



Press Release

BAT MITZVAH FUNDRAISING PROJECT DRAWS ATTENTION TO YEMIN ORDE'S ART THERAPY PROGRAM

Teen raises more than \$3,200 to help support specialized art program for fragile youth at Yemin Orde Youth Village in Israel

BETHESDA, MD – When Talia Jacobsohn, 12, considered ideas for a *tzedekah* (charity) project to coincide with her upcoming Bat Mitzvah, she remembered learning about the fragile teens at Yemin Orde Youth Village in Israel, and was immediately drawn to the notion of raising funds for the Village's specialized art therapy program. Talia, who has loved art "for as long as I can remember" raised more than \$3,200 for the Village's art program with the help of a personalized fundraising webpage as well as a spin-cycle class in which fees collected went directly to the art program. Friends of Yemin Orde, the U.S. fundraising arm of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives, posted Talia's fundraising page on its website and will help direct funds raised to the Village. Yemin Orde is home, school and safe haven for 430 at-risk youth from around the world; the Educational Initiatives expands Yemin Orde's methodology, called the Village Way, to 30 other educational communities for fragile youth throughout Israel. For information on Friends of Yemin Orde's Bnai Mitzvah fundraising opportunities, email info@yeminorde.org, call 202.237.0286, or visit yeminorde.org.



Talia, a resident of Bethesda, is in the seventh grade at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, MD. She focuses her artwork on two-dimensional and three-dimensional art forms using different mediums.

"I chose to support Yemin Orde's art program because I really enjoy art. In art, you have to use your creativity to express yourself," said Talia. "The Village's art program lets youth express themselves creatively, too, which helps them feel good about themselves and be better students."

Although Talia has not yet visited the Village, the personal stories and challenges of the at-risk youth at Yemin Orde resonated strongly with her.

"I am fortunate to have a good life and want to help others who are not as lucky. I plan to visit Yemin Orde the next chance I get to travel to Israel," Talia said.

Talia's successful fundraising efforts will enable her name to be inscribed in the Village's B'nai Mitzvah Wall of Honor (right). The Wall of Honor is located at the Village and is designed to honor the philanthropic efforts of individuals who, after completion of their bar or bat mitzvah, donate \$1,800 or more to the Village in order to help its at-risk youth.



B'nai Mitzvah projects can combine fundraising elements with special programs that help the at-risk youth at Yemin Orde Youth Village. Teens can hold fundraisers, meetings, and parties or simply ask guests, friends, and family members for gifts to support various needs at the Village. This includes money to help purchase care packages for lone soldiers, school supplies, school clothes and shoes, exercise equipment, field trips, and more. ###

Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives (VWEI)

Yemin Orde Youth Village is located in the Carmel Forest region of northern Israel, just outside Haifa. It is home, school and safe haven to 430 at-risk youth from all over the world, including Ethiopia, the former Soviet Union, France, Eastern Europe and Brazil. Most of the youth at Yemin Orde have experienced trauma: from abandonment and isolation to loss and extreme poverty. With the help of the Village's dedicated staff and excellent educators, its fragile teens develop self-esteem, leadership skills, strong cultural identity and a positive outlook on life. Graduates remain connected to the Village and receive a wide range of services including scholarships and emergency financial support. At Yemin Orde, the children find a family and a future.

Village Way Educational Initiatives (VWEI) extends Yemin Orde's unique methodology, called "the Village Way", to 30 other youth villages and schools in Israel, including schools in Israeli-Arab communities. VWEI provides workshops, teacher training and interventions to educators in these communities thereby empowering them to better connect to their fragile students. Today, VWEI has impacted 11,800 youth and 1,500 educators.

Visit www.yeminorde.org for more information, email info@yeminorde.org, or call 202-237-0286.