Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure to share and celebrate ORT America’s global impact with you in this 2019 Annual Review.

As the world changes at an unprecedented scale, we are proud to provide students around the world with skills needed to overcome new challenges and to succeed both today and into the future. Through our expanding network of schools, colleges, and universities, we equip students to develop agile mindsets and adopt quickly to changing environments. In fact, our work shapes how students approach an ever-growing array of new tools with application to new fields and solving new problems.

We understand that rapid change is disorienting for students and adults alike. ORT America addresses this reality by providing students with not only a community and network, but also the values to ground and support them through their growth.

At our 140th anniversary, we have much cause to celebrate. Today, our work supports 300,000 students, educators and community members in more than 30 countries. Through generous donors and supporters like you, we are forging a brighter future. Thank you.

Gratefully,

Barbara Birch  
President and CEO  
ORT America

Howard Lanzner  
Chair, Board of Directors
ORT America is a vital partner to World ORT, a global education network driven by Jewish values.

As World ORT's largest fundraising body, ORT America supports the wide array of services ORT provides to propel students to develop careers and lead fulfilling, independent lives. For 140 years, ORT has bridged the gap between aptitude and opportunity, strengthened Jewish identities and ensured the continuity of Jewish life worldwide.

OUR MISSION
ORT's mission is to increase access to high-quality education leading to professional success and economic independence.

I have a passion for physics, and because of ORT I will have the ability to pursue my passion as part of Intel's team when I graduate.”

Anna
Student at Be'er Sheva Technological College, Israel

49 schools around the world

Active in 30+ countries

Impact

300K+ students

8,000+ teachers
Following World War I, we pivoted our mission from supporting Russian Jewry to connecting Jews worldwide. Since then, we have transformed countless lives from underserved communities through access to excellent education.

JEWISH IDENTITY
ORT schools combine excellent general education with formal and informal Jewish studies curricula that include Hebrew language and literature, Jewish traditions and culture, Jewish history and Israel studies. In many communities, ORT is reinvigorating Jewish life by providing students with a sense of Jewish identity, commitment and connection to their fellow Jews around the world.

SHARED KNOWLEDGE
ORT promotes shared experiences, such as our international student programs, teacher training courses and annual ORT Day, to provide opportunities and connect with others.

STEM EDUCATION
Our investment in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) tools and education helps students understand important global and local issues, and develop skills in critical thinking and problem-solving that will allow them to participate fully in 21st-century life.

CONTINUING EDUCATION
ORT helps students of all ages prepare for, and keep pace with, the evolving needs of the contemporary workplace through further education and vocational training.
Our global education network benefits 300,000 students, educators and community members every year in more than 30 countries. The ORT family creates a sense of belonging where we can learn from each other’s passion and perspective.
EMPOWERING STUDENTS & TEACHERS

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOLS
Our student summer schools in Israel, Panama and Bulgaria use the latest educational technologies to broaden students’ knowledge of STEM, ecology and digital skills.

ANNUAL COMPETITIONS
- Harutz Award for Social Responsibility encourages students to focus on Tikvah Olam projects
- Jewish Animation and STEM Communication awards recognize students who explain a complicated science theme in layman’s terms
- Taub Young Entrepreneurship Program promotes business entrepreneurship, motivates students and encourages collaboration.

ROBOTRAFFIC COMPETITION
ORT teams dominated the tenth Nadiav Shoham Robotraffic competition at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, securing four first-place victories for their entries of electric and efficient small vehicles.

GROWING THE NETWORK
Sir Manasseh Meyer International School (SMMS) in Singapore and JSG Maimonides Secondary School in Amsterdam joined the ORT network as affiliated schools.

TEACHER TRAINING
We invest in our educators, providing them with effective tools:
- Teachers visited London in 2019 for the Hotter Technology Seminar, which explores developments in STEM teaching and learning.
- The Leadership Training Program (LEAD) seminar develops ORT’s future educational leaders and senior managers.

