

FRIENDS OF YEMIN ORDE RECEIVES \$172,000 CHALLENGE GRANT FROM GENEROUS DONOR TO HELP PROVIDE HOPE AND A FUTURE FOR ISRAEL'S AT-RISK YOUTH

Anonymous grant will match new and increased gifts over the next two years



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- Bethesda, MD, June 8, 2016: Friends of Yemin Orde is pleased to announce it has received a two-year \$172,000 challenge grant from a private foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. The grant will match dollar for dollar, up to a maximum of \$21,500 per donor, per year, all new and increased gifts to Friends of Yemin Orde. Funds raised by this new challenge grant will support the high quality programs and services for Israel's at-risk youth at Yemin Orde Youth Village, as well as help expand the successful Village Way educational methodology to hundreds more youth through Yemin Orde's Village Way Educational Initiatives. Friends of Yemin Orde is the U.S. fundraising arm of Yemin

Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives in Israel. Charity Navigator consistently awards their highest rating of 4 stars to Friends of Yemin Orde. Visit www.yeminorde.org, email info@yeminorde.org or call 202-237-0286 for information or to visit the Village.

Challenge grants such as this typically encourage support from donors as the value added to each gift doubles, thereby, increasing its significance and impact.

"We are very grateful for the trust this generous donor has in our organization," said Charlie Gwirtsman, Chair, Friends of Yemin Orde. "If anyone has thought about becoming part of our annual campaign but hasn't yet, this is a tremendous opportunity to double the impact of their gift."

Yemin Orde Youth Village is home to 440 at-risk and immigrant youth from around the world. Today, the population of the Village consists predominately of youth from Ethiopia, the Former Soviet Union, France and Brazil. The youth at the Village have all suffered trauma such as abandonment, poverty and loss. They arrive at Yemin Orde with little hope for a productive future.

Through the Village's unique and highly-effective methodology, called the Village Way, these youth live in a safe and loving home, have a strong educational environment and are surrounded by positive role models. At Yemin Orde, the children's lives are transformed and they graduate, capable and full of promise. Graduates serve with distinction in Israel's military and hold positions in Israel's health care, technology and life sciences industries, as well as the arts, politics and education.

As a result of the success at the Village, Yemin Orde's Village Way Educational Initiatives was created to expand the Village Way educational framework to hundreds more at-risk Israeli children in other youth villages, therapeutic residential communities and public high schools, including schools in Israeli-Arab communities.

The Educational Initiatives is designed to empower Israel's educators with a plan to better connect to and teach their at-risk students. Facilitators work with a community for three years to provide teacher training and, workshops. In addition, financial support is provided to each educational community to

implement impactful programs. There are currently 26 educational settings in Israel that partner with the Educational Initiatives. Since 2006, the Village Way has reached more than 9,650 children and 1,320 educators.

“We are receiving this gift because our donor is very pleased with our growing impact throughout Israel and the continued success at improving and transforming the lives of at-risk youth at our flagship Village,” said Karen Sallerson, Executive Director, Friends of Yemin Orde. “This challenge provides a meaningful opportunity to our donors as well as provides a springboard for the future success of our youth – Israel’s next generation of leaders”

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