





## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT





"I left feeling so impressed by (the Yemin Orde) philosophy, dedication and passion to the students. You have built a school like no other."

- Dr. Kathleen McCartney, Dean, Harvard University, Graduate School of Education.

Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure to share with you some of the exceptional programs of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI).

The year 2012 opened the doors for a better future for so many of Israel's at-risk immigrant youth. Our graduates are now studying in universities and in premilitary leadership programs (Mechinot), serving in Israel's military or national volunteer corps, actively participating in politics and community affairs and living productive lives as socially-responsible citizens of Israel.

The key to their success? Education and Yemin Orde's holistic approach to helping vulnerable youth achieve a better future for themselves and for Israel.

Through our support of YOEI, we are broadening our impact and educating thousands of Israel's at-risk youth. YOEI, through its Derech Kfar Educational Institute, offers teacher training, workshops and best practices to youth villages and schools in order to expand the noted Village Way methodology. Indeed, we are leading the way in changing the educational paradigm for Israel's troubled youth with an ambitious plan for YOEI's future

Our expansion requires a committed partnership and, for this reason, the Educational Initiatives and Friends of Yemin Orde received support from the Marcus Foundation of Atlanta. In December 2012, the Foundation issued a 2:1, five-year, \$6.5 million challenge grant to expand the Initiative's impact in Israel and thereby, reach more at-risk adolescents than ever before.

This grant requires us to think strategically in our fundraising efforts. Starting in January 2013, Friends of Yemin Orde needs to raise \$3.25 million by 2017 to meet our challenge obligation and fulfill our expansion plans. By 2017, YOEI hopes to impact 15 additional communities, including 10 high schools and five therapeutic boarding schools. We can think of no better way to help Israel's atrisk children achieve success than through value-laden education.

Our Village is in the midst of recovering from an array of challenges in recent years: a devastating wildfire, nearby military action, severe weather to name a few. Now, our staff and team of educators must guide the children through a two-year construction project at the Village to replace structures damaged or destroyed in the 2010 fire. We also plan to enhance many older facilities in the Village built nearly 60 years ago, in order to meet modern building standards and conveniences.

Through the active involvement of our supporters, we are strengthening the foundation of our mission, creating meaningful and exceptional programs and helping to transform the lives of Israel's teens, both immigrant and Israelborn. We believe deeply that children from even the most underserved and disconnected communities can achieve healthy, educated and successful lives.

Please accept our profound gratitude for your commitment to Israel's at-risk immigrant youth.

Karen Salleisen

Sincerely,

Michael Frieze

Chair

Charles Gwirtsman

Karen Sallerson

Executive Director

## YEMIN ORDEYOUTH VILLAGE: A home, a family and a future

Yemin Orde Youth Village is home to hundreds of children and youth from around the world. Over the course of its 60 year history, Yemin Orde has provided quality care, comfort and an exemplary education to tens of thousands of Israel's immigrant youth population, most of who represent a new generation of citizens and leaders in Israel. In 2011-2012, 64 percent of our children are from Ethiopia, 17 percent from the former Soviet Union, 10 percent from Brazil, 6 percent from Israel, 3 percent from Eastern Europe and 2 percent from Darfur.

The children who live at Yemin Orde all have a unique story, yet they also have much in common:

- they are immigrants, often refugees
- they have endured extreme poverty
- they have suffered trauma, including abandonment, isolation, neglect and loss
- they are vulnerable and at-risk of becoming victims of violence, dropping-out, unemployment and homelessness

At Yemin Orde, through its dedicated staff and deeply sensitive approach to living and learning, these children's lives are transformed. Together with our community of donors – foundations, federations, philanthropic organizations, individuals and the government of Israel – we are giving hope to Israel's at-risk children and building a secure future for Israel.

With your help, we will make a difference in a child's life.



### YEMIN ORDE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI) is an independent organization created in 2006 to extend Yemin Orde's unique methodology, called the Village Way, and to transform other youth villages and schools in Israel. In this way, hundreds more children can share in the benefits and success of the Yemin Orde model.

YOEI and its Derech Kfar Educational Institute (Village Way) have offices located within the Yemin Orde Youth Village campus. The Educational Institute, which aims to "deinstitutionalize" the institutions and to provide at-risk children with security and a solid education, provides trained facilitators to our partner educational communities. YOEI provides resources, workshops, teacher training and interventions. The Institute's annual conference, attended by hundreds of educators throughout Israel, offers networking and best practices intrinsic to the Village Way methodology.

