



Friends of Yemin Orde

Supporting educational communities for at-risk youth in Israel

Friends of Yemin Orde Awarded \$2 Million in Successful Challenge Match to Build New Homes for Fragile Youth

Challenge issued by Boston-based philanthropic family will enable construction of two new homes for a total of 50 children

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Bethesda, MD -- Friends of Yemin Orde is pleased to announce that it has successfully met a \$1 million challenge match that will enable simultaneous construction of two new homes for a total of 50 children at Yemin Orde Youth Village in Israel. The challenge, granted by Boston philanthropists, Douglas and Judith Krupp, provided a 1:1 match up to a \$1 million to build the two new homes at the Village. Construction on the new homes is scheduled to begin July 2017, with completion in December, 2018. Friends of Yemin Orde is the U.S. fundraising arm of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives (VWEI). The Village is home, school and safe haven to 430 at-risk youth from around the world. VWEI is an independent educational think tank established to expand Yemin Orde's methodology, called the Village Way, to other youth villages, residential therapeutic communities and public high schools throughout Israel. Visit yeminorde.org, email info@yeminorde.org or call 202.237.0286 for more information.

Douglas Krupp is chairman of Berkshire Property Advisors, LLC; Judith Krupp is a partner of Burnt Umber, a theater production company. The Krupps issued their challenge after visiting the Village in 2015 and noticing the deteriorated and overcrowded conditions of several of the Village's older children's homes. They established the \$1 million match opportunity in an effort to encourage supporters of Yemin Orde to step up and help build a second new home where students will have the best environment to thrive and succeed.



The Krupps recently returned to the Village to finalize building plans for the two new homes. *(Photo, left to right: Douglas and Judith Krupp, Boaz Eden, Co-Chair, Yemin Orde Youth Village Board of Directors.)*

"Yemin Orde represents the best of humanity and Israel," said Douglas Krupp. "We are inspired by the excellent care and education at-risk youth receive at the Village."

Between 2010 and 2015, the Village rebuilt many of its aging children's homes and those damaged in the December 2010 fire.

However, several of the original children's homes remain occupied at the Village, which accounts for a huge discrepancy in the living conditions of the teens assigned to live in the older homes and those living in the newer homes. The comfortable and spacious environment of a new and upgraded home has tremendous positive impact on the well-being of the fragile teens who live there.

Investing in rebuilding the children's homes shows Yemin Orde's at-risk youth, who have faced much adversity in their young lives, that they are respected and worthy. In this way, vulnerable teens can feel safe, happy and secure in the Village community.

The Krupp family donated \$1 million to build one home and the additional \$1 million was secured thanks to the support of the Sherman Charitable Trust, London, England; Robert Altman, Yardley, PA; Max Blankfeld, Houston, TX and the Ted Perlman family, Chicago, IL.

Robert Altman said he first read about Yemin Orde when a Philadelphia Jewish newspaper wrote about a visiting graduate. It was then that he decided to answer the challenge.

"We see Yemin Orde as a program that has successfully transformed the lives of kids with problems into well-rounded productive adults," Altman said. "We wanted to play some small part in that."



Interior of rebuilt children's rooms and children's living space.

The newly constructed homes will feature more private space in each bedroom and a desk for each child, which are important tools for school success. The new homes will also have a clubhouse where teens can relax and spend free time together (*photo at left*). There is also a kitchen area, and bathrooms and showers for each bedroom area.

The new homes will have upgraded special security rooms, made of fortified concrete, which is required by Israeli law. The old homes do not have this fortified security room. The Ministry of Education also requires a special system for protecting against chemical warfare. The new homes will also have this special system.

Currently, there are 20 children's homes at the Village that are named for famous Jewish and secular figures in history such as Martin Luther King Jr., David Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, and Elie and Marion Weisel, among others.

About Yemin Orde Youth Village

The majority of the teens at Yemin Orde Youth Village are from Ethiopia, Former Soviet Union, France, and Brazil. Some are orphans, some have families in their native countries but came to Israel alone, and others are from single parent or dysfunctional, poverty-stricken families. Many of the youth have suffered educational failure and are considered "at-risk" by Israeli social services.

The Village's dedicated staff and its successful Village Way educational methodology help its fragile youth overcome past traumas, heal childhood scars and develop the skills necessary to become positive and productive citizens of Israel. Yemin Orde's graduates are involved in every sector of Israeli life: from health care, education and politics to the military, law, entertainment and technology.

Village Way Educational Initiatives, launched in 2006, expands Yemin Orde's methodology throughout Israel to 30 other youth villages, therapeutic residential facilities and public high schools with large populations of at-risk immigrant youth. To date, the Educational Initiatives has impacted 11,800 students and 1,500 educators. ###