



# HANUKKAH UPDATE: VILLAGE WAY EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

*Serving 49 partner educational communities, 18,500 at-risk youth and 2,300 educators in Israel.*



**My favorite Hanukkah tale is that of the small jug of oil, whose contents miraculously fueled the Temple's menorah for eight days.**

Over the years, our work to empower educators and transform at-risk youth has expanded from a small-scale jug and individual lights, into a shining network which brings light to our entire nation. And the oil fueling this light is our mutual sense of belonging, of having a shared destiny, of being a global Jewish community in the most all-encompassing sense. As we mourn the deadliest attack on Jewish life in the United States at Pittsburg's Tree of Life synagogue, it is important to remember that with all our diverse definitions of Jewishness, we are one people and must stand together. As educators, it is our duty to instill this sense of belonging in the next generation.

On a brighter note, inspired by our exemplary young leadership programs (*Mechinot*) for at-risk youth, Israel's National Social Security and Ministry of Welfare launched a new initiative, opening five new *Mechinot* for young adults with complex backgrounds, including criminal records, who wish to turn their lives around. The new *Mechinot*, called *Nitzotz* (Hebrew for spark), also include a vocational training component. One of these "Sparks" runs under the auspices of our Hatzor *Mechina*, with a most impressive Ethiopian-born Yemin Orde graduate at its helm.

Guiding ever-more young men and women out of the margins to become responsible adults and capable leaders, requires dedication and boundless commitment, but also brings satisfaction and a sense of purpose beyond our daily existence. This is something we can all relish, as partners in actualizing the mission of the Village Way.

*Haim Rubovitch*  
Chief Executive Officer, VWEI



## ► Village Way in Academia

The Village Way Educational Institute is offering courses on the Village Way to students of high-er education. Among these is a comprehensive Village Way course at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, taught by Yemin Orde graduate, Dr. Wovit Worko. In addition, there are two courses offered at Oranim College of Education and Achva College. There is also a program for graduate students in leadership and education at Tel Aviv University.



*Village Way is taught at university level.*

*"You can say that the philosophy increased my knowledge, gave me strategies on how to approach and treat teachers as a group, how to behave with parents and students, and how knowledge is power! The Village Way gives you a lot of strength when you work with children in a school like ours."*

*—Village Way Educator*

## ► New Village Way Book Used by Israeli Scouts



A new book, "*It Takes A Village*" by Dotan Levi, Director, Village Way Educational Institute, has sold 6,000 copies in Israel to educators and a variety of audiences. The Israeli Scouts movement has organized leadership seminars based solely on the Village Way methodology. Scout leaders adapted material from the book to their training sessions which will impact 6,500 Israeli teen scouts. An English language version will be available in 2019.

*"I think that what I see as most important is that we will work together to succeed. We need a whole village to raise a child and, if we are a whole village, then we are responsible for the values that we pass on to students."*

*—Village Way Educator*



*Participants of IsraElite women's mechina celebrate Ethiopian holiday of Sigd.*

## Friends of Yemin Orde

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