“Yemin Orde is about taking kids from survival to leadership—nothing less.”

—Chaim Peri, Founder, Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives
Dear Friends,

We are proud and pleased to report that Yemin Orde Youth Village remains the steadfast beacon of hope, as it has for more than 60 years, to Israel’s traumatized immigrant populations. The accomplishments of our youth reflect Yemin Orde’s successful living and learning environment that make it possible for Israel’s at-risk youth to grow into normative successful adults.

Your investment has helped us develop programs such as the Village’s debate club, girls’ empowerment program, and field trips. These activities provide opportunities for our youth to shine, as well as strengthen personal and communal identity and help instill important healthy life skills.

A surge in European anti-Semitism prompted a dramatic rise in immigration to Israel from France. In 2013 and 2014, the Village welcomed 87 teens from France. By September 2015, that number is expected to swell to 130. Our French youth have all suffered stress, educational failure and isolation from friends and family. Yemin Orde and its staff of educators and professionals remain dedicated to ensuring that Israel’s newest citizens are receiving the important therapeutic help and education they need in order to thrive and have hope for a bright future.

We are excited to announce that Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI) has now reached 24 educational communities throughout Israel, including three high schools in the Arab community. Since 2006, YOEI has touched the lives of 4,800 youth and 1,200 educators in Israel with the Village Way methodology.

Our two gap year leadership programs (Mechinot), managed by YOEI continue to make a difference in the lives of immigrant youth post-high school.

In 2014, the YOEI team created an ambitious five-year strategic plan. By 2020, YOEI hopes to partner with a total of 53 educational communities in Israel, including several Israeli Arab schools.

The year 2014 also saw great strides toward the completion of the Village’s fire rebuilding project. As you might recall, 40 percent of the Village was destroyed in a December 2010 wildfire that swept through the Mt. Carmel region. By December 2015, we expect reconstruction to be complete! We replaced buildings with ones having greater functionality and amenities.

Last, but certainly not least, Yemin Orde Youth Village played a major role during the White House Hanukkah celebration in December, when a special menorah, handcrafted by our talented teens, was featured at the evening reception. Yemin Orde graduate, Ataklit Tesfaye, who was serving as an Israel community liaison in nearby suburban Maryland, was on hand to help light the menorah. A proud moment for Yemin Orde on the United States national stage!

On behalf of the Board of Friends of Yemin Orde, we express our gratitude for the trust of our generous donors and look forward to continuing our mission to provide the resources necessary to offer hope for children who suffer on the margins of Israeli society.

With warm regards and appreciation,

Charles R. Gwirtsman  Karen Sallerson
Chair    Executive Director

Supporting Educational Communities for At-Risk Youth in Israel.
For more than 60 years, Yemin Orde Youth Village has served as a safe and supportive global community to hundreds of at-risk and new immigrant children. Through a deeply sensitive approach to living and learning, plus a careful balance of principles-healing, self-respect and serving the community-fragile teens learn to embrace hope and the belief in a bright future for themselves.

Today, the Village’s youth are from countries across the globe with high rates of anti-Semitism and violence against Jews, limited educational opportunities and persistent poverty. These countries are: Ethiopia, 45 percent; France, 23 percent; former Soviet Union, 20 percent; Brazil, 8 percent; and four percent from other countries including Israel.

The youth who live at Yemin Orde are part of the collective global fabric of today’s Israel. The children are first generation Israelis, or their parents are first generation Israelis, who come from the lowest end of Israel’s socio-economic scale.

- They live in extreme poverty.
- They suffer trauma, including abandonment, isolation, neglect and loss.
- They are vulnerable and at-risk of becoming victims of violence, unemployment and homelessness.

Yemin Orde is named for British Major General Orde Charles Wingate, an ardent Christian Zionist who was an influential force in the formation of Israel’s military.

The Village operates 24/7 and provides quality extracurricular programs and services that most families would want for their own children, such as sports and recreation, tutoring services, art and music classes and enrichment activities.

The Village remains connected to its graduates for life. Our partner, the Government of Israel, provides funding for 70 percent of the Village’s operating expenses. Friends of Yemin Orde provides the remaining 30 percent of funding, or $7,000 per child, per year, in order to give these children the crucial missing pieces needed to become self-confident contributing members of Israeli society.

