

YEMIN ORDE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

YEMIN ORDE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

D.N. Hof HaCarmel 30895, ISRAEL

Kislev 5774 / November 2013

My Very Dear Friends - Shalom ,

Happy Chanukah!

They came to us from Russia, Ethiopia, Brazil, India, Lithuania and Slovenia. For Chanukah, they created a Menorah in the form of a migrating bird, spreading its wings to the future, adorned with Chanukah candles. The young girls and boys in the picture, taken 2 decades ago –like so many of our "offspring" – have spread their wings far and wide, taking their rightful place in all walks of society.



Mazal Tov and a special blessing to the new mayor!

Among them is Yossi Ben-David. Yossi, driven by an aspiration to finally bring an end to harsh realities in his birth town, Tiberias, he worked hard to become its new Mayor. Nestled on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, and blessed with striking natural beauty, Tiberias struggles socially and economically. Yossi believes he can change these realities. He is committed to the values and aspirations that we all share, including a different culture of governance. No doubt, the city of Tiberias now enters a new era of optimism grounded in capability and propelled by a vision.



Mayor Yossi Ben-David

Light unto Nations...

We teach that the Chanukah Menorah must also be a bright reminder of the Biblical calling for Israel to be a just and compassionate **Light unto Nations**. As long as as in Israel there are 3rd World children, daughters and sons of foreign laborers, who find themselves in the devastating margins of society, we must open our doors and hearts to them, providing them with fresh-air programs and TLC. In the picture we see Ismail from Darfur together with children from the Philippines, Nepal, Romania and Sri Lanka, caught in a carefree moment on the lawns of Yemin Orde.



What Young Americans feel towards Israel - voices to be heard: the PEW Foundation's research on Jewish identity and attachment to Israel found us with a lively group of Young Judea gap year program participants, who now live at Yemin Orde. Their thought provoking, inspiring insights shed light on the great impact of actually breathing and feeling Israel's pulse of life, and give us reason for hope.

"This is not a random place where Jews live. It is our origin."
- Zach Jirik,



"There are many aspects of Israel I love but there are also a lot of things I would change. The country is still a baby and has yet to find a concrete voice. Israel needs young people to care enough to learn about some of the issues the country is dealing with."
- Miriam Alexander, Ann Arbor, MI



"A deep connection to Israel is mainly formed once you come to visit. You get to see and experience first-hand the "Israel magic" everyone talks about."
- Sydney Bluman, Buffalo, NY



"I feel much more attached being here for other reasons than tourism or visiting family - actually living here."
- Josh Chozick, West Hartford,

"The people here are incredible and fun, and you just feel safe and at home here. It's an amazing country and will just continue to get more amazing."
Sarah Katchen, Los Angeles, CA



"Yemin Orde has completely changed my view and love for Israel. Being here has showed me the amount of diversity and culture that can coexist together. [...] I feel like I am part of another family."
- Jessica Markowitz, Seattle, WA



"Israel is a place that all Jews all over the world can actually call home."
- Ryan Rosen, Needham, MA



"I've observed a totally different culture with different social issues, traditions and beliefs. I have a greater appreciation for the comforts I have in America but also the simple hard working Israeli lifestyle."

The latest addition to our Initiatives is the gap-year empowerment program for girls, which focuses on the needs of young immigrants from Israel's social periphery just before enlistment. The program, titled *Isra-elite*, runs by the motto: *from survival to leadership*, just like its older "sister program", the Mechina for at-risk youth in the Upper Galilee. In the spirit of Thanksgiving - *Todah Rabah* - heartfelt gratitude for your presence in our lives which truly enables us to change destinies for ever- more youth in need.



May this continuous fountain of life recharge us with spiritual energies and blessings, as we work together for a common vision and goal. Happy Holidays to you and yours,

as ever - Chaim Peir
chaim@yeminorde.co.il