the proposed strategy.
4. **IsraCorps overseas** – IsraCorps is developing a young leadership program for Jewish youth from overseas to spend a volunteer year in Israel alongside their Israeli peers. This will be an educational program, dealing with Jewish identity, leadership, Israeli society, the Jewish and Israeli calendar, including educational tours around the country and learning Hebrew. Unique components for this population will be combined with those provided for all IsraCorps volunteers. IsraCorps has raised funds for the initial operation of two groups, who will begin their year in Israel in September. IsraCorps has created partnerships also with social organizations operating in the Diaspora, to recruit young people for the program. The program will serve as the first pilot in the "business initiative" department, as declared in IsraCorps' new strategic alternative.



5. **Deepening and expanding partnerships with government entities to create sustainability:** Deepening and expanding partnerships with the Civilian Service administration, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption and the Ministry of Social Affairs, to receive benefits available to volunteers from marginalized communities. IsraCorps has submitted a request for funding standards (with monetary equivalent) from the government, to operate volunteers from the periphery in preparation for next year. If this is approved, the State of Israel will transfer funds directly to IsraCorps and will be funding over 50% of the activity, both directly and indirectly.

6. **Working toward the establishment of a prep for girls of Kavkazi origin in Beer Sheba:** In partnership with the Bat Ami Association, IsraCorps will operate a prep for girls of Kavkazi origin in Beer Sheba. The prep is the initiative of the *UJA Federation of New York*, which identified the need and requested its implementation by IsraCorps. Following a year of preparation, of building an educational and organizational program and recruiting volunteers, the prep is due to open in September 2009. The prep will include approximately 15 volunteers of Kavkazi origin, residents of Beer Sheba, and will be focused on three components: long-term, professional effective volunteering, leadership training and scholastic processes (completing or improving matriculation and preparing for higher education).

7. **Seminars and special events:**
 - **Screening seminar at Givat Haviva:** Hundreds of applicants for the various IsraCorps projects took part. We are currently in the midst of the screening process. This was the first time that youth from the periphery attended the seminar, having heard about IsraCorps independently (and not through our exposure days in schools and social organizations). This fact is evidence of the establishment of IsraCorps' position in Israeli society as a center for volunteering and leadership for youth from the periphery.

 - **Mid-year seminar:** This year's seminar was divided into two, due to the increased number of volunteers. The seminars focused on leadership empowerment, through the multi-cultural encounter. The Northern Seminar dealt with personal identity in a multi-cultural society, with emphasis on the Jewish-Arab encounter. The Southern Seminar dealt with building a shared social vision with the State of Israel, in mixed groups, emphasizing the religious-secular encounter.



- **The Beer Sheba Conference of the National Council for the Child:** The National Council for the Child is the largest and oldest organization of its type in Israel, whose varied, comprehensive activities are for the benefit of all children in Israel. The Beer Sheba Conference deals with education, welfare and health policies in the context of children and youth, and is organized in full cooperation with young people. The conference was held for its eighth consecutive year, and half its participating groups of youth were from young leadership projects run by *IsraCorps and the Rashi Foundation*. These youths prepared the background for the conference's various opening sessions, through an intensive scholastic and empowerment process, which lasted approximately six months.

Preparation for 2009-10:

As an outcome of the strategic process, and following analysis of the financial circumstances, it was decided that in the coming activity year, we will make an effort to preserve the scope of IsraCorps' core activities, as well as focusing on deepening professional and organizational capability (recruiting volunteers from the periphery, training and pedagogy, placing volunteers and running alumni programs for graduates). All this is with the purpose of establishing IsraCorps as a central, influential organization for volunteering and leadership in Israeli society.

IsraCorps' core activity was defined according to four main executive arms:

1. Volunteer year for Jewish youth, with emphasis on residents of marginalized communities (within frameworks of a Volunteer Service Year, Community Nahal, National Service, Civilian Service).
2. Volunteer year for Arab youth (within frameworks of a Volunteer Service Year, National Service, Civilian Service).
3. Midrasha for volunteering and leadership: The Midrasha in Acco will operate the pre-army prep, and in the future, will become a learning, training and operation center for the pre-army prep cadets and volunteers from Israel and overseas.
4. The center for Arab leadership and identity: regional youth center in Marar, for the development of young volunteering and leadership programs for youth in Arab society.

