



JERUSALEM AFRICAN COMMUNITY CENTER (R.A.)

2015

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The JACC- Jerusalem African Community Center (A.R.) is an NGO founded in 2014, based on a volunteer group active since 2007. This is our first full year as an official NGO, and we are very pleased to present our Annual Activity Report for 2015.

2015 has definitely been a year of breakthroughs for us. The first part of 2015 was mainly dedicated to maintaining ongoing projects, to studying, consulting and setting up an organizational foundation for the JACC (with the support and counseling of Shatil), as well as to fundraising, building programs and finding a suitable place to open our center.

Finding and opening a physical center brought forward a major shift in our activity. We now, finally, have a HOME, and we are able to do so much more! The new center has allowed us to concentrate all of our activities in one place.

This annual report will give you a taste of who we are at JACC, what we stand for, and what we do.

We are constantly in tune with needs and ideas coming from the community, our activists and volunteers. **2016 will be a year of strengthening our ongoing activities and creating new programs to answer changing needs.**



WHO WE ARE

In 2014, activists and volunteers from the African asylum seeker community, and Israelis living in Jerusalem, organized to establish a community center for the African community in the city, based on a volunteer group working in the city since 2007. The Jerusalem African Community Center (JACC) was founded with the following mission statement:

To promote the well-being and quality of life for African refugees, asylum seekers and persons with no civil status in Jerusalem; To create a space for the community, managed by it, to foster community leadership; To create dialogue, connections and neighborly relations between the different citizens of the city.

In Jerusalem there are almost 2,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from Eritrea, Sudan and Ethiopia, including many families with children. Living without a resolved status in Israel, they face many difficulties in everyday life; lack of support networks; uncertainty regarding the future; exploitation in the workplace; shortage of habitable housing options; difficulties in dealing with the authorities; denial of access to adequate health care; denial of access to welfare, support and rehabilitation, to name a few. This situation puts the whole community in a vulnerable situation, affecting especially the weak, the elderly, women, victims of torture, victims of violence, the sick and disabled, and children.

In founding a community center, we aim to create a safe and accessible space, a communal meeting place for adults, teens, children and families, to host social, cultural and educational activities. It is a place to be used to celebrate holidays, learn, gather together and make decisions, establish a common framework of support, assistance and information. From a democratic, culturally competent perspective, based on dialogue and tolerance, the center is a meeting place to connect between members of diverse cultures from Africa and residents of Jerusalem, in partnership with different parties involved in promoting the rights of asylum seekers and migrants.

We have an active board comprised of Africans and Israelis, who oversee the JACCs' activity, including: Humanitarian & Psychosocial support; Rights awareness and promotion; Adult education programs; Mentoring for children and youth; Education and extracurricular activities for children and youth; Early childhood development; Promoting resilience, community leadership and inter-cultural connections. JACCs' activity is almost completely volunteer-based: we currently have over 100 volunteers, and 2 paid staff members.



WHAT WE DO

Language classes (Hebrew & English) - One of our veteran programs (since 2008), with a volunteer coordinator for each language, running weekly groups, taught by volunteer teachers for all levels.

Psychosocial Support and Rights Advocacy - Coordinated by a trained social worker, this program provides emotional, psychological and social support for families and individuals within the community, by skilled volunteers and social work students in training. We also provide medical and financial aid when needed. The rights center and support program assists the community members in fulfilling their legal, medical and occupational rights. We offer personalized assistance where it is most crucial. Recently, we have added a hotline at our center that operates once a week for walk-in cases.

RSD Project - With changes in government policies regarding asylum seekers in Israel, there is a great need for assistance with the process of applying for asylum through RSD (Refugee Status Determination) requests, as a means to try and avoid deportation. Trained volunteers, coordinated by an experienced JACC volunteer, meet with members of the community, explain the process, discuss relevant information for the RSD evaluation, and assist in filling out the forms and handing them in (this project is currently in transition, as policies have recently changed once more).

Tutoring Program - The JACC operates a tutoring program for elementary school children, in which children meet weekly with volunteers while receiving emotional support and academic assistance. These children also receive assistance in finding low- cost (or no-cost) after-school activities that they can attend, like other children their age, such as sports groups, music lessons, etc.

Children's Playroom and Library - As a solution for the children of the mothers who attend our language classes, and in order to provide a safe space and age-appropriate toys and books for children who may not have access to them, we hold activities for children with volunteers who assist with homework, read to the children, play and have arts and crafts activities twice a week.

Early Childhood Development Program (Ha'Mischakiya)- Coordinated by a trained social worker volunteer, and with the assistance of skilled volunteers with much experience in education, child-development and child psychology, we hold weekly meetings for parents and children of all ages (focused on age 0-3) who receive counseling, parenting training and guidance.

Cultural Gatherings and Celebrations- As a part of our mission, we aim to create connections between Israeli and African residents of Jerusalem, in a different setting. We arrange get-togethers for holidays of the 3 religions, talking about the meaning of the holiday and its' customs, share food and music and celebrate together. We've also held African Culture events, where we arranged a variety of musical performances and served authentic traditional food. We believe that in exposing Israelis to African culture and by creating these opportunities for encounters, we can positively affect day-to-day interactions and create friendships between people who were once strangers.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS



