Looking Back and Moving Forward

The AJEEC-NISPED Arab Bedouin Volunteer Tent (the "Tent") Celebrates a Decade of Social Action

More than 1,200 people - Arabs and Jews, youth volunteers, program alumni, policy makers, community leaders, partner organizations, business people and professionals came together on Thursday June 7, 2012 at the Peace Tent in Rahat. They marked ten years of social change, community building, volunteerism and the planting of the seeds of an Arab Jewish shared society in the Negev.

Inspired by the Tent's success and future potential, for the first time ever – a group of Arab Bedouin business women and men launched the "Local Donors' Forum". The Forum will catalyze social change by offering increased volunteerism, community building and scholarship opportunities for young Arab Bedouin in the Negev. Salem Al Alasam, Director of the Ein Namer Transportation Company, and the founder of the Forum said that "the AJEEC-NISPED Arab Bedouin Volunteer Center's activities are apparent throughout the community. I call on all business people to contribute, to encourage this important action and to show the volunteers that we also believe in their work".

Since 2002, AJEEC-NISPED's Arab Bedouin Volunteer Tent has developed and implemented innovative programming with children and youth in order to strengthen community responsibility and active citizenship within the Arab Bedouin society of the Negev. The organization runs volunteer year programs in the community, advances social community initiatives and grants scholarships to hundreds of students each year in conjunction with institutes of higher education.