WORLD YOUTH ENCOUNTER
The 4-day event organized by ORT and Scholas – an international group promoted by Pope Francis – brought 55 ORT students from 9 countries to Mexico City for four days of interfaith discussions and cross-cultural learning.

I love my students, and I love our teachers. We try to personalize each student’s experience, to know their stories, to understand their challenges and to give them individualized attention.”

Ronit
Principal
Yitzchak Rabin High School
Kiryat Yam, Israel

Thousands of ORT students and teachers around the world come together to mark ORT Day on April 10.
World ORT Kadima Mada, our operational arm in Israel, focuses on strengthening the low socio-economic communities in Israel’s geographic periphery.

**IN 2019:**

- World ORT Kadima Mada served 2,100 students and 400 teachers throughout Israel’s periphery.
- Levinson and Rabin schools in Kiryat Yam won Ministry of Education awards for outstanding schools in the 2018-19 school year.
- 11 YOUUniversity Excellence Centers offered 45 different STEM courses to more than 6,000 students.
- The RoboActive 2096 team from Dimona won The Engineering Inspiration Award at the 2019 World Robotics Competition for promoting social initiatives that inspire the local community and received a NASA scholarship to finance their 2020 participation fee.
- 125 students at the Beer Sheva Technological College benefited from the Ashbal program, which supports individuals from Bedouin communities in the Negev.

**KFAR SILVER YOUTH VILLAGE**

In 2019, ORT America embarked on a $1 million challenge to renovate the kitchen and dining hall at Kfar Silver, a rural day and boarding school in Southern Israel. 214 of the nearly 700 students aged 12-18 board at Kfar Silver.

With your help, we met our ambitious goal, expanding the dining hall capacity while providing a safe, welcoming space for meals, homework, tutoring and celebrations. The renovation is part of a multi-year, multi-million-dollar effort to upgrade and enhance the campus, which features an organic dairy and agricultural farm that are maintained by the students.

Robots has changed my life in ways I did not even know were possible. My mentors and teammates have become my family & the experience has transformed the way I learn & interact with my peers.”

Ron
Student at YOUUniversity Center of Excellence: Dimona
RoboActive, Israel
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WITH THE ANIÈRES ELITE ACADEMY

The Anières engineering and technology scholarship program in Israel provides opportunities for talented teenagers from around the world to pursue careers as scientists and engineers.

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Anières graduate Daria Leviton studies at the Technion and runs her own business that teaches children to do quick mental mathematics. She sees her mathematics training centers as an opportunity to give back to the community, the way the Anières program supported her when she moved to Israel from Russia.

IMPACT IN LATIN AMERICA

ORT works in eight countries in Latin America.

In February, the Colegio Israelita de México (CIM-ORT) unveiled an innovative urban garden, encouraging healthy eating and an understanding of the environment.

A team of students from CIM-ORT won the 2018-19 World ORT Taub Young Entrepreneurship Program (YEP). YEP promotes innovation, motivates students and encourages collaboration.

“IT was amazing to live through the journey of transforming an initial idea to a business project. YEP gave us the tools to be better prepared for our futures and helped us understand that there is still so much we can learn.”

Alexa Polichuk
CIM-ORT Team Member

CIM-ORT students and teachers traveled to Cuba on a second Tikkun Olam mission, delivering needed goods and medicines to members of the island’s Jewish community.

Professor Charlotte de Grünberg, Director General of the Universidad ORT Uruguay, received a special mention at the 30th awarding of the Jerusalem Prize in December.
IMPACT IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AND EUROPE

With a presence in countries from the Atlantic to the Black Sea, ORT provides numerous opportunities to contribute to, and benefit from, its educational and training programs.

FRIENDLY DEBATE AT INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Three 10th grade students from the Moscow ORT Technical School 1540 became the first Russian team to take part in the Parliamentary Debate World Conference (PDWC) competition in Japan in February.

