

WOMEN'S AMERICAN ORT



OVERSEAS PROJECTS

2001-2002

ISRAEL

Women's American ORT

has identified the following ORT Israel programs in critical need of funding. By generously supporting WAO, you will have both a direct and long-term impact on the lives of countless men, women and children — providing them with skills to secure gainful, productive and satisfying employment. Your generosity will enable them to provide better lives for themselves and their families, and help build stronger Jewish communities in the United States and abroad. For more information, see our web site www.waort.org or call **800.51.WAORT.**

ORT Israel

ORT Israel is the network's flagship operation. Within this country, ORT operates the largest independent educational network — its name synonymous with quality technological and vocational education. ORT Israel's 140 schools and technological colleges offer vocational, technological and academic training to almost 100,000 students between the ages of five and 80. Graduates of ORT schools, now approaching half a million — nearly 25 percent of Israel's workforce — are found in every field of endeavor, trained to meet the evolving needs of a burgeoning high-tech economy.

The Sunflowers Project

It is difficult enough being hospitalized when you are just a child, but it is all the more stressful and challenging when you are there to receive treatment for cancer. Removed from friends and the normal, day-to-day activities of children, young patients can easily lose hope. That is why ORT has developed the Sunflowers Project. This unique, innovative program enables 100 ORT students to work as volunteers at eight hospitals throughout Israel, assisting children undergoing cancer treatment. Utilizing the technology taught to them by ORT, students meet the children at their hospitals to provide them with a variety of computer-based skills and activities. Youngsters who are bedridden and isolated from their world visit far-off places via virtual tours, keep up with and research school assignments, chat online with teachers and fellow classmates, or e-mail friends. With computers, Internet access, software and training all provided by ORT Israel, very ill children are able to stay connected to the ones they love, as well as explore the world beyond the hospital walls.

For those students who volunteer for the Sunflowers Project, ORT Israel provides thorough training and guidance to prepare them for all aspects of their volunteer duties. Special emphasis is placed on psychological support for student volunteers, given the challenging nature of the environment in which they work. While the Sunflowers Project certainly benefits the young cancer patients, it also has a profound effect upon volunteers. ORT student-volunteers learn first-hand the importance and value of helping people in need, and witness the direct results of their efforts. It is also ORT's belief that this experience will instill and develop an element of *chesed* (Hebrew: loving kindness) in the students who participate.

Celebrating its third successful year, the Sunflowers Project has recently implemented a new summer camp program. These one-week camps for patients, family members, and student-volunteers are free of charge, and include room, board and computer training for the children, as well as family members. But the camps provide much more than computer training: they help forge a broader and stronger emotional and psychological support system for the children, and create enduring friendships.



Note: Pacesetters only. Pacesetter gifts of \$25,000 or more will:

- allow ORT to upgrade and maintain computer hardware, software and Internet connections in the eight participating hospital units;
- provide training and guidance for the ORT students involved in the project;
- enable ORT to host four field trips and two summer camps for the patients and students involved in the Sunflowers Project.

ORT Hanna Senesh School: Matriculation Reinforcement for Slow Learners Project

Many of the students at ORT Hanna Senesh School in Haifa have only reached mediocre or below-standard levels of academic achievement (approximately 25 percent of the student body is diagnosed with learning disabilities). Most students come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, with histories of both familial and personal problems. To compound matters, many of these students are recent immigrants to Israel and are challenged by language and acculturation impediments. Despite these issues, the policy of the school's admissions board is to offer a place to any student who shows willingness and motivation, rather than the usual standards of high academic achievement.

ORT Hanna Senesh seeks to assist all of its students in overcoming their individual challenges in order to qualify for matriculation. To this end, the school plans to implement small group lessons, computer-aided teaching, remedial class work and, when appropriate,

individual tutoring to increase each student's potential for academic success. These strategies will allow teachers to interact more closely with students and give them the attention they need. Mobility will be encouraged within the study groups so that students can transfer from one group to another as their competency improves. Additionally, special attention will be given to English, reading comprehension, verbal expression and mathematics — the subjects that are at the core of the matriculation exams.

Contributions to this project will enable ORT to:

- allow Hanna Senesh to establish small study groups for all students;
- create additional weekly English classes for 10th-grade and 11th-grade study groups;
- develop and implement weekly learning strategy lessons for 10th and 11th graders;
- form weekly remedial mathematics classes for 16 groups of students in all grade levels.

