



Jewish Community Foundation Announced Promotion of New Chief Impact Officer

The Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) promoted Sharleen Wollach to Chief Impact Officer, according to Beth Sirull, JCF President and CEO.

Wollach has been with JCF since 2009 and oversees the foundation's approach to donor services. She works to strengthen community connections through her efforts as a liaison with grantee-organizations to promote philanthropy and enrich relationships with the foundation.

Wollach directs programs that focus on developing and enhancing relationships for current and future philanthropy.

"JCF's programs are now nationally recognized as models for effective philanthropic planning, thanks largely to Sharleen's tireless efforts," Sirull said.

As acting Chief Impact Officer, Wollach will be working with the executive team to guide JCF to expand and integrate innovative approaches to the donor experience.

Helping At-Risk Israeli Youth During COVID-19

By Barbara Sherbill

In March of this year, as COVID-19 spread across Israel forcing school closures, including in-educational communities, youth villages and other residential settings, thousands of at-risk youth suddenly faced lockdown in homes with challenging and unstable environments.

Many of Israel's at-risk teens returned to large families in dire financial need as a result of sudden unemployment. ImpactIsrael (formerly Friends of Yemin Orde), which serves as the U.S. philanthropic partner of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives (VWEI), raised \$300,000 for food vouchers and crisis stipends to assist youth, families and graduates of the Village as well as graduates of Yemin Orde's gap-year leadership programs for marginalized immigrant youth, called *Mechinot* (Hebrew, plural for *Mechina*).

After receiving financial assistance, one of the graduates said: "My brother and I came to Israel from an orphanage in Ukraine. For us, Yemin Orde is our only home. The fact that now during this really hard time when getting laid off work and having my own daughter to raise, that the Village and others from abroad reached out to us to offer us this support has meant the world to me. I really need the help to be able to pay the rent and eat, but it's also such an emotional backing and gives me strength knowing we are never alone."

In addition to monetary relief, educators and staff from the Village and VWEI's network of Village Way educational partners delivered care packages and learning materials to homebound youth and their families. This personal contact—although socially distanced and wearing face masks—provided assurance and support.

At Yemin Orde Youth Village which is typically home and school to 450 at-risk youth from around the world, approximately 170 youth who have no other home in Israel or a suitable setting for their return, remained at the Village during the first 30 days of the coronavirus lockdown. These youth continued learning and living at the Village



in small family "capsules" with educators and staff who live at Yemin Orde and who provided stability and reassurance to worried teens. Four weeks later, 150 more youth returned to the Village under strict quarantine guidelines. Before the end of the school year, Yemin Orde returned to full capacity, albeit with strict personal distance guidelines and crowd controls. Many youth will remain at Yemin Orde during the summer months to reinforce academic skills or because they have no other safe home. The Village is open 24/7, 365 days a year, for these teens without family in Israel or whose family situation is unsuitable.