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## **Youth Renewal Fund Receives \$500,000 Bequest from Prominent Philanthropist**

### *The YRF Lore Ross Literacy Project named in honor of generous benefactor*

**September 22, 2009 – New York, NY** – Youth Renewal Fund (YRF), a leading implementer of education programs for disadvantaged children in Israel, announces the inauguration of the Lore Ross Literacy Project, named in honor of the generous benefactor who made an unrestricted \$500,000 bequest to YRF upon her death on February 28, 2009.

Lore Ross was a remarkable individual. Born in Germany in 1920, she was imprisoned by the Nazis in a French internment camp and escaped over the Pyrenees to Portugal, where she found passage to the United States. Her husband Eric, also a Holocaust survivor, achieved prominence as a manufacturer of plastics and other chemical compounds. Together, the couple supported numerous charitable causes throughout their lives, both nationally and internationally.

Mrs. Ross was known for her intelligence, conviction and compassion. An immigrant herself, she volunteered to teach night courses in English to recent immigrants, furthering her belief in the importance of literacy as a pathway to success.

In the spirit of its namesake, the YRF Lore Ross Literacy Project is founded on the principle that every Israeli child should have the opportunity to master the tools of language, regardless of his or her socioeconomic or ethnic status. The literacy curriculum will directly serve more than 1,200 students in YRF's after-school programs in 2010 alone, and will reach thousands more in future years.

YRF US Executive Director Karen Berman, spoke of the initiative's importance, "This project is a core piece of YRF's education philosophy. Many of the children YRF serves are recent immigrants from countries like Ethiopia and the Former Soviet Union. Mastering the Hebrew language is a major obstacle for these students. Lore Ross's generosity is enabling them—and their Israeli-born peers for whom literacy is also a struggle—to receive the level of instruction and guidance needed to fulfill their academic potential."

Every child who studies in YRF's after-school programs will receive a hardcover notebook as part of the literacy curriculum. A portion of each language class will be devoted to writing personal thoughts and reflections in the notebook, based on a set of topics designed to foster self-awareness and cognitive growth. Each notebook will contain a special bookmark that explains the Lore Ross Literacy Project and tells how its namesake overcame adversity to build a successful life.

Lore Ross is survived by her husband, Eric; her daughter, Barbara Bermann and her husband, Pedro; her son, Peter Ross and his wife, Marsha; a sister, Margot Ruskay; seven grandchildren, Daniela Bermann, Andrea Kaplan, Steven Ross, Robert Ross, David Ross, Jeffrey Ross, and Marc Ross; and two great-grandchildren, Jordan and Joelle Kaplan. Members of the Ross family have been generous supporters of Youth Renewal Fund's efforts for many years.

*Youth Renewal Fund is a non-profit organization that provides education opportunities for underprivileged Israeli children and works to create positive change in the Israeli education system through the implementation of a comprehensive program for teacher professional development.*

*For more information about Youth Renewal Fund in English, please visit [www.youthrenewalfund.org](http://www.youthrenewalfund.org) or contact Karen Berman, YRF US Executive Director, at 212 207 3195.*

*For information about Youth Renewal Fund in Hebrew, please visit [www.yrf.org.il](http://www.yrf.org.il) or contact Galit Toledano-Harris, YRF Israel Executive Director, at 972 3 632 2912.*

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