Yemin Orde fulfills the Biblical promise of Israel to be an ‘Ingathering of the Exiles’.
Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI) extends the recognized and highly-successful educational methodology implemented at Yemin Orde Youth Village, called the Village Way, to educational communities throughout Israel in order to better address the needs of thousands of at-risk youth. Through YOEI and its Derech Kfar (Village Way) Educational Institute, educators receive training, resources and workshops so they may be empowered to help fragile and failing students succeed.

YOEI is an independent organization created in 2006 at the urging of Israel’s Ministry of Education.

As of December 2014, YOEI has partnered with 24 educational communities in Israel. The goal is to reach a total of 53 educational communities by 2020. Since its inception, YOEI has touched the lives of 4,800 children and 1,200 educators in Israel.

The Marcus Foundation of Atlanta is the primary partner of YOEI providing a 2:1 match for funds raised in support of expanding the program’s reach to public high schools, youth villages and residential therapeutic communities in Israel.

YOEI partners with struggling educational communities for a three year intensive intervention process. During that time, YOEI facilitators train and empower educators with staff workshops, seminars, and provide guidelines that will help youth at risk break the cycle of failure and reach their highest potential. Financial support is provided for program implementation.

Ultimately, YOEI communities will continue the Village Way methodology and programs with support from YOEI. They remain a part of the wider Village Way movement, participating in conferences with ongoing access to staff and an educational database.

Two leading colleges in Israel are teaching the methodology in undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

YOEI created and supports a Men’s and Women’s Leadership Preparation Program (Mechinot) that provides intensive one year post-high school learning and personal development opportunities prior to military or national volunteer service. The Yemin Orde leadership programs are the only such gap year programs in Israel designed uniquely for at-risk and immigrant youth.
Core Components of the Village Way

The Village Way is an educational guideline inspired by the African proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Its 10 core components are critical for success in YOEI communities.

- Building a sense of cultural identity. Recognizing positive personal narratives, sharing communal history and honoring cultural traditions.
- Designing a plan for the future, teaching valuable life skills, providing graduate support—always.
- Creating a welcoming home environment.
- Reinforcing communal values, finding meaning in tradition, promoting moral judgment.
- Providing programs for emotional healing.
- Participating in community service to help others and have a valued role in community.
- Placing educators in role of meaningful adult in children’s lives; involving parents in community, and empowering parents and children to respect each other.

“Since we started working with the Village Way, the entire atmosphere at our school has changed.” Sigal, principal, Amal Technology High School, Tel Aviv

YOEI Partnerships

YOUTH VILLAGES:
- Neveḥ Amiel (near Yokenam)
- Hadassah Neurim (near coastal Netanya)
- Ketziney Yam Ort (Ashdod)
- Manof (near Akko in the north)
- Kedma (northern Negev)
- TOM (coastal plain)
- Neveḥ Hadassah (Sharon region)
- Aloney Yitzhak (near Cesearea)
- Kfar Hassidim (near Haifa)

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOLS:
- Ashdod Amal Technology
- Adivi Ashkelon Ort Technology
- Mahat Akko Ort Technology*
- Kfar Manda High School*
- Beit Ha’arava Ort Technology (Jerusalem)
- Yad Shapira Ort (Tel Aviv)
- Amal Shimshon Technical School
- Daliiyat Al Karmel Ort Technology
- Tel Aviv Amal Technology
- Beit Shean Ort Technology
- Branco-Weiss Tachkimoni School (Hadera)
- Marom Acco Ort Technology

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES:
- Talpiot, residential and day programs
- Beit Haboger, therapeutic community
- Eden therapeutic community

* Part of the Arab Sector Initiative
ETAY COHEN

Etay Cohen, a facilitator with Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI), has extensive experience in education management. He provides guidance in the application of the Village Way methodology to educators in YOEI partner communities, as well as assists them in organizational changes that are intrinsic to integrating Derech Kfar (the Village Way) in the educational process.