As of June 1, 2012, YOEI is working with seven youth villages, two residential therapeutic boarding schools and three public high schools. By 2017, YOEI will have transformed a total of 17 educational communities. Since beginning the program, YOEI has reached more than 2,000 children and 400 staff members.

YOEI also manages the Yemin Orde Mechina, which is a pre-military leadership program for immigrant youth. The goal is to empower young Israeli immigrants with leadership skills in preparation for army service and later in civilian life, following a period of meaningful service in the Israel Defense Forces. The Yemin Orde Mechina is the only one in Israel that is specifically designed for at-risk immigrants.

"Through the workshops I have learned the difference between punishment and dialogue and how to empower the children through dialogue."

— Motti Cohen, Informal Educator



# WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE? A NURTURING COMMUNITY AND EXCELLENT PROGRAMS

What sets Yemin Orde apart from other educational communities in Israel is its uniquely dedicated and expanded professional staff of informal educators. This compassionate group is at the core of the children's Village experience.

The informal educators develop a special relationship with each child from their first day at Yemin Orde until long into adulthood. They are available for the children, 24/7, 365 days a year. Their own homes are always open to kids who require guidance, advice, or to just share a joyous moment. The informal educators are examples of positive representations of parental wholeness – a core element of the Village Way methodology.





## **Ecological Center**

The Ecological Center at Yemin Orde incorporates two important components of Yemin Orde's renowned methodology: Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and Tikkun Halev (repairing the heart). The children, through their activities at the Center, gain a sense of self-esteem, pride in their work, and a feeling of belonging to the Land of Israel.

Caring for the Center's herd of goats is a popular activity for the children. Twice a day, small groups of children take turns to shepherd the goats to graze in a nearby pasture. This task helps develop leadership, patience and perseverance, as well as provides a therapeutic introspective time for the child.

Along with caring for the animals (donkeys and chickens, too) the children also participate in learning programs and hands-on opportunities at the center's blacksmith shop, ceramics studio and gardens.

## **Art and Music**

Cultural arts enrich the lives of the children. Yemin Orde's arts center, called Beit Joie, is home to a variety of extracurricular activities such as art and music workshops, which are open to all children, regardless of age or skill level. Other classes offered include: photography, drawing, dance, drama and musical instrument lessons.

Some children receive art and drama therapy, which helps express insecurities and other emotional challenges that typically confront traumatized youth.





## Empowering Young Girls to be Leaders

Many of the young girls at Yemin Orde are marred by early experiences of intolerance and hardship in their native countries. Their low self-esteem is reflected in their clothing styles, poor communication skills, lack of trust and an inability to build and maintain healthy and normative relationships with others, including family members. Through the Empowering Young Girls program at Yemin Orde, girls learn to be leaders and contributing members to their community.

## Jewish Identity and Tikkun Olam

An important aspect of Yemin Orde's philosophy is the practice of the Jewish concept of Tikkun Olam (to heal, repair and transform the world). Children are encouraged to volunteer in programs at old-age homes, after-school programs and in local hospitals, in addition to their Tikkun Olam activity in the Village. Through caring for others, the children find a meaningful way to work through their own traumas, build self-esteem and realize that they, too, can contribute to their new homeland and make a difference in the lives of others. Indeed, the ethics, values and traditions of Judaism inform and enliven every aspect of the Village.



## Orthodontic and Uninsured Medical Care

In 2012, 40 children at Yemin Orde required substantial orthodontic and dental treatments, in addition to medical care not typically covered by Israel's nationalized health care insurance system. This includes eyecare (glasses and contact lenses), overthe-counter medication and braces. None of the children at Yemin Orde have families that can possibly financially support this care. The Village must seek funding each year in order to provide the children with medical and health care services.

"I can't possibly express how much this means to me and I am so grateful for this opportunity. I hope that my smiley face in the future will be kind of payment back."



## **Sports and Recreation**

The Village offers a wide range of sports and recreational activities for the children. There is an outdoor swimming pool, indoor and outdoor basketball court, gymnasium and dance studio. The Village supplies the children with the necessary equipment and uniforms needed to participate in team sports. Playing on a team helps the children learn to work together and engage in friendly competition in a supportive environment.

