

# ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN YOUTH VILLAGE

## JERUSALEM

### Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program

*"Visiting the village was inspirational. It added a unique level of spirituality and meaning to our trip. We made life-long connections....."*



A Bar/Bat Mitzvah marks the beginning of a young child's links to the Jewish people. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience at the Israel Goldstein Youth Village is an excellent way to strengthen your child's identification with his/her heritage by forging bonds with Jewish children in need from around the world who are living in Israel

**WHO WE ARE:** The Israel Goldstein Youth Village is a residential middle and upper school for children from deprived backgrounds, broken homes, and new immigrant youth from around the world. Most come to Israel without their parents or other relatives. We are located in the heart of Jerusalem. The Village was established in 1949 for orphans from the Holocaust and today almost 600 students use the facilities. It is a peaceful oasis, located in Jerusalem, in a country surrounded by turmoil. It provides young people with a warm and supportive home, emphasizes excellence in education and offers enrichment and after-school programs that the students would have no opportunity to enjoy in their home environment.

The school is uniquely *pluralistic*, educating *religious and secular young people together and teaching tolerance*. The Village is extremely proud that almost 100% of its graduates enter the Israel Defense Forces and many serve in elite combat units and have completed officer training.

### SPECIAL VILLAGE PROGRAMS

**MAGSHIMIM School** for children with severe autism – Students are integrated into many Village programs

**AFRICAN Refugee Program:** In a truly courageous move and as a humanitarian gesture, the Village opened its gates in the summer of 2009 to 19 African refugees from Eritrea, Sudan, and Somalia who had been living in a detention camp for several months.



We welcome Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrants from around the world. Visit us, learn more about us and help us in our efforts to provide a safe and loving home for our students. And, pair with a student who shares your interests to exchange emails and get to know one another before you arrive in Israel. Practical activities include "meet and greet" our students; help plant a garden; renovate, paint, etc. If you have raised money for the Village, we will show you how the village benefited from your donation.

### Sample Itinerary

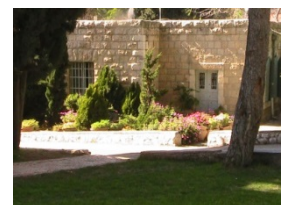
**10.15a.m.** Arrive at Village – short introduction to the Village/History/What we do/Who we are. Tour of Village including Gardens, Music and Sports Centers (possible short concert/dance performance/student choir) Visit schools and resource center.

**10.45a.m.** The Bar/Bat-Mitzvah meets and chats to a few hand-picked students who share his/her interests. Ideally the connection has begun prior to visiting but this is not essential. Time for a basketball game? Make music together? Check out the petting zoo? How do our students share your dreams and how are they different? You probably have more in common than you thought!

**10.45a.m.** Adults enjoy mid-morning snack with Village Director. Have all your questions answered

**11.15a.m.** Special Program (depending on your interests) – Help renovate a dorm/Plant a garden/Paint a room/Donate musical instruments OR bring sports equipment – join in music basketball/soccer/aerobics/dance etc.

**12.15p.m.** Either departure – or join us for lunch –



*We look forward to meeting you – Mazel Tov!*