



Friends of Yemin Orde

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## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL DAN SHAPIRO MAKES SPECIAL VISIT TO YEMIN ORDE YOUTH VILLAGE**

Ambassador Shapiro planted an olive tree at the Village in celebration of the Jewish holiday of Tu B'shvat and dedicated a new plaque honoring the friendship between Israel and the United States

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Washington, D.C:** U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro visited Yemin Orde Youth Village on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012, in Mt. Carmel, Israel, to plant an olive tree and to help celebrate the Jewish holiday of Tu B'shvat, also known as Jewish Arbor Day. He also dedicated a new plaque at the Village that commemorates the "deep-rooted friendship" between Israel and the United States. Yemin Orde Youth Village was severely damaged in the December 2010 wildfires in the Carmel Forest region; there were no injuries and all 500 children and staff members and their families were safely evacuated. Friends of Yemin Orde, located in Rockville, MD, just outside Washington, D.C., is the U.S. fundraising arm of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Yemin Orde Education Initiatives. For more information on the Village and Initiatives, call 202.237.0286, email [info@yeminorde.org](mailto:info@yeminorde.org), or visit [www.yeminorde.org](http://www.yeminorde.org).

*As reported by The Jerusalem Post:* "This is particularly meaningful to me as I still have the images of the raging fire, and the damage that it caused over a full year later," said Ambassador Shapiro. "I feel blessed to have this opportunity, *Erev Tu'B'shvat*, to plant a tree in Israel, in Yemin Orde Youth Village, where I know that you, the children of Yemin Orde, will look after and nourish this sapling for many years to come," Shapiro said at the ceremony.

In addition to planting the olive tree, Ambassador Shapiro dedicated a new plaque at the site that read: **In recognition of the deep-rooted friendship, between our two nations, the United States of America and Israel. Tu B'Shvat , 5772."**

The Ambassador was briefed about the Village by Chaim Peri, the visionary educator behind Yemin Orde Youth Village and Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives. He also met with Dr. Benny Fisher, the Village's director, staff and students and toured the Village's synagogue, Graduates' Home, Ethiopian Godjo (traditional hut), and high school.

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#### **About Yemin Orde Youth Village & Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives**

*Yemin Orde Youth Village, located just south of Haifa in the Carmel Mountains, is home, school and safe haven to hundreds of at-risk immigrant youth from all over the world, among them Ethiopia, the former Soviet Union, and Brazil. The Village's dedicated staff, educators and other professionals helps the children cultivate self-esteem, leadership skills, strong cultural identity and a positive outlook on life. Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives was established to expand the Yemin Orde methodology to other villages and schools in Israel by providing resources, teacher training, workshops, and more. Visit [www.yeminorde.org](http://www.yeminorde.org) for more information on the Village or email [info@yeminorde.org](mailto:info@yeminorde.org), or call 202-237-0286.*