Etay's career with Yemin Orde has spanned nearly 15 years in leadership and management positions both at Yemin Orde Youth Village and at a YOEI partner community.

After experiencing the loss of his brother in 2002 during a military operation, Etay deeply understands the emotional pain of so many of Israel's fragile and immigrant youth. He is devoted to helping distressed youth overcome difficult personal situations and believes strongly in the Village Way methodology and its blueprint for success among educators and at-risk teens.

Etay studied community management and coordination at Beit Berel College and organizational consultation and group facilitation at the Adler Institute in Israel. He lives in Moreshet, in the lower Galilee with his wife, Chen, and their four children. His hobbies include cycling, hiking and spending time with his family.

What is your vision as a facilitator with Yemin Orde Educational Institute?

I want to reach as many educators as possible and to succeed in connecting them to the Village Way educational methodology. My vision is for the Village Way to be a methodology that educators can lean on and that will inspire them in their educational work. In this way, each community that I work with will succeed in connecting with this complex philosophy and will undergo deep internal changes in the staff, organization and community.

What is one of the most important aspects of your position as a YOEI facilitator?

It is very important to succeed in being the bridge between the Village Way methodology and the broader educational community. This bridge needs to be deep, wide and flexible so I can adapt it to each community. It is also important that communities understand that the Village Way is strongest and most meaningful when all its parts are considered together. To understand and see the entire child – not just parts of him – is what gives the Village Way the power to lead to meaningful change.

What are your greatest challenges at YOEI?

For me, my challenge involved making the “switch” from a management position at Yemin Orde Youth Village to a facilitation position at YOEI. How can I succeed in sharing this unfamiliar methodology to educators so they feel inspired by it? Another challenge is that I need to be ready enough, exact enough, and relevant enough to each educational community. To maintain a balance between the materials we bring to the communities and their day to day challenges.

Do you see a change in the needs and challenges of graduates today?

At the most basic level the challenges are the same. But I think the world has become more complex. Graduates are entering a more complex, dynamic world that seems to be changing very quickly.

How do you keep educators engaged who might be stressed or burned out?

Stress contributes to educator burn-out. Veteran teachers can feel burn-out and they lose their passion. Success is when you see the spark return to their souls. It's hard to measure but you can feel it when you see it.

We provide educators with the chance to remove themselves from the stress, to rise above the daily grind and to see there is value in what they do. The ability to look and see the success also helps them deal with the stress. When educators have a graduate reunion, then they see the journey is not in vain. They can see that what they do has meaning.

“I am a great believer in our ability to make real changes in education in the State of Israel.”
Excellent Programs and A Compassionate Community

The exceptional academic and extra-curricular programs at Yemin Orde are specially designed to meet the individual educational and therapeutic needs of our at-risk youth.

The Village has an extraordinary high number of informal educators (25) who serve as important mentors and are available before and after school to deal with all the challenges and life issues that our teens face.

From their first day at the Village to well into adulthood, Yemin Orde’s informal educators provide a moral compass to youth and alumni of all ages. They are available 24/7, 365 days/year, and share in all of life’s moments. This dedicated group is what sets Yemin Orde apart from other educational communities in Israel.

Activities That Make the Difference

► Communications – Learn about media, video production, write scripts, learn interview techniques.

► Recreational Sports – Sports such as soccer, running, dance, basketball and swimming provide exercise and lessons in teamwork.

► Transitions to Adulthood – High school seniors prepare for the future with lessons on financial responsibility and opportunities in life following graduation.

► Orthodontics and Uninsured Medical Expenses – Youth receive dental and medical care for procedures not covered by insurance.

► Art and Music – Art and music are creative outlets for self-expression and healing.

► Computers and Technology – Classes provide advanced skills for employment following graduation. Robotics is also offered.
A Safe Haven for French Youth

As of December 31, there are a total of 87 French teens at Yemin Orde. By September 2015, this number will jump to 130. Many of these new families are of North African origin (Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco) who fled to Israel after rising anti-Semitism and violence against Jews in France. Yemin Orde provides special programs to help this new population adjust to a new language, culture and Israeli society in general.

