



Friends of Yemin Orde

YEMIN ORDE YOUTH VILLAGE IN ISRAEL HOSTS HIGH-LEVEL GUESTS FOR DAY OF VOLUNTEERING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WITH STAFF AND CHILDREN

British Ambassador to Israel Matthew Gould and Embassy staff spent time at Village playing soccer with children , painting a mural and meeting with staff and educators

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, DC --Yemin Orde Youth Village in Israel recently hosted high-level guests to its community, many of whom hold key positions in the diplomatic corps and education field. Special guests included Britain's Ambassador to Israel, Matthew Gould; Dr. Kathleen McCartney, Dean, Harvard University Graduate School of Education; Autumn Graves, President, Girard College in Philadelphia; and Gabriel Kuriloff, Chief Executive Officer, Arise Academy Charter High School, in Philadelphia. The British diplomats and U.S. educators visited the Village to learn about its successful education methodology and to see, first-hand, the positive breakthroughs made with children who suffered trauma and neglect. The Village is home, school and safe haven to some 500 at-risk immigrant youth from Ethiopia, former Soviet Union, Brazil and other countries. Friends of Yemin Orde is the Washington, D.C. based nonprofit organization that raises funds for the Village as well as Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI). YOEI is an independent project created to expand the values and philosophy of Yemin Orde throughout Israel's youth villages and schools. For more information about the Village and YOEI, go to www.yeminorde.org, email info@yeminorde.org or call 202.237.0286. Yemin Orde is all year and welcomes visitors for tours.

Ambassador Gould and his team took part in a variety of activities around the Village including planting an English garden, painting an original wall mural, playing soccer with Yemin Orde children and participating in Yemin Orde's specialized educator training sessions.

"It was a real honor for the Embassy to spend the day at Yemin Orde," said Ambassador Gould." Yemin Orde was founded to honor a British general, and started with support from the UK. It continues to have a strong link with supporters in the UK. So it was great that the Embassy could celebrate those links with a day of volunteering at the Village."

Dr. Kathleen McCartney, Dean, Harvard University's Graduate School of Education met with Chaim Peri, YOEI founder and former director of the Village, to learn how the Educational Initiatives expands the reach of the Yemin Orde model, thereby, helping to care for and educate hundreds more immigrant children and teens in Israel. "I left feeling so impressed by (the Yemin Orde) philosophy, dedication and passion to the students. She told Peri, "You have built a school like no other." **-MORE-**

Autumn Graves, President, Girard College, a 161-year-old independent boarding school for children in need, and **Gabriel Kuriloff, Chief Executive Officer, Arise Academy Charter High School**, recently visited the Village to meet staff, educators and children, and to see Yemin Orde's unique methodology in action. This methodology, called The Village Way, creates communities of meaning for troubled youth and encourages them to embrace a healthy and wholesome attitude about themselves and about their future.

"It's very much what you would do if the children were your own," Graves said.

Arise Academy is currently one of two independent schools in the U.S. that has incorporated the Village Way methodology into its programming for at-risk foster children. San Pasqual Academy, a residential school for foster children in San Diego, has also embraced the Village Way philosophy.

Yemin Orde often welcomes high level educators from the U.S. to its Village who are eager to learn more about the Village Way philosophy and the training to "deinstitutionalize the institution" in order to implement the methodology in their own school programs.

Currently, the Educational Initiatives provides training, workshops and other special programs to five other youth villages in Israel, as well as in a number of Israeli public schools. Oranim College in Haifa also offers the Village Way methodology as part of its School of Education curriculum.

For more information on Yemin Orde, YOEI, or the Village Way methodology, visit www.yeminorde.org, email info@yeminorde.org, or call 202.237.0286.

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