

## **Undergraduate Founders of Student Aliyah Organization Start Fellowship in Israel**

Initiative will foster an updated communal Zionism which focuses on opportunities for positive growth

WALTHAM, Massachusetts. November 20, 2007 – ImpactAliyah ([www.impactaliyah.com](http://www.impactaliyah.com)) unveiled this fall its inaugural fellowship for social change in and from Israel. This highly selective group of 20 undergraduates primarily from the Boston Metropolitan Area will explore a wide range of practical matters and ideas related to immigration to Israel on their 10-day mission from January 2 to January 12, 2008. The fellows, all of whom consider Aliyah seriously, will function as conduits for information gathering and movement building in North America in addition to deepening their personal conceptualizations of the Aliyah project.

Adam Ross, a winter 2008 ImpactAliyah fellow, and member of the steering committee describes that “working on this project has been the start of an incredible and transformative experience. I’m looking forward to seeing this fellowship program come to life this January.”

The belief is that this delegation will propel the organization forward, helping it to achieve the establishment of a social network of young entrepreneurs, social activists, and leaders who think critically and act responsibly with regard to the opportunities for change facing Israel and the Jewish People.

As Avi Bass, a co-founder of the organization explains, “I think we are filling an informational gap for students who want to learn about Aliyah while they are still in college in America. We want students to understand Israel's need for young people to come and make an impact, and to, eventually, realize their ability to do this.”

This trip will be funded by a wide range of funding sources, including Hillel Council of New England, the World Zionist Organization, The American Zionist Movement and private philanthropists. For this year’s fellowship, ImpactAliyah has launched an aggressive fundraising campaign to further build on its marked success in gaining monetary support.

Larry Sternberg, executive director of Brandeis Hillel, and member of the faculty of Brandeis’ Hornstein Program in Jewish Professional Leadership, has advised the ImpactAliyah Steering Committee and is impressed with the professionalism with which they have conducted this project. “Those who believe in empowering young Jews to create new initiatives to meet their needs should be pleased with the energy, vision, entrepreneurial spirit, and resourceful partnering ImpactAliyah represents,” notes Sternberg. “Their leadership is inspiring.”

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