

2016 Facts and Figures

French Youth at Yemin Orde Youth Village



Friends of Yemin Orde



87 teens in 2014-2015 • 115 teens in 2015-2016 School Year

In the past few years in France, a climate of anti-Semitism has sparked a mass movement of French Jews to Israel. For the first time since the founding of the State of Israel, France topped the list of countries from which immigrants moved in 2014—about 7,000 people. Double 2013's number. In 2016, nearly 8,000 French Jews have immigrated to Israel.

In January 2015, Yemin Orde Youth Village was flooded with phone calls from French families seeking a safe haven and a school for their children. In 2013 and 2014, the Village welcomed a total of 87 children from France.

In September 2015, Yemin Orde welcomed 28 more youth to live and learn at the Village.



These newly-arrived French youth have all suffered trauma.

- Their families are originally from the North African countries of Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.
- The children arrived in Israel alone or with one parent, leaving the other parent in France for economic reasons.
- They are angry and bitter about their forced immigration.
- They have a confused sense of identity.
- They have no Hebrew language skills.
- Many left friends and family behind in France.

Yemin Orde's Village Way methodology helps these teens address issues of identity and self-esteem.

- Slowly integrate into Israeli society and culture.
- Learn Hebrew and adjust to new educational environment.
- Provide assistance to families that require additional support.

115 French children living and learning at Yemin Orde

There are currently 115 French children living and learning at Yemin Orde. Additional staff was hired specifically for the French youth to help ease their integration into the Village and Israeli society.

- New children have their own classes in school.
- Newcomers receive intensive Hebrew training.
- French children integrate with peers from Ethiopian, the FSU, Brazil and Israel and participate in extracurricular activities.
- Established annual French Day at Yemin Orde that focuses on French culture and history.
- Special trips to Jerusalem and throughout Israel.

The first French children who arrived at the Village in September 2013 successfully integrated in Village life and will soon graduate high school. Many French children are taking advanced courses in Communications, Electricity and Robotics and socialize with their peers and in Village activities with energy and enthusiasm.

The French youth now at Yemin Orde are thriving, thanks to the foundations of the Village Way methodology.

- They have learned to embrace Israeli society while, at the same time, retain the great cultural, intellectual and religious strengths that they bring with them.
- Welcoming the French children to Yemin Orde will lead to a stronger Israel, unified across populations.

The Need

With more French youth expected to arrive at Yemin Orde, the Village will need to hire new staff in order to tend to the children's emotional well-being and educational needs.

- September 2015, Yemin Orde hired additional counselors, specifically for our French youth, plus an additional house mother.
- Additional therapeutic support needed.
- An additional French-speaking social worker needed.
- Additional expenses: upkeep of two additional homes, increased costs of added extracurricular activities and a greater number of participants on trips outside the Village.

The total cost for care and education of approximately 120 French youth at Yemin Orde is expected to be \$3.53 million per year. Israel will provide 70% of the cost of educating and preparing these children to enter Israeli society. This means that Friends of Yemin Orde will need to provide an additional \$1 million per year, or \$7,000 per child.