

Sderot – The Central Hesder Yeshiva and the “Shluchot” Revolution!

The Torah Revolution in Sderot

The Central Max and Ruth Schwartz Hesder Yeshiva of Sderot was founded over 15 years ago and now has more than 400 students. The rapid growth of the Yeshiva despite the thousands of missiles aimed at Sderot, together with the construction of a magnificent campus has served to strengthen the spirit of all the residents and uplift the status of Torah throughout the region. Over the years Sderot has become just about the largest Hesder Yeshiva in Israel and is blessed with a very high religious and scholastic level.



400 strong in the main study hall

Unique Outreach Affiliate Institutions

The Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi David Fendel, a literal powerhouse behind so many local projects - both spiritual and material – came on Aliyah from the United States to build both his home and a world of Torah in Sderot. In addition to building our main Hesder institution, Rabbi Fendel led a true revolution in the yeshiva world when he insisted on establishing and receiving official recognition for 2 affiliate institutions (“Shluchot” in Hebrew) serving a more varied clientele than other Hesder Yeshivot. Rav Fendel believed that with the right approach, with a warm and unique staff it would be possible to reach out and attract graduates of regular religious high schools and turn them into proud Torah-true Jews and soldiers imbued with deep faith and self- sacrifice.

To achieve this goal Sderot has established two affiliates– Yeshivat Lev La’Daat also in Sderot led by Rabbi Shlomo Binyamin now numbering about 130 students and Yeshivat Derech Chaim in Kiryat Gat headed by Rabbi Amir Maman with over 70 students.



Purim Celebration at Lev LaDaat

The secret of success of the “Shluchot” is an abundance of warmth and personal attention. For every 4-5 students we have a rebbe or older study partner. The students study in very small groups and advance each according to his own level. The Central Yeshiva as well as both affiliate institutions continue to grow and develop apace. This past year Lev La’Daat opened a teachers’ training program and additional career training in tandem with their religious studies so they can acquire a profession and move up in life.

True Victory over Arab Terror

One cannot overstate the importance of a town like Sderot having two Yeshivot at different ends of town which emanate the Torah and the spirit of Jewish heroism especially during this period of renewed attacks on the Negev. Young men come to Sderot to study Torah and then go on to make their homes here despite the situation. This is the true victory over Arab terror.



**Rocket strikes campus,
Rav Fendel in background**



Central Hesder Yeshiva Building

Building Torah

Generous Jews from Israel and the Diaspora have stood beside Rabbi Fendel and helped him build one of the most beautiful campuses in the country serving the main Yeshiva. Families like the Moskowitzs, the Wexners, the Schwartzes, the Picciotto family from Brazil and others came forward to perpetuate their names and the names of loved ones by being partners in the construction of the main campus.

Now is the time to Invest in our Affiliate Programs!

Our Kiryat Gat affiliate, Yeshivat “Derech Chaim” is situated on a ramshackle collection of temporary structures on a choice piece of real estate we were renting from the municipality. With the skyrocketing demand for land in Kiryat Gat (see separate article), we had no choice but to take on a heavy commitment in order to purchase the plot. With the tremendous registration we are having, we must begin construction of dormitories immediately.

At our “Lev LaDaat” affiliate only the first floor dining room has been built and temporarily it is being used as a Beit Midrash as well. Students live in rented apartments in the area since construction of the dormitory was temporarily stopped due to lack of funds.

Both Sderot and Kiryat Gat have been targeted by Grad missiles, Kassam rockets and mortar fire. Having the students live in rented apartments not adjacent to these two Yeshivot is both a religious problem and a security risk.

We need new partners to do for our affiliates as others have done for the central Yeshiva. Help us continue to bring the light of the Torah to Israel's development towns!



Unfinished Lev LaDaat Dorm



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