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about Women's American ORT, please go to
our web site: www.waort.org*

ORT Miteranni High School: Promotion of Underachieving Students

ORT Miteranni High School in Holon is a multidisciplinary, special needs school that strives to improve the academic achievement of its students, all of whom have educational deficiencies and come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Most of Miteranni's 500 students arrive with undiagnosed and untreated learning disabilities, emotional and behavioral problems, as well as negative attitudes toward an educational system that has not met their needs. The majority of these students possess normal learning abilities, and with the appropriate support and guidance from Miteranni's teachers and staff, their performance in both the academic and social realms radically improves.

ORT Miteranni High School represents and offers a last opportunity for help that these children so desperately need and deserve, and unlocks the personal and academic potential that will lead them toward a brighter, more productive and fulfilling future.

Contributions to this project will enable ORT to:

- provide small study groups in reading comprehension, English and mathematics to help students with educational deficiencies function at their appropriate class level;
- establish remedial courses for students with learning disabilities;
- furnish individual counseling and behavioral skills-building curricula aimed at reducing truancy and dropout rates among at-risk youth;
- promote mediation techniques for the entire student body to reduce conflict and incidents of violence among students;

A multi-disciplinary, special needs school that strives to improve the academic achievement of its students, all of whom have educational deficiencies and come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

- create a structured afternoon study program that will enable teachers to provide individual help to students;
- host a series of parent group forums to increase cooperation between the school and parents, and to encourage parents to become more involved in their child's school life.

ORT Ya'arat Ha'Emek Community Junior High School: Laptop Computer Classrooms

As the modern workplace becomes increasingly reliant on computers, it is imperative that schools equip students with the facilities necessary to function, compete and succeed in a technologically-driven world. With this goal in mind, ORT Ya'arat Ha'Emek Junior High School plans to build a

computer classroom and equip 37 students in the 7th and 8th grades with laptop computers to enable them to become computer literate and incorporate computer technology into all aspects of their schoolwork.

ORT believes that this project will stimulate student interest and motivation, teach students how to study and learn independently, and ultimately lead to improved overall academic achievement.

Contributions to this project will enable ORT to:

- provide teacher training on the technical and pedagogical aspects of using computers in the classroom;
- purchase laptop computers and software for the students and teachers involved;
- connect the school to the Internet, allowing students



and teachers to communicate via e-mail and conduct online research;

- hire technicians to install and maintain both the computers and the network.



ORT Syngalowski Comprehensive High School: Promoting Academic Achievement

For students across Israel, the matriculation certificate, or *bagrut*, is the key to higher education. Achievement in several fields of study and final exam performances determine the breadth of opportunities available when seeking higher education. Thus, students with higher scores in a larger number of subject areas are afforded greater choices for higher education.

ORT Syngalowski Comprehensive High School in Tel Aviv, the first school established by ORT in Israel, seeks to empower all of its 1,300 students to realize superior matriculation scores, which will greatly increase their options for higher education, and lead them toward rewarding and satisfying careers. Serving students from a

disadvantaged socioeconomic group, ORT Syngalowski Comprehensive High School is creating enhancement programs to ensure that students are competitive with those from more affluent communities.

Contributions to this project will enable ORT to:

- establish small study groups, limited to 20 pupils, in the main subject areas of mathematics, English, physics, grammar, computers and electronics;
- offer auxiliary classes in mathematics and English to underachieving students who require extra support;
- identify and steer underachieving students into the Mechanics (CAD/CAM) or Industry and Management Accounting programs.

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ORT Yad Shapira High School: Improving a School with a Multi-Cultural Society

The words “A discerning eye, a guiding hand, and a feeling heart” are carved into the stone walls of ORT Yad Shapira High School in Tel Aviv. These simple, eloquent words are the driving principles behind this pioneering school. Yad Shapira’s primary goals are to train and educate its students to be productive members of Israel’s society and workforce, as well as to foster a multicultural, humanist community in Israel, where the ideals of tolerance, respect and solidarity with peoples of all backgrounds are paramount.

The school, established in 1965 and located in Tel Aviv, is renowned for successfully assisting new immigrants with absorption into their new homeland’s schools, businesses and society. Recently, Yad Shapira has developed a new curriculum that actively promotes understanding and tolerance among the various religions and cultures of Israel’s increasingly multi-ethnic community.

