It's **LAUNCH DAY**!

Are you a Jewish nonprofit entrepreneur? Do you know of a great venture in your community? The OU Impact Accelerator Cohort II application is now **LIVE**. Cohort entrepreneurs receive education, mentorship and funding for their Jewish nonprofit ventures. Share our application with your community.

| APPLY HERE |

**INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES:**

Cohort I has concluded their final seminar at the OU Headquarters. What have they been up to since joining the OU Accelerator?

**Recent Accomplishments**

- **GrowTorah**: founder Yosef Gillers was awarded "36 Under 36" by the Jewish Week. Yosef was recently featured on Hazon's new podcast, **JOFFICE**, and a live stream with **Refuat Hanefesh**.

- **imadi**: was accepted to **Good Counsel**'s Cohort Program. And, imadi recently collaborated with Misameach, which now offers its **family center** to imadi families. Misameach founder Lipa Schwartz, related, "there is no difference if a family is suffering from physical or mental illness. Struggling families deserve the programs we offer."

- **NechamaComfort**: founder Reva Judas was recognized by the Russell Berrie Foundation Unsung Hero Award committee. NechamaComfort launched their fourth monthly support group in West Hempstead, NY.

- **TorahAnytime**: launched a WhatsApp Daily dose in April and already has 6,000 participants signed up. Sign up [here](#). In June, 1.9 million minutes of Torah were learned, totaling 1,350 days of learning in just one month on the call-in technology alone!
• **Work At It:** has hired an additional staff member, Rocky Salomon, and is growing its team as well as Rabbinical Board. Rivka Loewi, WAI founder, just graduated from the Chesed Leadership Program.

**Infrastructure Highlights**

• **On-site Visits:** We've been visiting the ventures "on-site", to see their programming firsthand. Imad held a volunteer training in May, GrowTorah taught us how to make bread from wheat, detailing all the shabbos melachos involved. NechamaComfort hosted a grief awareness workshop in the Five Towns last February, teaching the community how to help their neighbors through difficult times.

• **Seeing is Believing:** On May 28, we hosted a panel for OU colleagues to learn about the incredible Accelerator program and how the selection, education, and collaboration has helped Cohort I grow. The founders articulated how the selection process itself forced them to focus on their goals, how the collaboration provided a new community of practice to build with, and the mentorship propelled their organizations forward. A few sneak peaks [here](#).

• **Mentorship:** We've had another group of amazing mentors at Seminar 4 to help the organizations plan their Demo Day presentations, as well as strategize for scale and growth. Thank you to all the mentors for joining our program.

• **Marketing and Evaluation:** Seminar 4 focused on marketing and evaluation. How can we best define ourselves to best reach our intended market? Thank you to Ari Weinstock with Brandshake and the social media experts at Sosemo, as well as OU Marketing and Center for Communal Research for sharing your expertise. Evaluation focused on measuring true **impact** of our efforts, and how to evaluate our programs to constantly improve.

**ON THE HORIZON:**

While the seminars may have ended for Cohort I, we're not stopping there. See what's on the horizon for the OU Impact Accelerator:

• **July 15, 2019:** Cohort II application launch!
• **September 5, 2019:** Cohort II application closes
• **September 11, 2019:** Cohort I Demo Day
• **Sep - Nov 2019: Selection Process** - Online application review, interviews, and pitch night to select the next cohort of Accelerator entrepreneurs
• **Nov 2019: Alumni Community Launch** - Launch of our first alumni event, to continue fostering collaboration and building a community of practice

• **Dec 2019: Cohort II Announcement**

**DEMO DAY - SAVE THE DATE**

**IN THEIR VIEW:**

“I loved the mentoring. I was so impressed with the presenters who all made themselves so accessible should we have questions that come up later down the road.” – **Chana Schechter, imadi**

"Thank you for all the hard work you did putting together the accelerator! Klal Yisrael is better for it and at the end of the day, we're all working in the same company for the same Boss. It's our constant effort and commitment to learning - then iterating and reiterating what we can along the way.” – **Yosef Davis, TorahAnytime**

“There are no words to express my gratitude on behalf of NechamaComfort. With your wonderful guidance and knowledge you can know that you are helping so many Jewish families with dealing with and coping with the tragedy of infant and or pregnancy loss.” – **Reva Judas, NechamaComfort**

“Being part of a cohort has meant support on many levels. Each team comes with different strengths, and everyone has shared information, ideas, and successes. We’ve also been available to each other for harder times - offering suggestions, encouragement, or just a friendly ear.” – **Rivka Ariel, Yedei Moshe**

"Hearing from the OU professionals has been completely energizing for me. Thank gd this is happening in our community, at the Orthodox Union, and they are sharing that with us and now, we’re expected to share that with others. That has been empowering for me." - **Yosef Gillers, GrowTorah**
The OU Impact Accelerator relies on the donations of its partners and supporters to transform the landscape of the Jewish community and address our most pressing needs. Please consider making a donation to the OU Impact Accelerator to advance our work.

INVEST WITH US!

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