



THE YAHEL SOCIAL CHANGE PROGRAM

Brochure 2017



**VOLUNTEER
ABROAD**



**CREATE A
LASTING IMPACT**



**DEVELOP CAREER
SKILLS**



**EXPERIENCE ISRAEL
IN DEPTH**



**WORK ALONGSIDE
GRASSROOTS
ACTIVISTS**



MAKE IT YOUR OWN

WHY JOIN THE YAHEL SOCIAL CHANGE PROGRAM?

IMPACT AND INSPIRE

Impact and inspire children, youth and adults from diverse communities through grassroots volunteering built on a community partnership model.

GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN THE NONPROFIT AND PUBLIC SECTORS

Get hands-on experience in the nonprofit and public sectors through field work with local Israeli nonprofit organizations and projects.

CONNECT WITH LOCAL ACTIVISTS

Connect with local activists, community leaders and entrepreneurs and learn about making change from within.

VOLUNTEER IN DIVERSE FIELDS

Volunteer in diverse fields including formal and informal education, work with youth at risk, nonprofit organizations, community gardens, work with immigrant populations and more.

BUILD YOUR OWN SCHEDULE

Build your own schedule together with staff, with 4-5 different volunteer placements per week that reflect your skills and interests while answering local needs.

ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL LEARNING

Engage in meaningful learning about Israel through the lens of social change with professional development and skill building workshops, speakers, seminars, tours, reflection and peer-led learning.

BECOME PART OF A COMMUNITY

Become part of a community as you work in partnership with local organizations and community groups, connect with a host family and are immersed in an Israeli neighborhood.





*"Yahel prepared me to be
a citizen of the world"*

Erica Mitchell,
Yahel Social Change Program
2012-13



ABOUT US

Yahel (in Hebrew, "to illuminate") is an educational organization that offers service learning and social action programs in Israel. We are passionate about people working side by side to bring about personal and social change.

Yahel offers both short and long volunteer programs for teens, college students and post-college participants which combine hands-on volunteer work with in-depth learning and immersion in Israeli society. Over the last 6 years, Yahel has engaged

hundreds of participants who served in small towns and cities across Israel, and thousands of individuals have benefited from the contribution of Yahel volunteers. Yahel is built on the belief that service learning, when done right, can connect people, shed light on real life issues and promote significant social change in the communities served.

MISSION

Yahel's mission is to respectfully assist communities in Israel while inspiring young adults to live a life of civic engagement.

VALUES

- Empowerment
- Multiculturalism
- Sustainability
- Collaboration
- Initiative
- Humility
- Jewish Peoplehood

"Never have I been more fulfilled- working hours to build positive programming and meaningful mentoring connections with at-risk youth, while also gaining lasting wisdom and skills from some of the most notable change makers in Israel. "

Benji Bernstein,
Yahel Social Change Program
2015-16



WHAT IS THE YAHEL SOCIAL CHANGE PROGRAM?

The Yahel Social Change Program is a unique 9-month service learning experience for young adults between the ages of 21 and 27 from around the world. You will live and work in either the city of Lod or the Ramat Eliyahu neighborhood in Rishon LeZion, serving diverse communities such as Ethiopian-Israelis, Arab-Israelis and others.

HERE'S A TASTE OF WHAT THE PROGRAM HAS TO OFFER



SERVICE

You will spend 30 hours per week doing hands-on service work that responds to real community needs, such as tutoring, mentoring youth at risk, assisting English classes in schools, working with different grassroots nonprofit organizations and much more.



LEARNING

You will dedicate 10 hours per week to experiential, in-depth learning that is directly connected to your service experience, including meetings with community activists, peer-led learning, seminars, trips throughout the country and more.



CULTURAL IMMERSION

You will embark on an immersive experience - from learning Hebrew, to sharing meals with your host family, to celebrating local holidays—as you live, learn and work alongside Israelis from local communities.