Teaching Tikkun Olam Through Social Action

The traditions and values of Judaism are woven into every aspect of life at Yemin Orde. The Village celebrates Jewish holidays and observes Shabbat as one community. The important Jewish tenet of Tikkun Olam (repair the world through social justice) is a crucial healing element of Yemin Orde's Village Way methodology. Youth volunteer in retirement homes, hospitals and schools. Helping others lends meaning to their lives.

Yemin Orde’s Eco-Farm Healing Through Nature

Our Eco-Farm enables fragile youth to learn about the environment and agriculture in a natural setting. It also serves as a destination for Village-wide campfires, discussions and special events.

The Eco-Farm plays a significant therapeutic role in the healing process of at-risk youth and incorporates two core components of the Village Way methodology: Tikkun Olam (mending the world) and Tikkun Ha’Lev (mending the heart).

Caring for the farm's goats and chickens builds self-esteem, respect for nature, responsibility and teamwork. The Eco-Farm also has a greenhouse, metal and ceramics workshop and beehives for honey collecting.

Empowering Young Girls for Future Success

Girls from at-risk populations have low self-esteem and a basic lack of personal and life skills.

Yemin Orde’s girls empowerment program strengthens personal and communal identity; helps develop coping mechanisms; builds confidence in the ability to succeed in school; and teaches life skills for a healthy and productive life following graduation.

Israel’s women leaders meet with the girls to offer hope and the promise of a bright future.

Exploring Israel On Foot

Yemin Orde’s annual three-day challenge (Etgar) hike for 12th graders is an opportunity for teens to explore Israel’s rugged beauty and use new leadership skills learned throughout their years at the Village.

Staff members accompany the hikers and help manage outdoor cooking and discussions.
A Forever Family for Our Graduates

The promise that “Yemin Orde is always there for you” is important to every graduate of the Village.

Alumni remain connected to staff and friends through reunions, celebrations of special events, and holidays and ceremonies that encourage graduates to return. Yemin Orde’s Graduate House is available for weekend stays, for breaks from active duty for those in the military and for free accommodations to those who need a place to live after graduation.

Graduates Day is one of Yemin Orde’s most important annual events. Scholarships are given to alumni who are pursuing advanced academic degrees. The returning graduates also serve as positive role models and spend time sharing life lessons of “the real world” to the younger children.

Staff and children attend military or education ceremonies for graduates without family or friends in Israel. Care packages are prepared for graduates on active military duty.

Mentoring is provided for graduates in need of emotional support or professional guidance.

Financial assistance is provided throughout the year for those in need.

Yemin Orde’s graduates are an integral part of Israeli life. Our graduates find success as lawyers, professionals in the health care, life science and technology industries, educators, politicians, military commanders, artists, musicians and more.

Graduates are self-supporting adults, part of normative families and have a sense of social responsibility.

The lifelong connections to Yemin Orde remain a vital part of the healthy emotional well-being of our graduates.

Graduates Who Serve in Israel’s Military

In October 2014, Yemin Orde recognized its graduates who served in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) during Operation Protective Edge. Graduates serve in a variety of IDF units: army, air force, navy, paratroopers and tank divisions. The soldiers know that Yemin Orde will always be a source of emotional strength and support for them.
Miri Picado-Aharoni and her family immigrated to Israel from the Tigray region of Ethiopia in 1980, well before the Operation Moses rescue mission that airlifted thousands of Ethiopian Jews to a new home.

She recalls an extremely difficult start as an immigrant child feeling isolated, victimized and ridiculed by classmates because of her skin color and cultural differences.

“I was the only girl with chocolate brown skin color, no Hebrew language and foreign to the kindergarten children and the teachers. The children were cruel and threw things at me, including a metal shovel,” Miri said. “But I was highly motivated to prove that I’m not ‘worthless’ and so nothing stopped me from becoming a leader.”

Miri’s physical scars from her traumatic childhood remain visible on her forehead but, she said, the emotional stress has faded slowly over time.

Today, Miri, is an outstanding leader in so many ways. She operates a family assistance center in the southern town of Rahat, which provides help to at-risk children and women who are part of the region’s Bedouin population. She is dedicated to transforming the lives of underserved families and provides them with the tools to lead a better life.