Despite the demands of daily training, team members find balance between school and recreation and learn to persevere and think positive, even when confronted with difficult challenges. Sportsmanship, discipline and teamwork benefit the children as they grow and develop into productive citizens of Israel.



Military cadets and midshipmen visited Yemin Orde as part of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affair's (JINSA) U.S. Military Academies program. They learned about the sacrifices and trauma experienced by the children at the Village.

## Visiting A Special Place

Yemin Orde receives thousands of visitors from around the world: individuals, families, Jewish federations, synagogues - all of whom are invited to tour the Village and meet the children. In 2012, approximately 1,400 individuals visited Yemin Orde including Ambassadors, U.S. Members of Congress, educators and community leaders.

Consider making Yemin Orde a stop on your next visit to Israel. We guarantee it will be a highlight of your trip!



U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro planted an olive tree at the Village in celebration of Tu B'shvat, the Jewish Arbor Day.

# OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS HELP KIDS THRIVE

#### YEMIN ORDE YOUTH VILLAGE

- 45 full-time teachers
- 40 part-time teachers
- 31 full-time informal educators
- 5 part-time informal educators
- 7 full-time social workers
- 4 part-time social workers
- 7 part-time psychologists
- 10 full-time housemothers
- 2 part-time housemothers
- 14 full-time administrative staff
- 3 part-time administrative staff
- 9 full-time maintenance staff
- 1 part-time maintenance staff

## YEMIN ORDE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- 3 full-time management personnel
- 2 full-time support staff
- 5 full-time facilitators/trainers
- 2 part-time facilitators/trainers
- 1 full-time development
- 1 part-time grant writer

## **OUR GRADUATES: FROM SURVIVAL TO LEADERSHIP**

The young adults who graduate Yemin Orde move ahead to become accomplished and productive citizens of Israel. After suffering neglect and abandonment as youngsters and teens, these formerly at-risk children are healthy, capable and strong. They are Israel's next generation of leaders.

The 2012 graduating class was a sensitive and talented group. It included young musicians, artists, dancers, and engineers among so many other interests and natural gifts.





## Miriam

Miriam is originally from Poland. She arrived in Israel following in the footsteps of her older sister, who is also a Yemin Orde graduate. While at Yemin Orde, Miriam excelled in her studies, performed with the Yemin Orde Children's Choir and participated in many programs and activities at the Village.

Today, Miriam attends the Bet Yisrael Mechina for young women. A Mechina is a one-year pre-military leadership training program that also allows participants to sharpen their academic skills in preparation for military service in Israel. Miriam volunteers in the community near her Mechina – an important element for a meaningful life she learned at Yemin Orde.

Miriam returns often to Yemin Orde, where the Village's Graduate Home is always open to her. At Yemin Orde, she visits with friends and staff and serves as a role model for the younger children.

## Roei

Roei arrived in Israel from Ethiopia in his early teens. Tragically, his parents died shortly after he arrived in Israel, leaving Roei to fend for himself along with two older sisters and four younger brothers. Roei thrived at Yemin Orde. He was active in the Yemin Orde Children's Choir and his natural friendliness and positive attitude made him a leader among his peers.

Today, Roei is attending a one-year pre-university preparatory Mechina program at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, a highly challenging and selective program. He is studying engineering and hopes to utilize his skills during his military service. While Roei struggles to balance the rigors of his studies, he receives financial support from one of the Village's graduate assistance programs.

Roei's determination and clear career path is the result of the careful guidance and solid education he received at Yemin Orde. His goal is to give back to Yemin Orde and to others the same support and kindness shown to him by his teachers, staff members and friends.





## Shimon Solomon

Shimon Solomon serves as one of the newest members of Israel's Knesset with the Yesh Atid party. He immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia in 1980 with his parents and five brothers and sisters. Yemin Orde Youth Village welcomed him shortly after his arrival in Israel.

Throughout his adult life, Solomon has modeled the Village Way elements of community service and leadership, "paying it forward" to help other at-risk youth and Ethiopian-Israeli immigrants. He served as Director of Education at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda, a youth village serving young victims of genocide modeled after Yemin Orde Youth Village. From 2005 to 2007, Solomon worked in the Israeli Embassy in Addis Ababa, and was later director of an immigrant absorption center in Beersheva.