*"Yahel was an easy choice...
the only program that offered
me the opportunity to be truly
immersed in Israeli society while
participating in social change efforts
through meaningful volunteering
and relevant educational
programming."*

Harris Engelmann,
Yahel Social Change Program
2013-14

SERVICE

The core of the Yahel Social Change Program is volunteer work. You will work side by side with volunteers and staff of local organizations - joining ongoing activities in the following fields:



NON-PROFIT WORK

Work in the field of urban renewal with Jindas, toward the empowerment of Arab-Israeli women with Na'am, to minimize social gaps through technology with Machshava Tova, to help advance the rights of Ethiopian-Israelis with Tebeka and more.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

Assist English teachers in a formal school setting and work with students in afternoon learning centers.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Take part in facilitating recreational and educational activities for at-risk youth in the neighborhood.

COMMUNITY GARDENING

Work together with local residents in a community garden.

MENTORING

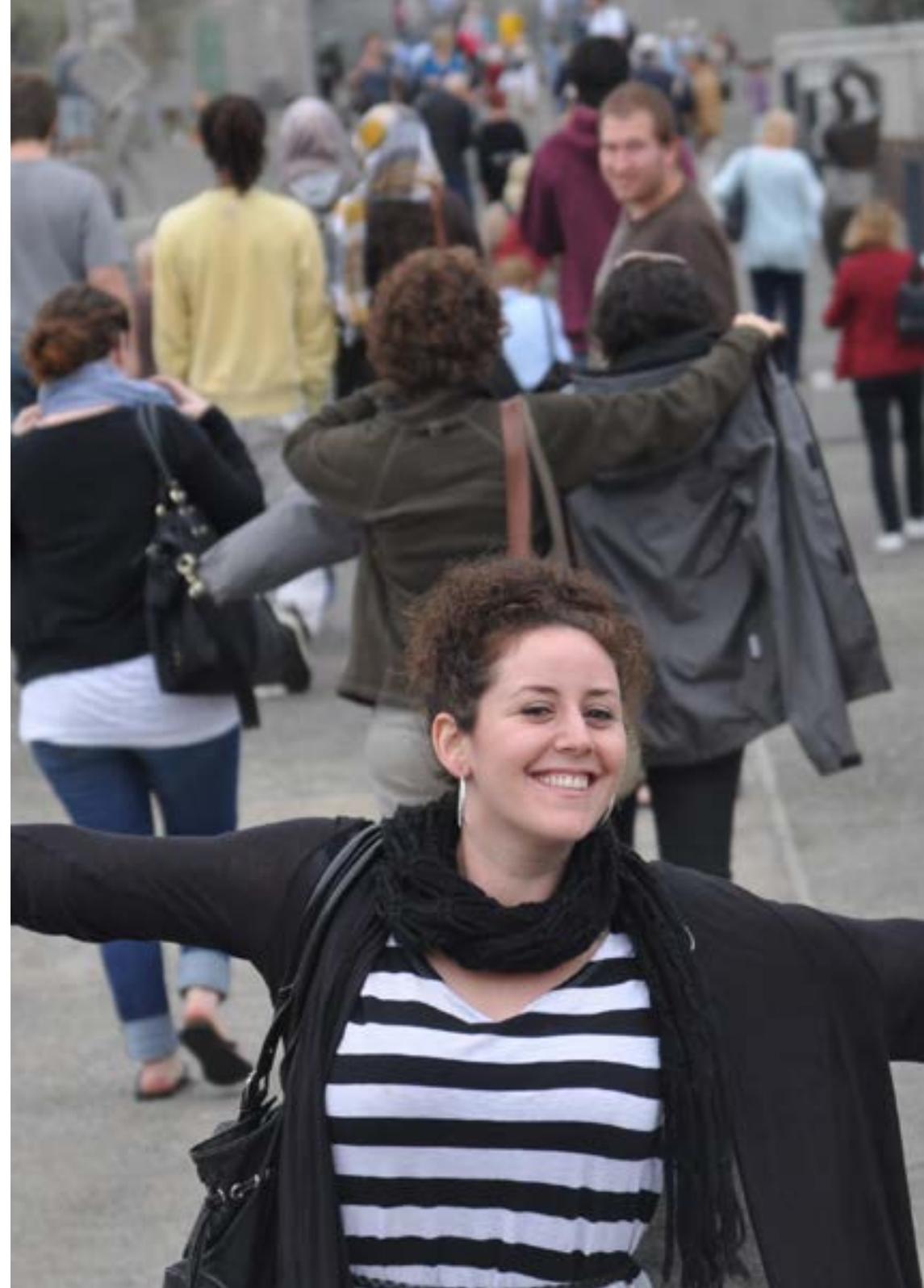
Provide students with academic and personal support through big brother/big sister type programs.

DESIGN YOUR OWN PLACEMENT

What are you passionate about? Let us know and we will help you create your own service experience.

"My work has challenged me to think about the role of service work and to be a more thoughtful, more deliberate, and more sensitive volunteer. I came here looking for a community experience: I got exactly that!"

Shoshana Wineburg,
Yahel Social Change Program
2010-11





LEARNING

The learning component is an integral part of the Yahel Social Change Program and enhances the volunteer experience by adding context and depth. You will meet with major Israeli change-makers, community members, activists and experts from different fields. Learning components include:

CONTEXTUAL LEARNING

Explore the complexity of social, religious, economic and other issues faced by residents of Lod and Rishon LeZion in particular, and in Israel in general.

JEWISH LEARNING

Grapple with some of the core ethical questions related to your service experience. Engage with both ancient and modern Jewish texts in a pluralistic setting.

CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING

Gain skills to help facilitate your integration into your host community.

SKILL BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Get hands-on training by professionals in a variety of topics relevant to your volunteering and future careers.

PARTICIPANT-LED LEARNING

Bring your own interests into learning sessions and gain experience in building and facilitating group learning.

REFLECTION

Process and make meaning out of your experience, guided by our supportive staff.



"Yahel gave me a greater sense of the world and my place in it. It refined my internal purpose and passions, which will in turn inform my life path."

Becca Garfinkel,
Yahel Social Change Program
2015-16

CULTURAL IMMERSION

COMMUNITY

You will be based in either Rishon LeZion or Lod, where you will live, learn and volunteer. Our small group size (10-12 participants per city) makes for an intimate experience that will enable you to connect with fellow volunteers and young Israelis. Experience the local culture at community events including holidays, festivals, and even weddings.

HOST FAMILIES

You will be paired with a host family from the community who will invite you for meals, family events and holidays.



TRAVEL

The Yahel Social Change Program includes day trips as well as three seminars and additional weekend trips. These trips are an opportunity to experience Israel off the beaten track, witness social change initiatives around the country, relax, and have fun.

EXAMPLES OF TRIPS

MODELS OF COMMUNITY SEMINAR IN NORTHERN ISRAEL

Explore different concepts of community in Israel. Visit new Kibbutz models such as an Urban Kibbutz, learn about community organizing in Druze villages and stay overnight with Druze families, hike in the beautiful Galilee and more....



SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE NEGEV SEMINAR

Get to know the Negev's diverse population. Learn about activists who are starting social enterprises in Be'er Sheva, meet with organizations promoting the rights of the Negev's Bedouin population, hike in the desert, visit women's empowerment projects and more...



ETHIOPIAN JERUSALEM DAY TRIP

Learn about the ancient and modern connections between Ethiopia and Israel and experience the Sigd holiday, an Ethiopian Jewish tradition now celebrated by thousands each year.





ABOUT LOD

LOD AND OUR PARTNERS

Lod is a mixed Jewish-Arab city, located about 15 km Southeast of Tel Aviv. In its diversity, Lod is a microcosm of Israel. While the city faces many challenges, it has also seen a remarkable surge of activism over the last few years, which is starting to create real change. Since 2012, a large number of Israeli students and young adults have moved to Lod and are contributing to the development of the city in a variety of ways.

