



October 16, 2017

Mrs. Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel

Germany

Dear Sonja,

We hope this finds you well. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to you and the German Friends for your generous donation of €10,000 received in support of two special programs that create a safe, creative, and aesthetic environment in which Jewish and Arab children can meet and get to know one another.

As you are aware, the special grade 4 program which enables children from the Arab village of Silwan to visit the Museum during school hours and learn about art with their Jewish peers was developed in response to a moving cry for help by an Arab school principal, and at the recommendation of police officers forced to intervene in a violent incident committed by one of the students. The Twin Schools Program, one of our flagship Jewish-Arab frameworks, brings together three levels of school constituents – principals, teachers, and students – to establish ongoing relationships, overcome cultural barriers, and dispel stereotypes.

We are extremely fortunate and grateful that the Youth Wing has such loyal partners as the German Friends of the Israel Museum who are deeply committed to encouraging these innovative endeavors. The deep understanding that underlies these programs emphasizes our partnership in contributing to a more just and peaceful society in Israel and around the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to our continuing friendship and partnership and to enjoying together the fruits of our joint efforts in the years to come.

Warmest regards,

Eli Bruderman  
Head of the Ruth Youth Wing for Art Education