Solomon draws strength from memories of the dangerous and arduous journey he and his family endured through the desert. He often goes by his Ethiopian first name, Teshome, which means "he got promoted" in Amharic.

## OUR GRADUATE PROGRAMS MAKE US UNIQUE

Yemin Orde provides its graduates with support structures seen in most normative family environments: mentoring, social interaction, financial assistance and guidance.

Graduates remain part of the Yemin Orde family with the Village's "Home Away From Home" Graduate House, available for short or lengthy stays, as well as its many programs that provide scholarships, career guidance and personal counseling, if necessary. Yemin Orde's graduates are secure in the knowledge that they will always have a home.

The Village maintains an open door policy for graduates serving in the military providing the Graduate House for weekend stays or breaks from active duty. Often graduates return to Yemin Orde to celebrate holidays and lifecycle events such as weddings or b'nai mitzvahs. These lifelong connections to the Village are woven into the fabric of our graduate's lives.



## **Graduates Day**

The annual Graduates Day recognizes the achievements of graduates as they strive to improve their lives through higher education or technical training. Graduates with financial need receive scholarships provided by Yemin Orde to help further their education. The graduates return to the Village and are seen as role models to their younger counterparts.

"B', an Ethiopian graduate now in her second year of studies toward a degree in architecture, spoke with the young girls about the challenges she has faced since leaving the Village. She encouraged the kids to settle down and to study, to ask for help and to begin to dream for their future.

"I don't think you get it. I am not just saying this because they told me to say it. I am saying this because I care and to show you that this is the truth, I want you all to take out your cell phones right now and to write down my number. Call me when you need to talk. I am here for you."

The kids wrote down B's number, many of whom were surprised by this generous act and others were confused. Until arriving at Yemin Orde, many of our kids have not been given very much kindness from others in their lives.

## **Mentors**

Providing a comprehensive support system to graduates is one of the special elements of Yemin Orde Youth Village. With the help of the Annabelle Lindy Yemin Orde Collaborative Project, young graduates are connected to "big brothers" and "big sisters" — older, more experienced graduates — who offer their time and the benefit of their life experiences.

Additionally, the Lindy project helps initiate six class reunions each year. The graduates who return to the Village for reunions feel a great sense of satisfaction in mentoring the younger children. The graduates understand the sensitivities of their younger counterparts and take great care pride in sharing their experiences and achievements with the other children.

## Care Packages

Village staff and students prepare care packages for graduate-soldiers and attend special army ceremonies for graduates without family. These important packages can contain food, clothing, books and other items that reflect love, family and provide relief from the rigors of military life.





## REBUILDING TOWARD A PROMISING FUTURE FOR OUR KIDS

The rebuilding project to restore Yemin Orde Youth Village to its original splendor is well underway following the devastating wildfire that tore through the Village in December 2010.

Overall, the rebuilding plan includes a total of 10 staff homes, three children's homes, two new office buildings, a library, re-landscaping and a new perimeter road around the entire Village. Included in this effort are enhancements to many older buildings, as well as upgrades to the Village's aging infrastructure.

The Village remains open throughout the construction process. Special barriers prohibit anyone other than construction personnel from viewing or accessing the various worksites. Of course, the safety of everyone at the Village remains paramount throughout the construction process.

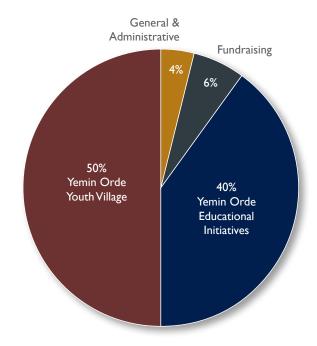
The expected completion date of the construction project is July 2014.

## **FINANCIALS**

## Statement of Activities (Audited)

For year ended December 31, 2012

INCOME	
Unrestricted Funds	3,532,465
Temporarily Restricted Funds	4,106,342
Permanently Restricted Funds	-
Interest and Investment Income	826,836
Foreign Currency Gain	38,315
Other Revenue	77,508
TOTAL INCOME	\$8,581,466
EXPENSES	
Program Services:	
Grants for Yemin Orde Youth Village	4,442,330
Grants for Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives	3,590,053
Other Projects	-
Total Program Services	8,032,383
Support Services:	
General and Administrative	307,740
Fundraising	547,093
Total Support Services	854,833
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,887,216
OTHER ITEMS	
Changes in Net Assets from Operations	(305,750)
De-obligated Awards	
-	
Change in Net Assets	(305,750)
NET ASSETS (Beginning of year)	\$22,507,731
NET ASSETS (End of year)	\$22,201,981

















## YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK IN 2012

Your support helped close a \$7,000 per child gap between Israel government assistance and actual costs to maintain the high quality education and activities for the children at Yemin Orde. Additionally, your gift allowed Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives to train more educators in the Village Way methodology who, in turn, transform hundreds of young lives throughout Israel.

