



Friends of Yemin Orde

FRIENDS OF YEMIN ORDE HIRES SUSAN BROUS SILVERMAN, A NEW YORK-BASED
COMMUNITY ADVOCATE, TO NEW POSITION AS NORTHEAST DIRECTOR
Silverman to help guide growth, fundraising efforts throughout eastern U.S.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Feb. 8, 2011; Rockville, MD: **Friends of Yemin Orde has hired Susan Brous Silverman, an experienced advocate and manager for nonprofit Jewish organizations in New York, as its new Northeast Director.** Silverman, who will be based in New York, will be responsible for promoting Yemin Orde Youth Village (YO) and Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI), as well as building connections to the village throughout the northeastern United States. Friends of Yemin Orde is the fundraising arm of YO and YOEI, a residential and educational community for at-risk immigrant youth located in northern Israel. On December 3, 2010, much of Yemin Orde Youth Village was destroyed in one of the worst wildfires in Israel's history. Hundreds of children, staff and their families were safely evacuated from Yemin Orde to a nearby village with no injuries reported. For information on YO and its fire recovery efforts, visit www.yeminorde.org or call 202-237-0286.

YO is home to 500 children, from more than 20 countries, including Brazil, Ethiopia, and the former Soviet Union. Many of the children are orphaned (25 percent) and all have experienced trauma in their young lives. YO provides a home, a family, and a future for these children who will grow to be part of Israel's next generation of leaders. YOEI represents the strategy to bring the successful methodology of YO to other youth villages in Israel.

Karen Sallerson, Executive Director, Friends of Yemin Orde, said she was drawn to Silverman's extensive experience in the nonprofit industry, and her familiarity with methodologies used to help children in educational and supportive settings. "Susan has a tremendous network in the northeast region and I am looking forward to integrating our efforts with her knowledge base and experience," Sallerson said.

Previously, Silverman served as a volunteer leader with UJA-Federation New York and helped launch exciting new initiatives to encourage charitable-giving among youth and strengthen Jewish identity among young adults. She also served as a volunteer advocate for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and worked with at-risk children and families in New York's foster care system. Silverman is a graduate of the prestigious Wexner Heritage Program, a two-year education program for communal leaders in the history, traditions and contemporary challenges of the Jewish people.

"I have extensive Jewish communal experience as a lay leader, program coordinator and fundraiser," Silverman said. "I understand how important it is to reach out to the community and explain how the Jewish values of education and *tikkun olam* can create and support valuable programs like Yemin Orde."

Classes resumed at the village just four weeks after the fire. Children and staff who lost their homes are living in temporary pre-fab houses until new structures are built. It will take approximately two years to rebuild the entire YO village. ###

Supporting the preeminent residential education program for at-risk youth in Israel