

ImpactIsrael Announces New Leadership at Yemin Orde Youth Village

Boaz Schwartz takes over from Shmuli Bing to lead Yemin Orde's inclusive global community of educational excellence and support for 450 at-risk youth in Israel.

ImpactIsrael announces that Boaz Schwartz, a highly-experienced educational professional, is the new director of Yemin Orde Youth Village, effective January 1, 2021. Schwartz takes over from Shmuli Bing who served in educational and management leadership positions at Yemin Orde for 10 years. Schwartz joins the Yemin Orde and Village Way communities after serving as Principal of Maayanot High School since 2014. Yemin Orde Youth Village is home, school and safe haven to 450 at-risk youth from around the world. Its innovative Village Way educational methodology provides a meaningful and supportive familial environment needed for fragile youth to succeed. ImpactIsrael is the U.S.-based philanthropic partner of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives, an independent nonprofit organization established to scale the Village Way methodology, developed at Yemin Orde, and deliver educational solutions to other youth villages, therapeutic residential communities and public high schools with high populations of at-risk youth, including schools in Arab communities.



Chaim Peri, Director-Emeritus, Yemin Orde Youth Village, and Founder, Village Way Educational Initiatives, said Schwartz will be a great asset to the Yemin Orde-Village Way community.

"His zest to lead Yemin Orde to new heights is unmistakable. He perfectly resonates with the Village Way's mission and is resolute to make Yemin Orde its proud focal point, as the keeper of the flame," Chaim said. "When I asked him what are his career plans looking into the future, his answer was – 'this is my mission until retirement.' Bearing in mind that he's in his 40's, I find this most reassuring and uplifting in terms of commitment to our cause and a most welcome continuity."

Boaz trained alongside Shmuli Bing for several months during his transition to his new leadership position.

An official from Israel's Ministry of Education, Yakkov Shvot, said Boaz Schwartz represents excellence in educational leadership and commitment to helping Israel's next generation of leaders achieve to their fullest potential.

"After a long process of screening many good candidates, we've all agreed that Boaz Schwartz is the right person. He has educational background, he loves education, loves people and I'm certain that he will lead Yemin Orde to new peaks, to make Yemin Orde a place of example to what Israel society is all about," Shvot said.

Schwartz is an experienced educator and communicator having served as a high school teacher in Tiberias and a *Shaliach* (liaison) for the Jewish Agency for Israel, stationed in Belgium. He is a charismatic leader, capable of providing inspiration, loves working with people and has great passion for wanting to lead the Village. Schwartz has a B.A. in economics and business, M.A. in Israel history and is currently finishing his studies for a M.B.A. Schwartz serves in the Israel Defense Force's active reserves as a Lt. Colonel Brigade tank force officer.

As youth village Director, Schwartz will lead 70 fulltime educators, 28 part-time educators, and 47 informal educators (youth mentors) as well as teams of social workers, therapists, administrative and support staff and extra-curricular program instructors.

"Today, I take responsibility for a village with a team of people who are coming from many different backgrounds but who speak the same educational language and who understand that they are major part of a bigger and important picture," Schwartz said. "Every educational, therapeutic deed that is done here touches in the deep Israeli Jewish essence we all live and dream about."

Under Shmuli Bing's leadership, from 2010-2020, the Village faced two major challenging situations (2010 wildfire and the coronavirus pandemic) as well as exciting milestones, which includes recognition as a top high school in Israel, strengthening the Village's technology and science programs and enhancing the Eco-Farm to its current highly productive and verdant environment, among other exemplary academic programs and activities. Bing will join the leadership staff of the Schusterman Foundation in Israel.



Robert Arogeti, Board Chair, ImpactIsrael, reflected on the academic excellence that Shmuli helped to foster at the Village.

"Yemin Orde is a place with strong educational legacy and Shmuli's leadership and charisma made it even stronger. He brought the spirit of dreams, of pluralism, of hope and of excellence to our Village Way family," Arogeti said. "We look forward to working with Boaz and are grateful to Shmuli for his years of dedication and hard work."