“It is obvious that Yemin Orde had a direct impact on my current job choice,” said Miri. “I always remember what Chaim Peri said to us: ‘Love the foreigner….’ and ‘You shall be a light unto the nations…’ These phrases reinforce my actions every day.”

Miri graduated Yemin Orde High School in 1994 following the footsteps of her older brother and many cousins.

“I already knew from my relatives’ stories that Yemin Orde was magical,” said Miri. “I was privileged to receive an education based on the value of loving one another, regardless of origin or religion, as well as a love of the land and life.”

After serving in the military, Miri completed undergraduate and graduate degrees at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. She studied social work in order to ‘pay it forward’ and help immigrants acculturate into Israeli society.

Miri is still in touch with staff at Yemin Orde 20 years following her graduation.

She enjoys baking breads and cookies, which are sweet reminders of family and tradition.

“Baking symbolizes, for me, the aromas of a warm and loving home and it’s the first tip for Bedouin mothers: to keep the culture and authenticity, particularly with regard to traditional cooking and baking,” she said. “A child who returns home to the aroma of home cooking and baking will grow up with memories of a warm and loving home.”

“Yemin Orde was home for me and will always remain that.”
Inspired to Act: From Generation to Generation

**Bernie and Harvey Potter**

To Dr. Bernard Potter and his family, the important notions of Tzedekah (charity) and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) are fundamental parts of the Jewish way of life. Today, father and son, Harvey, apply these philanthropic principles toward transforming the lives of Israel’s fragile youth, a commitment that is deeply personal for the Potters.

Bernie is one the longest-serving members of Friends of Yemin Orde’s Board of Directors. Harvey serves as an Observer, which is a board position for the next generation of leaders.

“The children at Yemin Orde and I had experienced similar backgrounds of parental loss and had traveled similar paths, resulting in a common bond,” Bernie said. “Although we were both victims of birth and circumstance, in each case, we were given a second chance resulting in overcoming early difficulties, leading to a successful life.”

Bernie lost both of his parents in early childhood. His mother’s sister, Florence, who had no children of her own, adopted and raised him.

Bernie first visited Yemin Orde in 1983 as part of a Jewish Federation mission, his first exposure to fragile immigrant youth many of whom suffered from parental loss and abandonment. In 2003, Bernie donated the funds for a Village medical facility, Beit Florence Health Center, dedicated in honor of his beloved adoptive mother. “I felt comforted knowing the circle had closed in that I had returned her unconditional love with the kavod and recognition she so richly deserved,” he said.

Their son, Harvey, visited the Village with his parents and as a teenager to volunteer. These trips made a significant impact on Harvey, who felt an immediate connection with the children of Yemin Orde.

“My experience living in the Village and working with the kids confirmed my feeling that this was more than just a school. It was a family and a community and that my time there made a difference in the lives of the children,” Harvey said. “I truly feel that Yemin Orde transforms the lives of its youth in a remarkable way.”

Bernie is a dermatologist in Dix Hills, NY. His wife, Arlene, enjoys attending board meetings with him. Harvey lives in New York City with his wife, Talee, and their two young children. He is a senior institutional salesperson in the Distressed Debt Group at Morgan Stanley. The Potters are elated to have passed the torch of philanthropy from one generation to the next.

For the two generations of Potters, the shared bond of charitable giving has enriched their lives and inspired future leaders to experience Israel and Yemin Orde’s uniqueness in providing a “community of meaning” for at-risk-children.

Arlene & Bernie Potter at Beit Florence Health Center

Potter family, left to right: Talee, Harvey, Bernie and Arlene.
Your Gift Fills the Gap

Thanks to you, we are strengthening the future of Israel and its next generation of leaders. Your gift helps close a $7,000 per child gap between Israel government assistance and the actual costs to maintain Yemin Orde’s excellent education and activities for its children.

Your gift also allows Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives to empower more educators with training in the Village Way methodology and enable hundreds more of Israel’s at-risk youth to succeed.

