



#everyonecounts

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In Kiryat Shmona, far in the northern “panhandle” of Israel, Yael, 15, lives with her mother and younger brother in a small apartment. Her father was killed in a terrorist attack when she was five, so her mother works two low-paying jobs to support her family. The kids are left on their own a lot, but Yael prefers hanging out with her friends anyways. They often meet behind the local *Makolet* (convenience store) to smoke and drink cola. While some of their peers prepare for the *Bagrut* (matriculation exams) and talk about getting into a good position in the army, Yael’s friends know that their future will be very different. The problem is, Yael isn’t very interested in school – she would say she’s no good at it. Without decent grades and basic skills, Yael will probably be excused from the army – and everyone knows that a good posting in the army can set you up for post-service life.

Life was looking pretty bleak for Yael until she contacted the *Hafuch al Hafuch* centre in Kiryat Shmona. Counsellors at the centre help teens like Yael make the most of their talents and develop skills that will help them succeed after high school and find a fulfilling place in Israeli society. *Hafuch al Hafuch* is one organization supported by your gift to Federation’s UJA campaign. When it comes to the worldwide Jewish community, **everyone counts**. Make your gift count.