#### Here are some of the ways your caring has touched the lives of children.

\$100	Care package for one graduate in the military	\$5,000 Computer of	center upgrades to computers and software
\$500	Art, music and theater enrichment	\$9,600 Camping ed	quipment for special camping and hiking trips
\$1,000	Need-based scholarship for one graduate	\$18,000 Etgar (Chal	llenge) Hike program for senior class
\$1,800	Therapy and counseling for one at-risk child	\$20,000 Covers the	cost of one mentor/informal educator
\$2,000	Orthodontic treatment for one child	\$25,000 YOEI semin	nars and workshops

### **HONOR ROLL**

\*These categories reflect lifetime giving to Friends of Yemin Orde.

#### \$1,000,000 +

The Azeez Foundation Suzi and David Cordish and Family Fineshriber Family Foundation Linda and Michael Frieze Gelfand Family Charitable Trust Nancy Reichman and Charlie Gwirtsman **Jacobson Family Foundation** Arlene and Bob Kogod The Marcus Foundation Susan and Dan Rothenberg z"l Linda and Arthur Schwartz The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation Judy and Josh Weston

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We apologize if we have inadvertently missed your name. Please excuse any spelling errors. \*Donors who made gifts between 2009-2012.

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#### Yemin Orde Tikkun Halev Award

Baltimore businessman and philanthropist David Cordish and his family received the first Yemin Orde Tikkun Halev Award for their humanitarian and philanthropic efforts on behalf of at-risk children in Israel. The award was presented at the home of Israel Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, who reflected on the meaning behind the Yemin Orde name and its connection to the important mission of the Village.



## 2012 B'nai Mitzvah Wall of Honor

Madison Fisher, FL Laura Kaye, MA Thomas Kaye, MA

Jeremy Silverman, NY Matan Berger Ofek, NY Joshua Daniel Winograd, MA



### THANK YOU

L'Chaim Society: Friends of Yemin Orde's recognition program for individuals who have made financial provisions through an estate plan.

Miriam Alimonos Kathleen and Michael Azeez Berle and Pam Berger Harriet and George Blank Suzanne E. Cohen The Cordish Family Arthur and Deanna Friedman Fineshriber Family Foundation The Frieman Family Linda and Michael Frieze Shifra and Terry Gardner Dena and Morey Goldberg Dena and Vic Hammel Beth and Billy Landman Gail Levine, Rick Lund and Tamara Susan Pollack and Mark Sullivan Karen and Ron Sallerson Sue and Ioel B. Sherman Josh and Marilyn Shubin Irene and Bernard Siegel Aviva and Paul Silverberg Mark and Paula Solomon Rhoda and Chuck Steiner Kathi and Joseph Wahed **Judy and Josh Weston** Eveline and Guy Weyl

Marcie and Howard Zelikow

#### Named Endowment Funds: Friends of Yemin Orde funds established to provide annual financial support in perpetuity.

Susan E. Pollack Fund (for scholarships)
Recant Family Fund (for scholarships)
Hattie and Arnold Segal Fund (for the learning center)
Ben Snyder Fund (for scholarships)
Marvin Tucker Memorial Education Fund (for the computer center)

## The following Jewish Federations made a gift between 2009-2012.

Jewish Federations of North America Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta Jewish Federation of Atlantic and Cape May Counties ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore

Birmingham Jewish Federation Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Boston Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado Columbus Jewish Federation Greensboro Jewish Federation Greenwich Jewish Federation Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford Jewish Federation of Las Vegas Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles Merrimack Valley Jewish Federation Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County Jewish Federation of Greater Monmouth UJA Federation of New York Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania Jewish Federation of Oklahoma City Jewish Federation of Orange County Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh Jewish Federation of Reading

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