- **January:** Fundraiser & cultural party at the Abraham Hostel in Jerusalem. Over 350 attended our party with music, traditional performances and food prepared by members of the community; launch of our tutoring program.
- **March:** Volunteer training and recruiting for existing and new programs; our board is elected.
- **June:** a group of 5 members of the community graduated from our translators' training course; International Refugee Day event – a screening of "Boys of Nitzana", followed by a panel with members of the community and activists at Shem:Tov café. Over 100 attended; We hold our first general assembly.
- **July:** We moved into our new center, in Beit Yoel- 33 Yaffo St., with the help and generosity of the Custodia Terrae Sanctae. Our language courses began using the center for their classes; "Six at Six" was launched - a series of 6 lectures, open to the public focused on different topics relevant to refugees and asylum seekers, 150 attended (in partnership with CIMI, Keren BeKavod" & Beit Shmuel).
- **August:** 1st grade preparation program for children and parents (in partnership with the Municipal Hotline for Refugees and Asylum Seekers). Summer picnic and activities for families; Ad-hoc support to provide aid for dozens of "Holot" detainees who were released.
- **September:** Renovations at the center began, with the support of the UNHCR office in Israel, and with volunteers and donations of office furniture from Shatil.
- **October:** Khen Tsubery begins to work as our centers' paid social worker, thanks to the generous support of a private anonymous donor.
- **November:** Opening of Ha'Mischakiya program; Intensive one month training for rights advocacy volunteers began.
- **December:** "Psik" Theatre and Hanukah activities for children; "Mehokek" Theater (Holot) show at Beit Mazia (in partnership with CIMI); Opening party of the renovated JACC and Hanukah celebration with members of the community, volunteers and friends; Opening of the rights center; Launch of training for community rights advocacy and community leadership.

2015 IN NUMBERS

- Annual Budget – **572,964 ILS (\$ 146,913)**
- **109** volunteers (who regularly take part in weekly activities).
- **7,000** yearly volunteer hours.
- **21** weekly language classes, **100** students in total- **65** in Hebrew classes, **35** in English classes. The number of women enrolled has **doubled** since we began offering activities for children during classes.
- **18** children in our tutoring program.
- **10** children in our psycho-social program.
- **1000** attended lectures, cultural gatherings and meetings.
- **8** Social work students in field training; **25** interns.
- **4** children in soccer club, **3** receive private English tutoring, **5** in computer programming class, **3** in art class.
- **90** people received assistance in filling out and handing in RSD forms.
- **23** families and individuals were provided with psychosocial aid.
- **30** individuals came to our rights center within the first two weeks of its operating.
- **20** lectures to students, congregations and visiting groups.



OUR BOARD & STAFF

BOARD

- **Solomon Mesghenna**- Adv. to Hebrew & English Language programs; Community Relations
- **Yael Agur Orgal**- Adv. to volunteer coordinator
- **Brhane Hagos Negasi**- Adv. to Cultural and Social events; Community Relations
- **Ariella Cwikel**- Adv. to Psycho-social & Tutoring; Organizational Relations; Fundraising team
- **Efrem Tesfa**- Community Relations
- **Ornit Yehoshua, Treas.**- Coordinator of Tutoring Program; Adv. to Ha'Mischakiya Program
- **Or Mor, Secr.**- Resource Development and Media.

STAFF

- **Khen Tsubery**- Psycho-social Support and Rights Advocacy Coordinator *
- **Bar Rapoport**- Hebrew Program Coordinator
- **Hailey Dilman Sharon**- English Program Coordinator
- **Shani Bar Tuvia**- RSD Program Coordinator
- **Tamar Aziz**- Volunteer Coordinator
- **Gal Dabush**- Rights Center coordinator and Events Coordinator
- **Judith Offenbacher**- Early Childhood Development program Coordinator
- **Rachel Gerber**- Resource Development*
- **Shiran Shasha**- Children's program coordinator
- **Chen Ozeri**- Internet & Media Coordinator

*Paid professionals. All the rest of our board and staff are volunteers.

OUR Partners

- [Custodia Terrae Sanctae](#)
- [ASSAF - Aid Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Israel](#)
- [CIMI - Center for International Migration and Integration](#)
- [UNHCR - UN High Commissioner for Refugees](#)
- [Abraham Hostel Jerusalem](#)
- [Ankori Jerusalem](#)
- [Psik Theatre](#)
- [Minhal Kehilati Lev HaIr](#)
- [Shatil](#)
- [Psychoactive - Mental Health Professionals for Human Rights](#)
- [Clowns Without Borders - Germany](#)
- [OSSIM SHALOM - Social Workers for Peace and Social Welfare](#)
- [Kav LaOved - Worker's Hotline](#)
- [Physicians for Human Rights - Israel](#)
- [The Hotline for Refugees and Migrants](#)
- [ARDC - African Refugee Development Center](#)
- [The Minerva Center for Human Rights](#)
- [The School of Social Work and Social Welfare at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#)
- [The Jerusalem Intercultural Center](#)
- [Kehilat Kol Hanesama](#)
- The Municipal Aid Center for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Jerusalem
- FELM - Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission Jerusalem
- [Hapoel Katamon Jerusalem](#)
- Breira Center
- Beit Hillel
- [Shalom Hartman Institute](#)
- [The Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies](#)
- Azum (Takum)
- [HIAS](#)
- [Beit Shmuel](#)
- [New Israel Fund](#)
- [Saint James Vicariate For Hebrew Speaking Catholics in Israel](#)
- [Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, Keren BeKavod](#)
- Private and individual donors

DONATE & SUPPORT US

Check:

To the order of Jerusalem African Community Center (R.A.),
Beit Yoel, 3rd floor, 33 Jaffa st., Jerusalem 9422109 Israel

By Bank Transfer:

Account no. 431087 at UBANK (no. 26)- branch no. 288 (Jerusalem).
Account name: (ע"ר) מרכז לקהילה האפריקאית בירושלים

By Credit Card:

[Via PayPal](http://www.jacc.org.il/#!donate-eng/c&yf) or at our website: <http://www.jacc.org.il/#!donate-eng/c&yf>

Volunteer at our center:

Learn about volunteer opportunities [on our website](#) or write to us at volunteers.jacc@gmail.com



STAY IN TOUCH



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