

Yossi Amar: The Courage to Transform His Life

Yossi Amar was chosen as the speaker to represent his fellow students at the recent graduation ceremony of Atidim's 62 Cadets for Municipal Service. Yossi's journey was arduous, taking him from one of Israel's most downtrodden neighborhoods to receiving his Master's degree from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, the pinnacle of Israeli academia. Yossi had the drive, ambition and talent to change his life, but no resources. Atidim gave him the support he needed to make it happen.



Cadets for Municipal Service graduation ceremony.

Yossi Amar's motto is, "Those who dare, succeed." Yossi dared to push himself and test the limits of his potential. A dare that has paid off in every aspect of his life.

Yossi grew up in one of Israel's most difficult neighborhoods. Although he felt the weight of responsibility of being the oldest of six children, he channeled his energy negatively, acting out and rebelling at every turn. In tenth grade he dropped out of school, causing his parents to lament on what his future would bring.

It was the army that led Yossi on a different path. "The army gave me the chance to use my drive and courage in a positive way," says Yossi. "I served my mandatory three years, and then signed up for an additional year, becoming a commander and an officer, and receiving an Outstanding Soldier award on the way."

Upon his release from the army, Yossi knew the way forward was to go to college. He spent two and a half years making up his missed high school years. His next step was college. Yossi applied and was accepted to Ariel University, where he graduated with honors.

He then continued to the Technion, where he was accepted to Atidim's prestigious MA program for Cadets for Urban Planning, and received full tuition, living expenses and academic counseling. "I stand here today with my fellow Cadet graduates, with great pride, after completing my MA degree," Yossi told the audience at the ceremony. "A few years ago, we all began our journey to learn about public service and local government, and about ourselves."

"This was an intensive journey, one that included diverse seminars, academic enrichment, empowerment workshops, public policy courses and field work in local government. It was a journey that created a sense of purpose and meaning to commit ourselves to public service."

"The "theoretical" part of the journey is over. Now is the time for us to take our place in local government in the periphery, to remove social and economic barriers in order to create a better future for Israeli society."

Yossi, who is married to Ruth, with two small children, left his fellow graduates with these words, "My main message to you all is never stop dreaming. In the words of basketball star Michael Jordan, 'Some people want it to happen, some people pray it will happen, and others make it happen'. We have our whole future ahead of us. I am sure that together we will make things happen that will lead to amazing results."



Yossi with his wife Ruth and two young children.