



Friends of Yemin Orde

## 2016 Facts and Figures

### YEMIN ORDE YOUTH VILLAGE

**Yemin Orde is the leading youth village in Israel serving more than 400 immigrant and at-risk children. Children come to Yemin Orde because the Village specializes in helping immigrant children adjust to Israel.**

The annual cost to educate and raise a child at the Village is approximately \$25,000. The Government of Israel provides \$18,000 per child which leaves a shortfall of \$7,000 per child. FYO's fundraising efforts close this \$7,000 gap. Without our help, the Village cannot provide its critical quality programs and the children lose access to special educators and therapeutic programs that make Yemin Orde uniquely successful.

#### About our Children and the Village

- Village population: Ethiopia, 32%; Former Soviet Union, 28%; France, 27%; Other countries, 7%; Brazil, 6%.
- The average age of a child at the Village is 15-years-old.
- Our children have all suffered trauma: from abandonment and poverty to neglect and feeling isolated from the intrinsic challenge of coming to a new country. They arrive at Yemin Orde angry and with little or no self-esteem.
- The Village provides the children with a safe and caring home. They receive a quality education and the chance to learn important life skills that enable them to develop into productive and successful members of Israeli society.
- Graduates remain connected to the Village for life.
- Yemin Orde was the model for the noted Agahozo Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda, which provides a sanctuary and a school to child victims of genocide.

**Anti-Semitism in Europe, particularly France, is at a disturbingly high rate. This year, immigration to Israel has surged.**

- In the last three years alone, Yemin Orde welcomed 110 French children whose families are of Moroccan, Algerian or Tunisian descent. Many of the children came without their families.
- Teens coming from France face numerous challenges: families who stayed behind, single parent households plus language, economic and educational difficulties.

**Founded in 1953, Yemin Orde Youth Village has graduated more than 5,000 students.**

- Graduates serve as leaders in a variety of professions:
  - Health care, technology, politics, education, law, the arts, public safety, business and more.
  - Graduate Shimon Solomon now serves as a Member of Knesset, and graduate Yosef Ben David now serves as Mayor of Tiberius.

**A study released by Haifa University in 2007 found that 90 percent of Yemin Orde graduates have high self-esteem and are happy in their lives.**

- 94% of men served in Israel's military; over half serving in combat units or as commanding officers. 89% of women served in the army or did national service. More than one-third hold academic degrees and achieve a higher level of education than Israel's national average. 69% are active community volunteers.

**Philanthropy provides Yemin Orde Youth Village funding for:**

- **Graduate Support and Scholarships** that support graduates throughout army service, lifecycle events, and career and educational guidance. Scholarships help graduates continue their higher education. Yemin Orde remains a connection for life.
- **Additional Informal Educators, Specially-trained Social Workers and other Therapeutic Staff** provide the individualized and group care and attention the children need. Families are included sometimes, too. Informal educators are positive role models and mentors.
- **Values Education Programs** developed by informal education staff, raise our children's self-esteem and mutual respect through personal encounters and an environment built on Jewish values.
- **The Learning Center** addresses remedial learning needs of recently arrived children to the Village. Often, they start well-behind their age group academically. A computer center helps youth navigate new technology. Children receive additional after school tutoring.
- **Medical/Dental/Orthodontic Care** meets needs not covered by the State healthcare system.
- **Tikkun Olam Programs** of community-service create a positive connection between our children and their world around them. Our children's own esteem and pride grow through the values and practice of helping others.
- **The Eco-Farm** engages our children in teamwork, responsibility through agriculture and care of animals. They learn to appreciate nature and the environment. Innovated only three years ago, the Center has become a popular gathering place for children of all ages and serves as an educational backdrop and therapeutic respite.
- **Extracurricular Activities** help children express themselves creatively and build confidence and self-esteem through music, art and drama. Recreational programs such as running, basketball and soccer reinforce the concepts of teamwork and good sportsmanship.

## **Village Way Educational Initiatives**

**Yemin Orde's Village Way Educational Initiatives is addressing the national need to bring the Yemin Orde educational methodology, called the Village Way\*, to other youth villages, residential communities and public high schools serving at-risk youth in Israel. Since inception in 2006, 9,650 children and 1,320 educators have been directly impacted by partnering with the Village Way.**

- Today, the methodology is used in 26 educational communities throughout Israel, including youth villages, therapeutic residential communities and public high schools, including the Israeli- Arab sector. We expect additional communities to be added through 2017.
- The methodology is part of the curriculum at three colleges in Israel that specialize in training teachers, including Hebrew University's School of Education.

- The Village Way is transforming education in Israel and the government's Ministry of Education views the Village Way methodology as a model of excellence.
- The Village Way Educational Institute "adopts" an educational community for a three-year intensive work process

**Each partner community signs a three-year contract committing to:**

- Developing detailed work plans and participating in intensive training in the Yemin Orde methodology and philosophy.
- Attending annual Israel-wide symposium of educators allowing networking opportunities, peer mentoring, and educational methodology workshops.
- Monthly educators' meetings and regular interim and annual assessments.

**In exchange, each partner community receives direct financial support from the Educational Initiatives – between \$30,000 and \$40,000 each year for three years -- to help implement core Village Way programs. Programs are developed in active collaboration, and vary according to community.**

- The Village Way provides facilitators, training, work plans, community forums, peer learning, e-newsletters and a digital database of Village Way programs.

**The Marcus Foundation 2:1 Challenge Grant supports expansion of Yemin Orde's Village Way Youth Initiatives:**

- The \$6.5 million Marcus Challenge Grant adds \$2 to every \$1 contributed to YOEI to expand outreach to more youth villages and schools in Israel. This is great leverage.

## \*10 Core Components of the Village Way

1. **Anchors in the Past:** Recognizing positive personal narratives, sharing communal history and honoring cultural traditions.
2. **Anchors in the Future:** Designing future plans, learning life skills, supporting graduates and reaffirming communal values.
3. **Earth (physical environment):** Creating a welcoming and comfortable home-like environment.
4. **Sky (spiritual environment):** Reinforcing communal values and national identity, marking traditions and promoting moral judgment.
5. **Tikkun Ha'Lev (repairing the heart):** Providing emotional healing and building confidence despite setbacks or crises.
6. **Tikkun Olam (repairing the world):** Participating in community service to help others and have a valued role in community.
7. **Reliable Representations of Parental Wholeness:** Placing importance on educators in child's life, involving parents in community, and empowering parents and children to respect each other.
8. **Community of Meaning:** Taking pride in community and spreading values beyond its borders.
9. **Dialogue:** Encouraging open and respectful dialogue between adult and youth.
10. **Minimizing Institutional Characteristics:** Building a community that reflects a more humanistic environment.