

Curtis in Israel - Great Results...

Summary of meeting in the Kiryat Moshe neighborhood of Rehovot



Participants:

- * Curtis Sliwa
- * Shaul Tzigahon, potential leader of local Guardian Angels program aimed at Ethiopian Youth-at-Risk; Director, Magdelor Multicultural Educational Center for At-Risk Youth, Kiryat Moshe
- * Simcha Getahun, Director- Multicultural Department ELEM programs for youth-in-distress
- * Nir, Director, ELEM, Kiryat Malachi



Results:

The local leaders were very positive about the potential of the program in their area. Shaul stated that he is prepared to step forward as the local leader. He has already demonstrated his effectiveness and enjoys great respect among local youth. His manager Simcha, is prepared to back him in establishing the program and expressed hope that it would serve as a model for other communities served by ELEM.

Shaul and Nir took us on a tour of the Kiryat Moshe and the Youth Center they established in its midst. As in many low-income neighborhoods, Shaul acknowledged that the central problems among youth in the community stem from dysfunction in the families. The Youth Center has made great strides in serving as a second home and

winning the confidence of the youth of the neighborhood, but that it still has far to go. He has been successful recruiting volunteers and feels that the Guardian Angels project will be attractive to them. He is enthusiastic, very positive about the potential of local youth and strongly favors the community-based approach of the Guardian Angels program.



Action Items: Shaul will begin the recruitment process. As soon as the first group of volunteers is established, Jill will provide the initial instruction (either personally or via her contacts) in self-defense/martial arts, assist Shaul in recruiting other instructional personnel and continue to act as liaison to the international office.