The Impact Accelerator: Introducing Cohort 2.0

The OU Impact Accelerator hasn’t slowed down since Demo Day. We’ve been reviewing the 81 venture applications, and after a careful selection process, from interviews to pitch night, we have selected the 4 nonprofit startups joining Cohort II of the OU Impact Accelerator. We know you’ve been eagerly awaiting this announcement and look forward to highlighting the successes and growth that takes place over the next year.

Here are the Cohort II Ventures:

**ANI TEFILLAH/The Voice of Jewish Education**
Founded by Tamar Nusbaum

A Tefillah-enhancement curriculum that imbues the process of prayer with deeper meaning and connection for school-age children, making the experience one that children can look forward to on a daily basis. The recitation of prayer is transformed from rote behavior to a personalized relationship with the Creator, emphasizing Hebrew language skills so that each child can eventually learn Tefillah independently.

**Chinuch Yehudi**
Founded by Chaim Berstein

Founded to educate the 750,000-1,000,000 Israelis in the United States about the critical need of providing their children with a Jewish day school education and assist them, financially and otherwise, in transferring their children to Orthodox Jewish day schools.

**Communities Confronting Substance Abuse, Inc.**
Founded by Lianne and Etiel Forman

Founded with the goals of bringing awareness, education, prevention and programming regarding substance abuse and addiction to local Jewish communities. CCSA has launched a professionally facilitated support group for family members and loved ones of sufferers, hosted community education and awareness events, and worked with yeshiva day schools and high schools to provide faculty training, and parent and student programming.

**Daily Giving**
Founded by Jonathan Donath

A platform where you sign up and are guaranteed the mitzvah of Tzedaka every day for as little as $1 a day. Daily Giving is able to give meaningful donations to worthy, vetted Jewish charities worldwide. Whether it’s feeding the poor, helping those with special needs, or many other worthy national Jewish charities Daily Giving supports, the power of crowd donations turns your $1 into so much more.
Welcoming Cohort 2.0

We were so excited to welcome our new cohort with a wonderful evening at the Centre for Social Innovation. This included Cohort II meeting Cohort I to consult with each other in their varied areas of expertise. We then had an incredibly insightful and enlightening panel on social innovation in the Jewish entrepreneurial community. We cannot wait to grow and explore more with this new group.

Alumni News

GrowTorah has merged with Canfei Nesharim! "The combined venture will galvanize the Orthodox community towards environmental stewardship." Read about their merger in eJewish Philanthropy here.

Nechama Comfort held its third annual dinner at the New York Hall of Science on Dec. 7th. They honored Elizabeth Savetsky, founder of the "Real Love, Real Loss" movement, and featured Kiley Krekorian, the author of "Three Minus One" and co-creator of the film "Return to Zero". Watch the powerful presentations here.

Want to get more involved?
Join the OU Impact Accelerator Executive Board or Accelerator Club
Learn more about opportunities here.