

# Village News



United Jewish Federation  
of San Diego County



Sha'ar Hanegev  
Regional Council

During the visit of UJF CEO, Steve Morris, and Director of Donor Development, Barbara Sherman, we unveiled our new welcome sign proclaiming the vibrant partnership between San Diego and Ibim/Shaar Hanegev.



Dear Friends,

Purim went out with a bang and we will soon usher in Spring with the holiday of Passover.

We have completed the first stage of the Family program and are preparing for its continuation. The program has so far been a resounding success. Take for instance the young family of Eliona Levshitz, Ivan Zjeliev and their four-year-old son, Nikita. Nikita, who goes daily to the Nahal Oz nursery school, chatters away happily in both Hebrew and Russian, while both parents are making progress in the ulpan. Ivan, a registered nurse, has already begun a small business installing computers in Sderot, while he simultaneously verifies all arrangements necessary to obtain a position as a nurse upon the completion of his ulpan. Eliona, who worked at a radio station in her native Yekaterinburg, is planning to begin her BA in communications at Sapir College.

The quiet in our region continues and we bless every moment of tranquility.

We had the privilege to meet Steve Morris, the new CEO of the San Diego Jewish Federation, and introduce him to the variety of activities on Ibim . We hope to continue our fruitful cooperation and wish Steve all the best in his new position

All the best

Soni Zinger  
Director,  
Ibim-San Diego Student Village

Steve Morris,  
CEO of the  
UJF San Diego  
Federation and  
Director of Donor  
Development, Ms.  
Barbara Sherman.

For more information about the San Diego-Ibim Student Village, contact Soni Zinger, Director: [SoniS@jafi.org](mailto:SoniS@jafi.org) or visit the JAFI Aliyah and Absorption website: [jewishagency.org/aliyah](http://jewishagency.org/aliyah)

## Affirmation of Success

Ibim hosted the Hagai Merom, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, at Ibim and in Shaar HaNegev. During the visit, we presented an overview of our successful family absorption program on Ibim. In the region, he visited the nursery school in Kibbutz Nahal Oz where the younger children from Ibim go to preschool. At the end of the visit, the Hagai Merom declared his support for the project which integrates vital values of immigrant absorption and settlement of the Negev, and called for a continuation next year.

## Song of Hope

While visiting Ibim, Steve Morris met with representatives of the various programs on Ibim: Family, Student Ulpan and Ofek for Ethiopian immigrants. In the children's after school center, Steve Morris and Barbara Sherman were serenaded with Hebrew songs. The visit was concluded with a security update and a discussion of future cooperation.

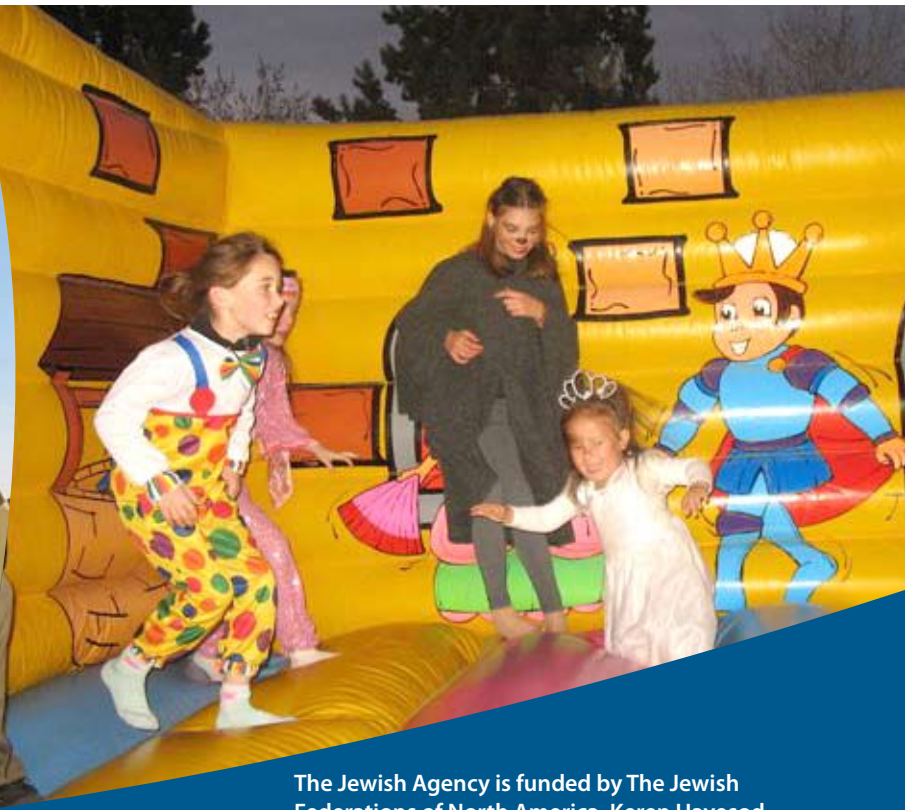
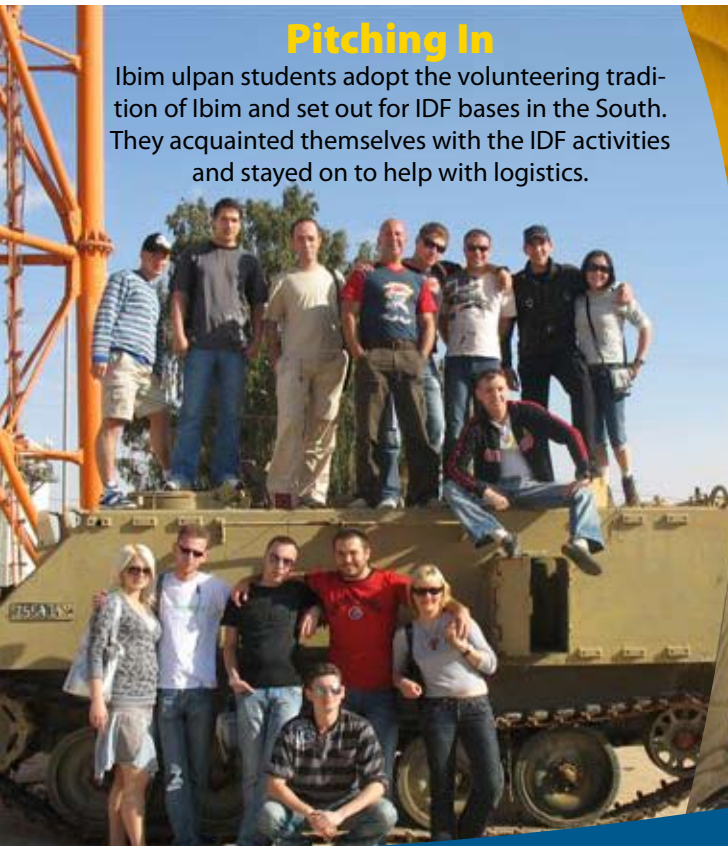


## A Big Spiel

Purim was celebrated with a huge party for the families and the students of Ibim. With music playing in the background, residents circulated amongst the booths - costumes, makeup, bounce houses, and of course, food. The staff happily joined in - adding to the abundance of laughter, dancing and good spirits.

## Pitching In

Ibim ulpan students adopt the volunteering tradition of Ibim and set out for IDF bases in the South. They acquainted themselves with the IDF activities and stayed on to help with logistics.



The Jewish Agency is funded by The Jewish Federations of North America, Keren Hayesod, major Jewish communities and federations, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, foundations and donors from Israel and around the world.