Students in grades 9 through 13, as well as their parents and teachers, are taught English, Hebrew, Arabic and Russian, in addition to being educated about Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions, religious holidays and values. Over 500 students —

including Jews, Christians and Muslims, as well as immigrants — are currently enrolled at Yad Shapira. The contact between the diverse cultures facilitated at Yad Shapira represents a vital opportunity for its students’ growth and enrichment, as well as a sure path towards peace and understanding for future generations in today’s increasingly diverse and complex world.

Contributions to this project will enable ORT to:

- create lessons that introduce immigrant students to Jewish life, identity and culture;
- enact a curriculum that teaches and instills an understanding of the language, culture and values of other groups;
- sponsor visits to holy sites of Jews, Christians and Muslims;
- schedule meetings with other school groups representing different cultures.





ORT Megadim Comprehensive High School: Science Centers Project

Since its founding, ORT Megadim Comprehensive High School in Karmiel has prepared thousands of students for careers in communications and the sciences, offering programs of study in biotechnology, astrophysics, environmental sciences as well as television and cinema. Of particular note, Karmiel was founded as one of Israel's "Development Towns" and continues to serve as a point of absorption for immigrants from all over the Diaspora.

Despite the school's reputation for innovative and exceptional courses of study, its five science laboratories, constructed and equipped in 1985 (before the widespread use of computer technology), are particularly outdated. Furthermore, the demand

for enrollment in science programs at ORT Megadim has significantly increased in recent years. Unfortunately, the lack of adequate and up-to-date science facilities has meant that only a limited number of the school's 1,300 students have the opportunity to pursue science studies and matriculation options in this field.

This project is designed to equip the school with a cutting-edge science-teaching infrastructure that will allow greater numbers of students to study the full range of curricular science subjects, utilizing up-to-date methods and facilities. The project will further prepare students through the establishment of a formal research program at ORT Megadim.

Contributions to this project will enable ORT to:

- upgrade electrical wiring systems and install computer network cabling;
- replace out-of-date laboratory furniture;
- purchase a range of modern scientific equipment, including five computers for each laboratory;
- acquire new laboratory equipment for teaching biotechnology and astrophysics courses.

ORT Melton High School and College: Student Achievement Improvement Project

In today's high-tech, global economy, the job market is more competitive than ever before. Therefore, it is crucial to outfit students with the skills that will permit them to maximize their educational experience and guarantee future success. ORT Melton High School in Bat Yam aims to do this with a groundbreaking program that increases each student's cognitive and learning abilities, as well as develops and implements more effective methods for teachers to utilize when teaching core subjects.

This project will provide an early intervention for 140 ninth graders entering ORT Melton, with the goal of profoundly enhancing their overall academic achievement. Rather than reinforcing lessons in a particular subject, this project aims to improve each student's overall performance by honing critical thinking skills and learning habits. By developing each student's ability to learn, this program will improve his/her prospects for achieving excellent

matriculation results upon graduation, thus expanding the student's options for higher education and employment.

Contributions to this project will enable ORT to:

- provide curricula to develop the students' exam preparation techniques, time organization and cognitive, analytical, research, memory and problem-solving skills;
- train teachers in new strategies for teaching core subjects;
- retain a part-time "virtual teacher" staff position to provide one-on-one help to students in two to three core subjects via the Internet.



For more information about these or other projects funded by Women's American ORT, please call 800.51.WAORT and ask for the Fund Development Office, or see our web site at www.waort.org.

Booklets also are available for projects in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, and ORT Operations USA. To obtain your copy, please call 800.51.WAORT or e-mail info@waort.org.

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You may also call **800.51.WAORT** to make a contribution on the phone during business hours or use our secure, online contribution form at www.waort.org.



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About Women's American ORT

A vital partner in the global ORT network, Women's American ORT (WAO) was founded in 1927 by a group of dedicated women who gathered in a Brooklyn kitchen to raise funds to assist European Jews in surviving the devastating aftermath of World War I. Since then, WAO's mission has evolved into providing ORT schools and programs throughout the world with the financial resources and leadership vital to ORT's efforts. Women's American ORT is the largest ORT affiliate, as well as the leading private contributor to World ORT. WAO's active and committed membership is over 50,000 strong, spread out among local chapters across the United States.

In the U.S., in addition to its fund-raising work, WAO's public policy platform advocates for quality public education, increased literacy, support of women's rights, strengthening the separation of church and state, combating anti-Semitism, and fostering Jewish communities worldwide.

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