

Program Update



ORT-KesherNet

The Challenge

ORT-KesherNet centers help women become self-sufficient and empower them to take action to improve not only their own lives but the quality of life in their communities. But we need to ensure that more women in need can benefit from the centers' services.

The Response

The ORT-KesherNet centers enable unemployed and underemployed women in the former Soviet Union and Baltic States to move towards self-sufficiency. The women gain valuable job skills and also receive the personal support and basic leadership training necessary to empower them to take leading roles in local women's groups, addressing humanitarian issues and Jewish causes.

ORT and Project Keshet, which currently fund 15 centers that have already graduated 8,000 students, would like to upgrade these centers and open more. Most of the graduates have successfully improved their economic situation – at a cost of less than \$100 per student. And the majority of graduates have become more engaged in improving their communities through volunteerism or philanthropy.

ORT-KesherNet centers are open to all members of the community based on need. The project gives priority to single mothers, the unemployed, refugees and other vulnerable groups. The centers are located in communities where Project Keshet has a strong relationship with both Jewish and secular organizations. ORT and Project Keshet work closely with local communities and their leaders to ensure that target groups are aware of the project.

The Partner Organizations

ORT, Project Keshet

ANALYSIS DATE: 10/16/2006

PREPARED BY

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Unmet Need

ORT seeks donors to support the ORT-KesherNet network for the next four years, to upgrade and continue the work of the 15 existing centers and to add six new centers.

In Real Life

Yelena K. from Rybinsk, Russia is a 27-year-old woman with two children who divorced her husband due to domestic violence. Wanting to go to Israel but fearing the move because she had no skills, she enrolled in the ORT-KesherNet center. Today, she lives in Israel and supports her family with a job in data entry.

Funding

Annual Budget: Year 1: \$381,861; Year 2: \$235,671; Year 3: \$235,671; Year 4: \$235,671. Matching funds available.

Funding Period: Four years

