



YEMIN ORDE YOUTH VILLAGE

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BACKGROUND

Yemin Orde, located just outside of Haifa, is a year-round home to some 500 children from 20 countries around the world. All of the children have experienced trauma of one form or another and all are defined as youth at-risk. Some arrive in Israel from other parts of the world while others come from dysfunctional family situations within the country. The common denominator for these children is the lack of any suitable home environment within Israel.

POPULATION

Ages: 6 – 19

Our elementary and middle school-aged children attend local schools, individually chosen to meet the children's needs. High school-aged children attend school at the Village. A sample of our children's countries of origin: Ethiopia, Russia, Brazil, Israel, France, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Chad, Sudan, and China. Twenty-five percent of the children at Yemin Orde are orphans.

MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY

Yemin Orde is dedicated to giving its children the highest quality personal care, providing a quality education and serving psychosocial needs. Such care for adolescents is difficult under ordinary circumstances, but for Yemin Orde's youth it is further complicated by trauma and separation from family and/or a native land and culture. Yemin Orde's goal is to raise young people who are secure, confident and able to thrive in a new society and culture.

Through decades of experience with youngsters from dozens of different countries, Yemin Orde knows that embracing cultural background is critical to the process of absorption. The Village is also devoted to the ethic of *Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World), which is woven into the fabric of everyday life at the Village.

GRADUATES

Many of Yemin Orde's graduates do not have a home or family (or functional family) to return to after they graduate from high school. Nor do they have any support network to which they can turn for support, advice and help. Yemin Orde guides and supports its graduates through their compulsory army service, higher education studies, and assists them in times of crisis and need as they enter the "real world." A wide range of services is provided to all graduates, including scholarships and emergency financial support. Staff is always on hand to offer advice and assistance on a myriad of issues, while the

“Home-Away-From Home” Graduate House is available for short or lengthy stays. The presence of graduates on the campus also provides positive assurance to the children and teenagers that “being part of the Yemin Orde family” is not an empty statement.

SUCCESS

Approximately 150 students graduate from Yemin Orde’s high school each year. They serve in the Israeli Defense Forces or perform other national service, and go on to become productive members of Israeli society. Approximately 80% of Yemin Orde students go to university or receive other professional training. This percentage is greater than Israel’s national average.

Yemin Orde’s culture of leadership has helped produce successful community leaders in Israel, including mayor, deputy mayor, chief of police, and scores of accomplished military leaders; medical, legal and business professionals; and many responsible parents and citizens. In 1996, Yemin Orde and its then director, Dr. Chaim Peri, received the Prime Minister’s Award, *Magen Haya’eled* (Guardian of the Child), Israel’s highest honor.

YEMIN ORDE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI) provides a key element to Yemin Orde’s lasting impact. The Initiatives program broadens Yemin Orde’s successful methodology and educational programs to reach thousands more at-risk children and youth in Israel. YOEI builds on the Village’s values and provides resources to help rejuvenate and transform other youth villages and young lives throughout Israel. “The Village Way” methodology is enthusiastically embraced by Israel’s Ministry of Education. We are currently working with five other youth villages in Israel.

FUNDING

Yemin Orde now receives 70% of its annual operating budget from Israeli government agencies, primarily the ministries of education and welfare. The vast majority of the other 30% comes from Friends of Yemin Orde, which needs to raise approximately \$3.5 million each year in order to maintain a high level of care and service to the children.

Until 1996, Yemin Orde was funded by Youth Aliyah, a division of the Jewish Agency. Youth Aliyah was then subsumed by the Israeli Ministry of Education and funding for youth villages was cut. This action greatly affected Yemin Orde because of its severely at-risk population and because it had no “mother organization” to call on for support.

HISTORY

Yemin Orde was founded in 1953 to accommodate Holocaust survivors and immigrant children during the immigration waves of the 1950’s. It is named after British General Orde Wingate, an ardent supporter of the Jewish cause in Palestine in the 1930’s. “Yemin Orde” means “In memory of Orde.”