What Your Dollars Can Do

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Tikkun Ha’Lev Award

Michael Frieze received the 2014 Yemin Orde Tikkun Ha’Lev Award at a national dinner in Boston. Friends of Yemin Orde honored Mike for his outstanding philanthropic and humanitarian efforts on behalf of Israel’s at-risk and immigrant youth, as well as serving four years as the organization’s Board Chair.

Nearly 400 guests from across the United States and Israel attended the event.

2014 B’nai Mitzvah Wall of Honor

Madeline Jordan Catalano, NY
Emma Daitz, NY
Olivia Winnick, FL
Nathaniel Zelter, NY
Financials

Statement of Activities (Audited)
For year ending December 31, 2014

INCOME
- Unrestricted Funds $1,844,518
- Temporarily Restricted Funds $5,006,416
- Permanently Restricted Funds $21,000
- Interest and Investment Income $1,378,151
- Foreign Currency Gain $(115,205)
- Other Revenue $105,654

TOTAL INCOME $8,240,534

EXPENSES
- Program Services:
  - Grants for Yemin Orde Youth Village $5,227,331
  - Grants for Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives $2,685,662
- Total Program Services $7,912,993
- Support Services:
  - General and Administrative $373,002
  - Fundraising $515,095
- Total Support Services $888,097

TOTAL EXPENSES $8,801,090

OTHER ITEMS
- Changes in Net Assets from Operations $(560,556)
- De-obligated Awards —

Change in Net Assets $(560,556)
- Net Assets (Beginning of year) $21,962,471

NET ASSETS (END OF YEAR) $21,401,915

Financial statement available on our website: yeminorde.org

Friends of Yemin Orde Allocation of Expenses

- 59% Yemin Orde Youth Village
- 31% Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives
- 4% General and Administrative
- 6% Fundraising

90 cents of every donated dollar goes to programs.
**Honor Roll:** These categories reflect total giving January 1 - December 31, 2014 to Friends of Yemin Orde.

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<th>Category</th>
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| $1,000,000 + | The Marcus Foundation  
Gelfand Family Charitable Trust  
Fineshriber Family Foundation  
Linda and Michael Frieze  
Anonymous  
The Azeez Foundation  
Harriet and George Blank  
Suzi and David Cordish and Family  
Laura Galinson  
Michael Gordon  
Paula and Jerry Gottesman  
Nancy and Stephen Grand  
Nancy Reichman and Charlie Gwirtsman  
Jacobson Family Foundation  
Susan Rothenberg  
Schama and Josephina Lurje Memorial Foundation  |
| $500,000 - $999,999 | Anonymous  
Terrie and Brad Bloom  
Carl Marks Foundation - Mark Claster  
The Crown Family  
Hammel Family Foundation  
The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation  
Rhoda and Charles Steiner  |
| $250,000 - $499,999 | Anonymous  
Isadore and Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation, Inc.  
Amy and David Abrams  
Aline and Leo Jacobsohn Foundation  
Jane and Norman Alpert  
Maddie Aptman  
Atmos Foundation  
Joshua Bekenstein  
Marion and Stanley Bergman  
Bert E. Brodsky  
Frances Bunzl  
Judy and Nick Bunzl  
Suzanne E. Cohen  |
| $100,000 - $249,999 | Anonymous  
Alexandra Fuchs and Gideon Argov  
Michelle and Bill Copelin  
Yoli and Mark Davis  
Audrey and William Farber  
Donna and David Frieze  
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Judith and David Ganz  
Emily and Eugene Grant  
Heyman-Merrick Family Foundation  
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Liz and Stephen Kay

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Greenwich Jewish Federation
Jewish National Fund
Merrimack Valley Jewish Federation
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Wright Endowment Fund at the UJA Greenwich Federation
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Whether you travel to Israel on a tour, as a family or individual, we guarantee that a visit to Yemin Orde will be the highlight of your trip.

You can tour the Village and stay for lunch, meet the teens and staff, explore Yemin Orde’s sustainable Eco-Farm or celebrate a special milestone. Yemin Orde is open year-round to accommodate youth who have no other home in Israel.

Contact our national office at 202.237.0286 or email info@yeminorde.org to arrange an unforgettable visit to our Village!

Photos at right show examples of new construction since December 2010 wildfire. Recovery project will be completed by December 2015.