



## **PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIES**

The following testimonies illustrate the impact of the project from different generational perspectives:

### **TESTIMONY 1 - Grandmother (First Generation)**

"Before this program, I felt my grandchildren were strangers to me. They spoke Hebrew, I spoke Amharic. They lived in a world I didn't understand. Through the workshops, I was able to share my life story, teach them about Ethiopia, and show them the coffee ceremony my mother taught me. Now my grandson calls me every week, and he wants to learn more Amharic. I feel like I have a purpose - to pass on our heritage. This program gave me back my voice in my own family."

- Kasnesh, Age 68, Kiryat Gat

### **TESTIMONY 2 - Parent (Second Generation)**

"As someone who came to Israel as a teenager, I'm caught between two worlds. I was losing touch with my Ethiopian roots while trying to help my children succeed in Israeli society. This program showed me that we don't have to choose - we can have both. Watching my children sit with their grandfather, recording his stories about Ethiopia, was one of the most moving experiences of my life. It brought our family closer and gave my children pride in who they are."

- Yosef, Age 42, Father of three, Shaar Darom

### **TESTIMONY 3 - Teenager (Third Generation)**

"I used to think Ethiopian culture was old-fashioned and irrelevant. Why should I care about a country I've never seen? But learning about my grandmother's journey to Israel, understanding the traditions that kept our people together for thousands of years - it changed how I see myself. I'm proud to be Ethiopian-Israeli. I'm teaching my friends about our culture, and I'm learning Amharic. My identity feels complete now, not broken in half."

- Tamar, Age 16, High School Student, Kiryat Gat

### **TESTIMONY 4 - Young Adult (Third Generation)**

"Teaching my grandfather how to use WhatsApp was hilarious and frustrating and amazing all at once. But when he sent me his first message - a blessing in Amharic - I



cried. We created a family group chat, and now we share photos and talk every day. The program taught me that I have something valuable to give to the older generation, just as they have so much to teach me. It's not one-way anymore - we're learning from each other."

- Moshe, Age 22, University Student and Project Volunteer

#### TESTIMONY 5 – (Community Leader)

"This project transformed our community. Before, we were fragmented - the elderly felt forgotten, the youth felt disconnected, and families struggled to communicate across generational and cultural divides. Now we have families spending time together, sharing traditions, and building a strong Ethiopian-Israeli identity. The quarterly cultural events have become highlights of our community calendar. Most importantly, we've created a model that's sustainable - community members are now leading activities themselves. This is exactly what community empowerment looks like."

- Eli, Community Organizer, Age 45, Kiryat Gat