



## Press Release: Los Angeles Jewish Community Well-Represented at NYC Event Benefitting At-Risk Youth in Israel

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Contact: Barbara Sherbill, Director, Marketing & Communications

[barbara@impact-israel.org](mailto:barbara@impact-israel.org)

[impact-israel.org](http://impact-israel.org) / 202.237.0286

Leaders of the Los Angeles Jewish community attended a major fundraising event in New York City, where the news was announced that Friends of Yemin Orde has changed its name to ImpactIsrael. Guests included CEO and Founder of Oasis Media, David Lonner, and philanthropist and animal rights and community advocate, Rosanne Ziering. Additional guests included David Amar and Jeremy Barnett, both of whom serve as ImpactIsrael Board Members. The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles was a sponsor of the event.

ImpactIsrael is the U.S. philanthropic partner of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives in Israel. The mission of ImpactIsrael is to transform immigrant and at-risk youth into productive members of Israeli society through value-driven education and support. Its new tagline is “Elevating education and lifting lives the Village Way.” Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives will continue to operate under their current names.

ImpactIsrael’s executive director, Karen Sallerson, said the name change stemmed from the need to better reflect the broad scope of the organization’s work in Israel. In addition to youth villages and high schools, ImpactIsrael is supporting training for Israel’s Border Police, staff at Ofek Juvenile Prison, and commanders and leaders in the Israel Defense Forces. In addition, the Village Way methodology is part of the curriculum for future educators at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and other academic environments for higher education.

The fundraising event raised \$925,000 for the programs and activities at Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiative’s 55 partner educational communities throughout Israel. The event was the organization's biggest fundraiser of the year, its annual Tikkun Ha'Lev Award Gala, held on Nov. 18 in New York City at The Pierre hotel.

CNN broadcast journalist, Kate Bolduan, served as master of ceremonies for the evening program which was attended by 310 guests from around the United States and Israel.

Lianne Goldsmith, West Coast Director, ImpactIsrael, said ImpactIsrael’s educational and inclusive mission on behalf of marginalized and immigrant Israeli youth resonates strongly in Los Angeles’s diverse communities.

“I am thrilled by the representation and leadership of our Los Angeles community at the event, which highlighted ImpactIsrael’s important mission. We have a grassroots movement in Israel of engaged educators, that includes all sectors – Jewish, Arab, religious, secular, right, left – the entire society. ImpactIsrael’s bold plan of action is to improve the health, education and welfare of Israel and its at-risk youth in order to have a positive impact on its safety and security for generations to come,” said Goldsmith.

Yemin Orde Youth Village is a home, school and safe haven for 430 at-risk youth from around the world. Through its successful Village Way educational methodology, troubled youth are given a secure foundation to gain confidence, self-esteem, grow and thrive. Village Way Educational Initiatives, established in 2006, was created to expand the Village Way educational methodology, developed at Yemin Orde, to more youth village and high schools with large populations of at-risk youth, and deliver educational solutions to positively impact students in school and in life. Today, the Educational Initiatives partners with 55 educational communities in Israel, thereby impacting 22,000 youth and empowering 2,500 educators to better meet the needs of their students.

Together, Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives help Israel’s at-risk youth advance from “survival to leadership” with the Village Way’s innovative and unique methodology. By 2026, ImpactIsrael hopes to partner with 91 educational communities and impact 55,000 at-risk youth and 4,100 Israeli educators.

The Tikkun Ha’Lev Award was given in honor of Anne Heyman z”l, whose vision created the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda. Anne’s husband, Seth Merrin, accepted the award from Chaim Peri, Israeli visionary educator and founder of Village Way Educational Initiatives.