Boxenbaum- Neta Foundation

Clause 3. NAME OF PROJECT

The Boxenbaum Neta Israeli-Ethiopian Scholarship Program

1. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

**The purpose of this project is to provide a 3 year scholarship support program at a level of NIS100,000 a year for Israeli Ethiopian students earning B.Sc degrees who do not qualify for funding from governmental souces per annum.**

In Academic Year 2018/19**, 83 Ethiopian-Israeli students pursued their B.Sc degrees at HIT in Engineering, Management Technology, Computer Science and Design**. Of the 79 students in the STEM professions, 18% were women. HIT takes particular pride in the fact that for this upcoming year (2019/20), some 31 new Israeli-Ethiopian students have registered for technology degrees. We view this as a huge accomplishment, and testimony to the extraodinary efforts taken by HIT to reach out to this important constituency.

HIT holds an even more ambitious objective, however: not only providing these students with an undergraduate degree, but giving them the opportunity to acquire specialized tools required in STEM specialties to embark on a career in the Israeli hi-tech and business sectors which provides a proven fast track to economic prosperity and never-ending career possibilities.

While this year a new substantial government scheme has been put in place by the Council for Higher Education to help Israeli Ethiopian students underwrite the costs of their studies (Marom), this addresses the problem in the long term. We have discovered that in the short term, however, over the next three years, a number of groups of students will not be elegible for funding.

We have identified **three such groups of students which do not and will not qualify for support:** (a) Students who have had to extend their studies beyond the degree time framework (3 years for Computer Science, 4 years for Engineering – very often the case because these students must work full time jobs simultaneous with their studies); (b) Students from sophomore (2nd) year and beyond who have ‘aged out’ of the system at 28 and are not eligible to apply to the new scheme; and (c) new freshman students who will not qualify for government assistance (the new governmental scheme provides **only 600 scholarships** for ALL of Israel’s higher education institutions, and we anticipate the funds will be scarce).

***For the coming academic year, we have identified 29 students who presently will be ineligible for government support at this time: 29 students who have no means to pay tuition, living subsidies, transportation, professional english courses; 29 students who, without assistance, will be unable to afford the cost of their studies and will be frozen out of the higher education system and unable to break out of the cycle of poverty and stymied professional advancement.***

**We respectfully request a multi-year commitment from the Boxenbaum-Neta Foundation for 5 scholarships per annum (for Academic Years 2019, 2020, 2021 for A/Y 2019/20 in the amount of NIS 100,000 per year. This amount will allow the three groups of students identified above to complete their full degree cycle, until the new government scheme kicks in more inclusively.**

1. Cooperation with other organizations

As the government cannot partner with us in this program, HIT is actively seeking donors to support this emergency campaign. We anticipate that we will require NIS 560,000 a year for 3 years (i.e., NIS1,700,000). We have begun raising funds in North America, and are also turning our attention to Israeli funding sources.

We believe that HIT will be able to offset some of these sums internally from its modest scholarship budget, which is based on socio-economic need according to criteria established by the Scholarship Committee. At best, this will provide partial relief for tuition, and not the sums required for full tuition, living expenses and professional english courses.

Funds received from external souces will allow HIT to mobilize its resources and help additional needy Israeli-Ethiopian students.

4 & 5. PROJECT BUDGET & REQUESTED AMOUNT.

NIS 100,000 per annum over 3 years = NIS 300,000

All scholarships received from the Boxenbaum-Neta Foundation will be allocated 100% to the scholarship recipients who have been selected under the Foundation’s auspices.

All administrative services for processing, distributing and overseeing the Boxenbaum-Neta program, and the annual ceremony and report to be provided to the Boxenbaum-Neta Foundation will be assumed fully by HIT, and 100% of the donation will be allocated to the deserving students (see signed commitment below).

COMMITMENT OF HIT: