

360° – The National Program for Children and Youth at Risk Learns from Success: Success Stories in the Arab Population

Sarit Ellenbogen-Frankovits ■ Irit Aizik

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Sarit Ellenbogen-Frankovits

Irit Aizik

Editor: Raya Cohen, Ronit Ben Nun

English translation: Evelyn Abel

Graphic design: Anat Perko-Toledano

Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute

Division for Quality in Social Services

Learning from Success Research Team

P.O.B. 3886

Jerusalem 9103702, Israel

Tel: (02) 655-7400

Fax: (02) 561-2391

Website: brookdale.jdc.org.il

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Abstract

360° – the National Program for Children and Youth at Risk – is an inter-ministerial program of the ministries of Education, Health, Immigrant Absorption and Public Security. The program goal is to change the way that Israeli society deals with children and youth at risk by strengthening and expanding the community services addressing them.

In 2013, National Program personnel asked the Learning from Success Research Team at the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute (MJB) to conduct a structured, systematic process of identification, inquiry, and documentation of stories of professional success in the work of the National Program in the Arab population.

The process of inquiry employed the Retrospective Method of Learning from Past Success, developed at MJB. It exposed professional knowledge that, on the whole, had been latent and therefore not documented. The stories of success that were subsequently documented were chosen by a team including National Program personnel and the head of the Learning from Success Research Team. Three stories were chosen: the integration of fathers in the Family Experience Program in Shefaram; the establishment and operation of a warm home for girls at risk in Acre; and a mothers group in Qalansawe.

This document was written on the basis of the process of inquiry and documentation with reference to these three stories of success. The first part presents the background to the National Program, the method of Learning from Success, and the writing process. It also describes the thinking, as well as the insights gained from the process of learning from success in the Arab population, with the emphasis on cultural sensitivity. The second part presents the stories of success, which were recounted at length by the directors of the programs that were chosen as successful.

The document also presents insights into practices that led to success and improvement in the functioning of professionals and in the situation of the target population – children and youth at risk. The insights have already been put into practice and will continue to serve as a resource of mutual learning and development for staff working with children and youth in general, and for National Program personnel in particular.