OUR PARTNERS IN LOD INCLUDE:

JINDAS

A non-profit organization for urban renewal in Lod, established in 2011 by members of "Derech Lod," a community of young adults (aged 27- 35) who decided to move to Lod in order to advance social change, improve the quality of life of the city's inhabitants, realize equal rights, and strengthen the dialogue between different communities in the city. Jindas aims to enhance urban regeneration and create and strengthen partnerships between the different communities in Lod with an emphasis on the Arab-Jewish relations.

"HATACHANA" - LOD YOUNG ADULT CENTER

The new young adult center in Lod is a hub for young people aimed at providing tools, connecting and serving the young population of Lod. The center offers vocational training and career counseling, engages young adults in social action in Lod, organizes cultural and social events, assists young parents, provides guidance and courses for college, and more.

RE-LOD

This project aims to revive the city of Lod and encourage young people to move to the city. The National Union of Israeli Students now has over 200 students living and volunteering in Lod each year and about 60 young adults who have formed a community and decided to stay and live in Lod post-university.



"Living and working in Lod allowed me to look outside of Israel's main population centers and tourist sites and interact with many of its diverse communities including Arabs, Ethiopians, Former Soviet Union immigrants, religious Jews, and young Israelis."

Daniel Hammerman,
Yahel Social Change Program
2015-16

RAMAT ELIJAHU AND OUR PARTNERS

RISHON LEZION

Is the fourth largest city in Israel (population 250,000), located about 20 kilometers south of Tel Aviv. Ramat Eliyahu is the oldest neighborhood in the western part of Rishon LeZion and has absorbed many immigrants over the years, including Ethiopian immigrants in the 1990s. Today there are about 25,000 residents in the neighborhood, 42% of whom are immigrants.



OUR PARTNERS IN RAMAT ELIJAHU INCLUDE:

PROJECT ATZMAUT

A long-standing organization that provides tools for Ethiopian immigrants to integrate into Israeli society. Their activities are centered around education, employment and family life.

GAR'IN ICHUD

A local Ethiopian-Israeli mission based community made up of local neighborhood residents who are working on strengthening the Ethiopian Israel community from within.

RAMAT ELIJAHU WELFARE DEPARTMENT

working with disadvantaged families and individuals in the neighborhood.



"Through the hundreds of meals of injera topped with delicious wots, through the cooking lessons, the awkward conversations in three languages at once combined with impromptu sign language and laughter, through the challenges and triumphs of volunteering with local organizations and families, I've developed a lifelong connection to the Ethiopian community in Ramat Eliyahu."

Rachel Kutcher,
Yahel Social Change Program
2014-15

PROGRAM FEES

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be between the ages of 21-27 and hold an undergraduate degree by the start of the program. We welcome applicants from around the world, though the program language is English.

FEE

The Yahel Social Change Program costs only \$1,000 for those eligible for a Masa Grant. This fee includes:

- Flights to and from Israel
- Housing
- Health insurance
- Hebrew courses
- Travel for all program activities
- Trips and seminars
- For residents of certain

countries, the Masa grant is higher which will enable the addition of a living stipend.

We are available to answer any questions about making the program work financially and to help you access funding.

Check out our website or video for further information about the program!

Please email Nina Wanerman at nina@yahelisrael.com with any further questions about the program or application process.



A close-up photograph of two women smiling warmly at the camera. The woman on the left has dark hair and is wearing a light blue jacket over a white top. The woman on the right is wearing a grey patterned headscarf with a red band and a dark grey sweater. The background is dark and out of focus.

BUILD COMMUNITY

CREATE CHANGE

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

JOIN THE YAHTEL SOCIAL CHANGE PROGRAM TODAY!

For questions please e-mail Nina Wanerman at nina@yahelisrael.com