

OPRAH'S ANGEL NETWORK™ ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH TARBUT V'TORAH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

Tarbut V'Torah – Press Release

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HONORS STUDENTS' PASSION TO RAISE AWARENESS, BUILD SCHOOL IN RURAL KENYA

IRVINE, CA—When Oprah's Angel Network™ announced Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School had earned a place in the highly selective O Ambassador program, students broke out in celebration. "I'm glad that we're honored," says club member Katie Deloach, "but what really excites me is the difference we'll be able to make for students in Africa!"

It is this selfless attitude that originally caught the interest of Angel Network, who noted the school's commitment to Tikkun Olam, the Hebrew term for repairing the world. Backed by Free the Children and Oprah's Angel Network™, the O Ambassador Program is a high school student leadership program based in North America. Designed to raise awareness about the Millennium Development Goals, the program empowers students to become agents of change through mentorship programs and club involvement. Students are responsible for planning a service project from the ground up; "They will learn how to raise and manage money, involve the community, plan a large-scale project, speak basic Swahili, and physically build a school building for the children of rural Masai Mara," says Dr. Laura Roth, Upper School Principal. "These are important life-skills, but they are also essential attributes for active, compassionate and knowledgeable global citizens. The whole school has risen up in support."

Eighteen high school students from Tarbut V'Torah have been selected to take part in the exciting leadership and volunteer program in Kenya, where the club will focus on "education" as its Millennium Goal, financing and constructing a school for local residents. Each O Ambassador was chosen through Oprah's Angel Network and Free the Children because of their commitment to service and humanitarian activities. Indeed, their passion is evident: Senior Matt Timsit, O Ambassador club president, recently was selected as a "Cool Kid" and appeared on ABC-7 to promote the program's "Walk-and-Learn" fundraiser taking place on March 20th, which will "not only function as a walkathon to raise funds to build a school in rural Kenya, but will also teach the community here about the situation in Africa."

The Walk-and-Learn will be a journal for K-12 students, parents, grandparents, and the community to walk as one, united by their desire to change the world for good. Many

community luminaries have already expressed interest in attending, including delegates from the Kenyan Embassy in Los Angeles, CA.

“In order to bring education to Africa,” notes club member Aaron Ettl, “we first have to educate the local community. That is why we are leading a series of informative assemblies - we want to show how helping impoverished students in Kenya ties in with the core values of our school, Truth, Kindness, Respect, Community, Justice and Reparation of the World.” Ettl continues, “We are also using a community yard sale to reach beyond our school. By making our unused possessions available for reuse, we address the Millennium Goal of sustainable development, while simultaneously raising money to help build the school in Masai Mara.”

Indeed, the task facing these O Ambassadors is daunting; they must raise over \$75,000 in order to make the June 2009 trip. But rather than be intimidated, Tarbut V’Torah’s O Ambassador Program plans to raise money through a combination of grants, donations and student-led fundraising activities.

The Millennium Development Goals empower millions of people with the opportunity to learn, grow and break out of poverty. World leaders have promised to meet these goals by 2015, but it is up to everyone to work together to ensure the goals are met. Tarbut V’Torah invites the community to join them in this endeavor. With a proper education, an African child can learn basic skills – like literacy – which increases their life expectancy and earning potential, ending the cycle of poverty. Join TVT for these important events:

The O Ambassador Walk-and-Learn

Friday, March 20th 1:00pm
Lower School fields
5200 Bonita Canyon Drive
Irvine, CA 92660

The O Ambassador 400 Family Community Yard Sale

Sunday March 22, 7:00-Noon
Upper School Parking Lot
5 Federation Way
Irvine, CA 92603

About Tarbut V’Torah Community Day School:

The mission at TVT is “to provide superior educational opportunities in a pluralistic Jewish environment.” Offering comprehensive instruction in grades K-12, TVT is committed to ensuring that every Jewish child receives a world-class education. Indeed, student SAT scores continue to rise, with the Class of 2008 scoring more than 25 points over 1,826, the benchmark average used by the University of California System to enroll the state’s top students. Furthermore, 100% of TVT’s graduating seniors meet the minimum course requirements for UC enrollment.

This year the school joins Oprah's Angel Network and Free the Children in celebrating a tradition of service with the O Ambassador program, empowering students to work with the United Nations in bringing the Millennium Goals to fruition. Visit www.tarbut.com for more information and events.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information on the O Ambassadors™ program visit www.oambassadors.org
For more information on Free the Children visit <http://www.freethechildren.com>
For more information on Millennium Development Goals visit <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>