



KAREV נְקָרֵב

Initiatives in Education יוזמות בחינוך

Project Involvement

What started as a pilot project aimed at providing broad cultural enrichment programs to children who would otherwise not experience music, theatre, art, and many other subjects by adding hours to the elementary school day Jerusalem and Beit Shemesh became a national program in 1992. At that time the Israeli government adopted the pilot, became the senior partner in its funding, and enabled its extension to large parts of Israel. In the 2012-2013 school year the enrichment programs will reach more than 250,000 children in kindergartens and elementary schools in more than 125 towns and cities throughout Israel. Project Involvement has become an integral part of the Israeli school system, working with all sectors of the population, and adjusting the curriculum to the special needs and language of each.

The pilot stage was funded by the Foundation, communities, and parents, while the national program is funded by the Ministry of Education, by municipal budgets and parents, and philanthropic sources. The Ministry of Education and the Foundation are partners in governance and work together to develop the program and reach larger and larger numbers of students every year. Next year's budget will be more than \$60,000,000.

The Karev enrichment program is directed towards providing an equal educational opportunity for all children. Enrichment subjects, offered during the school day, enable each child to experience and learn a broad range of cultural subjects in small groups and through informal methods. Whether music, chess, sports, theatre, electronics, computers or other areas of enrichment children reveal subjects in which they achieve satisfaction, self-expression, and success.

As the involvement of ACBP declines during the winding down period, the necessity of reaching out to new partners who would replace ACBP eventually, was recognized and made a priority. An NGO with similar goals and educational methods was identified, and a partnership set into place. This organization is Ofanim, and, following months of preparation, joint work has begun. Ofanim is committed to taking over the ACBP enrichment project during the next 3-4 years. The pace is gradual, and milestones have been defined in an agreement between ACBP in Israel, Keren Karev, and Ofanim.

The intention of all involved is to effect a smooth transition, which will allow the Karev-Ofanim program to continue developing and expanding after 2015. In this process, the original Karev vision of humanistic education for all, and engaging each child through informal methods and providing cultural enrichment will be preserved.