The city of Haifa is located on the slopes of Mount Carmel by the Mediterranean Sea. While most Israelis and Palestinians live in segregated communities, Haifa is one of a handful of mixed cities where Jews and Arabs live together. It is also home to Druze, Baha’i, foreign workers, and asylum seekers.

I chose to complete my field placement in Haifa because of its unique community makeup and programs that strive to cultivate a shared society.

Living in the Middle East for four months gave me the opportunity to make multiple visits to cities in the West Bank and neighboring countries including Jordan and Egypt. Meeting local residents in all of these places grew my understanding of many political, social, and economic challenges as well as individual and collective strengths.

The Haifa Municipality Department of Community Social Work has a significant role in addressing mental, emotional, physical, and social wellbeing on individual, family, and community levels. It focuses on the empowerment of Haifa’s vulnerable populations and promotes collaboration among residents to trust one another and provide mutual help in times of need.

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