EXPERIENCING ORT’S IMPACT

Members of the Jewish United Fund of Chicago (JUF) and Jewish Federations of North America visited the Sholom Aleichem ORT School in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Its Hebrew studies and STEM education program have contributed to the school’s ranking as one of the best in the city, helping it attract both Jewish and non-Jewish students in the community.

1,835

women took part in our adult training courses in the FSU*

*FSU (Former Soviet Union)

The PDWC competition in Japan provided opportunities for the serious exchange of opinions in a spirit of friendly competition with other students from around the world, thus developing the students’ abilities to consider the future global society as well as fostering lifelong friendships.”

Darya Papina
ORT English Teacher
Moscow ORT Technical School

55%

of our students from the FSU study STEM-related topics at university
ORT’s work in South Africa empowers teachers and improves literacy in townships, encourages budding entrepreneurs and provides job search skills and guidance.

ORT supported trainees from Burkina Faso and Senegal to take part for the first time in a UNESCO-funded course on water provision, learning a range of hydrology skills in Ouagadougou.

“It was amazing to see what other schools are doing with their Makerspaces and it was an honor to present what we do here at King David. We all left feeling enriched, inspired, and completely ready to use our knowledge that we gained.”

Jodene Pereira
SMMIS Teacher attending the Hatter Seminar
In London

ORT SA in Cape Town trained more than 1,500 teachers and reached 46,500 children.

START-UP CHALLENGE

ORT’s Start-Up Challenge, a STEM series held at summer camps across the United States, brought the spirit of Israel’s start-up nation to campers. A professional team from World ORT Kadima Mada developed and ran the hands-on experience in a range of technology-related disciplines such as:

- Robotics
- Photography
- Videography
- Virtual reality

Campers also learn about life in Israel and the role of technology and entrepreneurship in society.

More than 700 students were introduced to the vibrancy of Israeli innovation during STEM summer camps across the United States.
Bringing ORT Together

For 140 years, ORT has been at the heart of education in the Jewish world, transforming lives through training and teaching.

We are spreading this message in 2020 and hope to inspire a new generation of supporters and donors. We will energize the network’s sense of belonging and lay the foundations for another 140 years of transforming lives and providing opportunities for socio-economic mobility.

ANNUAL MEETING
At ORT America’s annual meeting, held in June 2019, we honored outgoing president Larry Kadis, who has been a supporter and leader in Cleveland for over 30 years.

Incoming Chairman Howard Lanznar shared ORT America’s business plan to dramatically improve ORT’s fundraising efforts in the United States over the next five years.

MAJOR DONOR RECEPTION
In October, ORT America held our annual cocktail reception in honor of our major donors. In addition to celebrating our generous donors, we announced Barbara Birch as our new President and Chief Executive Officer.

Thank you to the nearly 8,000 donors who support ORT America each year. Following are those donors who generously gave $500 or more in 2019.

We have made every effort to accurately recognize donors. Please provide any updated information or corrections by emailing info@ortamerica.org.
### Financial Update

**Revenue, Public Support, and Other Support**
- Contributions and funds raised
- Grant income
- Membership dues
- Legacies
- Investment income
- Income from real estate partnerships
- Miscellaneous

**Expenses, Distribution, and Others**
- Fundraising Support
- Management and General
- US Operations
- World ORT Program Support
- National & Fundraising Activities

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We gratefully recognize these donors, as well as the contributions of those who wish to remain anonymous.

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ORT extends its deepest appreciation to the Jewish federations in the United States and to the Jewish Federations of North America for their ongoing partnership and support of ORT.

ORT America donors receive invitations to ORT America events and briefings and are welcomed for on-site tours of ORT programs.

Thank you for your support!

If it wasn’t for my school, I wouldn’t have had the chance to meet new people and to transcend borders and cultures. This program has affected me as a person.”

Idan
Yitzchak Rabin High School
Kiryat Yam, Israel