



**ISRAELI VISIONARY EDUCATOR, CHAIM PERI, TO RECEIVE  
2014 WORLD OF CHILDREN AWARD  
FOR TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF ISRAEL'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

*Award is internationally-recognized as Nobel Prize for Child Advocates*

*Marlo Thomas, actress, advocate and author, will also be recognized for lifetime achievement.*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Bethesda, MD** – Friends of Yemin Orde is pleased to announce that Israeli visionary educator, Chaim Peri, will receive the 2014 World of Children Alumni Award on Nov. 6, 2014, in New York City. Peri is Director-Emeritus of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Founder, Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives in Israel. The Village, located in northern Israel, provides a loving home, a

safe haven and an exemplary education to some 400 traumatized immigrant children; the Educational Initiatives is an independent nonprofit organization created to expand the Village's successful educational methodology to other youth villages, public high schools and residential communities serving at-risk youth in Israel. The World of Children Award is the only global recognition and funding program that honors individuals serving vulnerable children worldwide. Friends of Yemin Orde is the U.S.-based fundraising arm of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives. For more information, visit [www.yeminorde.org](http://www.yeminorde.org) or email [info@yeminorde.org](mailto:info@yeminorde.org).

The children at Yemin Orde have endured trauma in their short lives: from abandonment and extreme poverty to isolation and neglect. During Chaim Peri's 30 year tenure as Yemin Orde's director, the Village served as a sanctuary and school for thousands of emotionally-fragile and at-risk youth from countries such as Ethiopia, Sudan, Ukraine, Poland, Brazil and more.

"Chaim Peri's innate sense of the fear and hopelessness felt by Israel's vulnerable youth has led to a remarkable transformation in the education process of thousands of children. His vision of creating a forever home and safe haven for formerly disenfranchised youth has resulted in new generations of productive and successful citizens of Israel," said Charles Gwirtsman, Board Chair, Friends of Yemin Orde. "We are honored that Chaim and Yemin Orde have received such outstanding international recognition."

In 1998, Peri received one of the first World of Children Humanitarian Awards for his dedication to troubled youth at Yemin Orde.

“When we first recognized Chaim Peri for his innovative approach to caring for vulnerable children in 1998, we believed that his work and the work of the Yemin Orde team had the potential to not only grow locally but to plant the seeds of a new methodology in places and cultures far beyond Haifa,” said Harry Leibowitz, World of Children Award Co-Founder and Co-Chair. “Today we know that the vision was not only correct but that Chaim Peri's model is impacting the lives of children all over Israel and in countries as far away as Rwanda.”

Agahozo Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda was modeled after Yemin Orde’s educational methodology, called the Village Way.

The Village Way methodology, first modeled in Yemin Orde Youth Village, is now replicated in 23 educational communities in Israel, including the Arab sector. Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives and its Education Institute provides educators with training, resources, workshops and interventions in order to help them successfully implement the Village Way methodology in their school environments.

The World of Children Award is noted as the “Nobel Prize for Child Advocates” and includes a grant of up to \$75,000 to help support the honorees program. Since 1998, the award has granted more than \$6 million in cash grants and support to 100 honorees who are the driving force behind programs serving children worldwide.

**Marlo Thomas**, actress, author and activist, will receive the 2014 World of Children Lifetime Achievement Award. Thomas serves as National Outreach Director for St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. Other award honorees include **Jim Gold**, President and Chief Merchandising Officer, Neiman Marcus; **Kenro Izu**, Founder, Friends Without A Border, Cambodia; **Gregory John Smith**, Founder, Rede Cultural Beija-Flor, Brazil; **Jaylen Arnold**, Age 14, Founder and Creator, Jaylens Challenge, Florida; **Mary Grace Henry**, Age 17, Founder, Reverse The Course, New York;

The dinner will be held at 583 Park Ave., New York. For ticket info please visit

[www.worldofchildren.org](http://www.worldofchildren.org) ###

#### **Yemin Orde Youth Village and Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI)**

*Yemin Orde Youth Village is located in the Carmel Forest region of northern Israel, just outside Haifa. It is home, school and safe haven more than 400 at-risk immigrant youth from Ethiopia, former Soviet Union, Poland, France, Brazil and more. The children at Yemin Orde have all experienced trauma: from abandonment and isolation to loss and extreme poverty. With the help of the Village’s dedicated staff, educators and professionals, they cultivate self-esteem, leadership skills, strong cultural identity and a positive outlook on life. Graduates receive a wide range of services including scholarships and emergency financial support and remain connected to the Village for life. At Yemin Orde, the children find a family and a future.*

*Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI) extends Yemin Orde’s unique methodology, called “the Village Way”, to 23 other youth villages, public high schools and residential communities in Israel by providing workshops, teacher*

*training and interventions. To date, 4,800 children and 1,200 educators have been directly impacted by the Initiatives and its programs. YOEI and its resources are credited with transforming education for at-risk youth in Israel. Visit [www.yeminorde.org](http://www.yeminorde.org) for more information, email [info@yeminorde.org](mailto:info@yeminorde.org), or call 202-237-0286.*