



Independence | Dignity | Success



Most teens make the transition to adulthood with a sense of anticipation and opportunity. **Some Do Not.** These young adults are left in a state of desperation with no home or family support.

Each year, nearly 2,500 Israeli young adults without family backing age-out of the social welfare system and are forced into independence, with little to no resources to help them assume adult responsibilities. Most of these youngsters have lived in out-of-home care arrangements (i.e. youth facilities, boarding schools and foster families) until the age of 18. These youngsters lose significant financial, educational and social support that government agencies and non-profits have provided.

Transitioning to independent adult life can be challenging even for those with a strong education and supportive family. Studies show that foster youth who age-out of child welfare are more susceptible to living a life of poverty, abuse and homelessness. Their educational level is far below the general population leaving them unskilled, unemployed and at greater risk of illness. Being preoccupied with daily survival, this population often fails to realize their potential to become the independent and successful citizens they can be.

There is no other program like this in Israel.

Volunteerism

Volunteerism plays a vital role in our mission to significantly improve the lives of our participants. ATARA leverages Israel's National Service platform, benefitting society as a whole and boosting the self confidence and sense of belonging for each participant. ATARA is a work study program where each participant is assigned a full time internship suited to her interests and capabilities. A social worker monitors her progress and general well-being on a regular basis. Through their own volunteering, participants recognize that they too have value that can benefit others. All of the internships are assigned in the education, health or welfare sectors.

Life Skills

ATARA's program was developed specifically to tackle the most significant obstacles facing aged-out youth, such as lack of support for education, housing, health care and employment. Participants who have not previously matriculated from high school complete their high school requirements as part of the program. ATARA participants are coached in work ethics and behavioral norms in the workplace, general job readiness and financial responsibility. They receive college preparation classes as well as vocational training to assist them in earning wages upon completion of the ATARA program.

A Warm Living Environment

A well trained counselor (the "House Mother") lives in the home and cares for the young women in a warm and nurturing environment. By living together with new friends and counselors, participants learn to respect themselves and others. They practice newly acquired life skills in a warm and reliable structure where they also learn the principles of home economics and its practical application.



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ATARA Closes Gaps in Society

ATARA's target population does not typically perform national service or mandatory army service due to their life circumstances. Through ATARA's guided program, these disenfranchised youth will have the privilege of performing their civic duty and becoming better integrated into the rest of Israeli society. ATARA teaches participants the value of becoming active contributors to society through employment and tax contribution, rather than remaining needy recipients of the social welfare system.



ATARA addresses the specific needs of this transitional population.

ATARA's mission is to ensure that at-risk, ultra-orthodox young women, who have aged-out of the foster care system in Israel, make the successful transition to adulthood. By combining volunteering through National Service and life-skill mentoring, ATARA's uniquely structured program provides a foundation to achieve positive outcomes in education, employment, housing, health and social integration.

Participation in the program affords each person important government sponsored opportunities for future advancement, as well as the societal benefits provided to those who complete National Service.

The benefits of National Service:

- Significant government stipend at the conclusion of service and other financial assistance
- Free college preparatory courses
- Beneficial tax and employment rights
- Full or partial scholarships for higher education
- Preferential housing benefits

*Reaching these young women
at a crucial age as they
transition to adulthood*



*ATARA is a pathway to building
healthy, balanced and
well-adjusted lives*

The Team

ATARA team members have extensive experience in education, volunteering and life skills coaching. The team is made up of individual and group counselors, administrators and external professionals. Workshops and lectures are provided by professionals in their fields of expertise.



Yifat Bardash, CEO of ATARA.

Yifat has nearly 20 years' experience in corporate management and served as CEO of a non-profit organization engaged in education for young adults. She has developed a strong reputation for initiating innovative programming, managing projects and staff and financial planning. Yifat is a sought after consultant to various organizations in the fields of process improvement and implementation of strategy and marketing. Yifat holds an industrial engineering degree from the Technion.



Eli Wimpfheimer, Deputy Director of Ha'Agudah Le'hitnadvut and Director of Volunteering of ATARA.

Eli Wimpfheimer is the Deputy Director of Israel's largest national civilian service organization, with over 5,000 volunteers annually. During the past 10 years, Eli has initiated and developed unique programming in the areas of at-risk youth and disabled and special needs young adults. Eli also serves as a mentor to early-stage social entrepreneurs who are sponsored by the Israeli based "Presentense" organization. Eli holds a BA in Education from Hebrew University.



Rabbi Benayahu Dvir, Chairman of Telem and Educational Director of ATARA.

Rabbi Dvir is headmaster of the Olamot High School; he has devoted the last fifteen years to helping at-risk teenage girls. He manages and trains staff members on how to inspire, manage and empower youth at-risk. Rabbi Dvir has established successful support centers for Orthodox youth at-risk in cooperation with the Jerusalem Municipality and the Ministry of Social Affairs and serves as the Chairman of the foundation that runs it.

ATARA is a project of Ha'Aguda Le'hitnadvut, the oldest, largest and most respected National Service organization, encompassing nearly 50% of all women who register for Service.

Ha'Aguda Le'hitnadvut is experienced in providing a national service framework for niche population sectors such as youth at risk, special needs young adults and the Arab sector.

WITH YOUR HELP, ATARA can guide marginalized young women to a life of independence. The State and many non-profits have invested significant resources in this population only through the age of 18. At this critical transitional age to adulthood, when State funding of this group has ceased and the risks of poverty, abuse and homelessness are so much greater, ATARA's target population still has the possibility of escaping a life of struggle and dependence. They are vulnerable, yet still longing and hoping for a better life.

***Your help today will make a world
of difference in a young woman's life.***

ISRAEL

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Please make Israeli checks
payable to The Volunteer
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Tax ID: 580 025 708

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Please make US checks payable to P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds, Inc.
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האגודה להתנדבות
40 שנות שירות לאוסי

