

# Kedumim's Lehava High School for Girls

Lehava is a regional junior and senior high school for young women, serving the dozens of communities in Samaria, Israel's biblical heartland. Located in Kedumim, the first modern Jewish community founded in Samaria, Lehava was established in 1978 with 17 students, in classrooms made from refurbished mobile homes. Since these modest beginnings, Lehava has grown into a bustling regional educational campus, with a student body of 840 students and a faculty of 160, from 17 communities in the region.

At Lehava, the guiding educational principle is to make students aware of their inner strengths, and to offer the environment and tools to help them reach their potential – while integrating their own needs with those of their people and their country. Lehava is an inclusive school. Rather than being selective, students are welcomed from all types of backgrounds, and with diverse abilities. Programs are tailored to meet their individual needs. Lehava was awarded the National Education Prize in 1994 in recognition of its work, and it has been cited for excellence and innovation in immigrant absorption.

Lehava's Ethiopian Immigrant program is a one-of-a-kind educational project that was started in 1992. Originally conceived by Lehava high school students who volunteered with new Ethiopian immigrants from absorption centers, Lehava created a residential program for new immigrants, including basic Hebrew language instruction and remedial lessons with the eventual goal of mainstreaming students in regular classes. All the young women study in the college preparatory program, including matriculation exams. Whether attending the intensive Hebrew school for new immigrants or being part of the regular high school program, these girls need supplementary tutoring and extra help in developing proper study habits and life skills. They are incredibly motivated, eagerly attending the “Night School Program” set up for them. The success of this evening program was made clear when the Ethiopian class received better grades on their exams than those in the regular classes!

Most of these 150 young women have little or no formal schooling and many come from homes where illiteracy is common and there is little acquaintance with western practices. They have to be taught basic skills, such as how to study, as well as basic hygiene and nutrition. In addition to education costs, many of the girls require extensive medical care, eyeglasses and orthodontics. These services are provided by the program, along with counselors to help them with the purchases and clinic visits, in addition to transportation costs and pocket money allowances. They need the basics, from underwear and Sabbath clothing to warm blankets for the cold winters. Lehava has even been paying for the costs of procedures which remove the many tattoos the girls have imprinted on their bodies.

A new project was begun this year, to connect the Ethiopian parents with their daughters' new and separate lives. Two weekends are arranged for the parents and their children at the school, where the children are taught to respect their rich family heritage as they deal with their own personal growth; and the parents are offered the chance to see their children functioning beautifully in their modern Israeli setting. There is also a “Parents Day” where the parents can come and meet their daughters' teachers.

This year, 25 newly-arrived immigrants from Ethiopia will come to Lehava. Because of limited nutrition and poor hygiene, these girls suffer from overwhelming dental problems. These costs are significant, and the school is committed to meeting needs not subsidized by government funding.



# Project Summary

## Kedumim Lehava Regional School for Girls



- Kedumim’s regional high school has received awards for excellence and innovation in immigrant absorption.
- The Ethiopian immigrants who attend Lehava receive so much more than a superior education. They are offered a chance to bridge the cultural gaps between themselves and their Israeli peers while incorporating the richness of their own family heritage.
- Some of the immigrants arrive with only the shirts on their backs and no support system. Lehava tries to think of everything... even subsidizing their overwhelming dental problems, to make them feel like the lovely young women they are.

**Y**ou can provide the much-needed funds to enable these young women to grow and develop into proud, contributing members of Israeli society. Your support will, literally, be a godsend to these young women and the pioneering school that is committed to raising a new generation of educated, spiritual young women.

### Project Budget

Room & Board for 280 participants at 2 weekends.....	\$36,670
Speakers for Weekends .....	1,900
Lunch for Parents Day .....	1,900
Transportation for 2 weekends and Parents Day.....	16,000
Specialized Dental Treatments.....	4,760

**TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED:.....\$61,230**

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