



Social entrepreneurs Rivka Ariel (right) and Yael Wedeck pitch their program—Yedei Moshe—to the Accelerator Board this past September. Yedei Moshe places teenagers for whom the traditional school environment does not work in meaningful jobs that teach responsibility and respect.

OU Impact Accelerator Announces Winners!

The OU Impact Accelerator, a six-month program built on mentorship-based growth and early-stage funding for Jewish nonprofit entrepreneurs, announced its first cohort! During September's pitch night at the OU Headquarters in New York, twelve semi-finalist ventures, originating from fifty-seven applicants, pitched their nonprofits to the Accelerator Board, OU senior leadership, and each other. After careful deliberation, in October the Accelerator Board selected the following six winners for the 2018-2019 Cohort:



NechamaComfort supports families who have suffered miscarriage, stillbirth or infant loss. Services include immediate help at the time of the loss, and ongoing individual, family and group support.



GrowTorah develops educational Torah garden programs for Jewish schools and communal organizations, incubating *emunah*, environmental stewardship, compassion for creatures and *tzedakah*.



Yedei Moshe places teenagers for whom the traditional school environment does not suit in meaningful jobs that teach responsibility and respect. By learning a trade, teens build confidence and skills.



Imadi provides advocates to families struggling with mental illness to ensure basic needs, such as meals, carpools and childcare, are met. Imadi helps establish functionality in homes that are suffering due to mental illness.



The Young Talent Initiative (YTI) channels the creativity of young men ages sixteen to twenty-one through professional music training, teaching them how creativity can enhance all aspects of their lives.



TorahAnytime records Torah lectures given around the world and uploads the footage to its web site, enabling viewers around the globe to watch or listen, free of charge. This online Torah resource for the busy adult aggregates Torah *shiurim* through various digital platforms.

The OU Impact Accelerator's vision is to serve as a hub for Jewish innovation within the Orthodox world.

—Jenna Beltser, Founding Director