

December 7, 2010

URGENT! EMERGENCY FUNDS NEEDED FOR YEMIN ORDE YOUTH VILLAGE

The wildfire in Israel's North has destroyed at least 40% of Yemin Orde Youth Village, home to 500 children from 16 countries around the world. These children, mainly from Ethiopia, FSU, and Brazil, have suffered serious losses and trauma in their young lives; most are either orphans or have no other home in Israel. Tragically, the fire has now reduced the children's homes to ashes - exposing them to new trauma and dislocation.



Everyone was safely evacuated to another children's village where beds were available for Chanuka week. We are working around the clock to locate a site where Yemin Orde's devoted staff can carry on their work to rehabilitate these children's lives. Equally urgently, we need to begin work to reconstruct the village and hire additional staff, to restore the children's fragile sense of stability and wholeness.

Yemin Orde needs major emergency funds, both to meet immediate needs and to fund rapid reconstruction. Initial estimates of costs in the coming months total in the millions.

In the first week, we have already incurred \$1 million in costs for extra therapists, transportation, clothing, and supplies. Lots of work is needed to prevent the children from feeling abandoned, since Yemin Orde is the only home they know.

While Yemin Orde has insurance coverage on its buildings, insurance will not begin to cover all costs. Many buildings burned to the ground while others incurred serious damage. We are still assessing the extent of reconstruction required. Meanwhile, we need to get the children's and staff's lives back to a semblance of normal function. **It is beyond question that Yemin Orde needs to raise cash quickly.**

We will send more detailed updates as we receive them from Israel. **In the interim, please put Yemin Orde Youth Village and Friends of Yemin Orde at the top of your priorities for aiding Israel in the wake of the wildfire.** Friends of Yemin Orde handles USA donations to the village. Please visit the website www.yeminorde.org for instructions on how to make a donation or call 202-237-0286