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Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School Awarded Major Grant by The Covenant Foundation

*\$20,000 Grant to Help BZAEDS Students Connect and Interact with Students
at Jewish Day Schools Across the Country and Around the World*

January 10, 2011—Chicago—The Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School is the recipient of a 2010 grant from The Covenant Foundation, which supports creative approaches to educational endeavors that perpetuate the identity, continuity and heritage of the Jewish people.

The \$20,000 grant will support *Chagit Celebrates Across the Jewish World*, a BZAEDS curricular program and a corresponding collaborative website linking Jewish schoolchildren around the world as they study and use the Hebrew language and celebrate Jewish holidays.

“The grant will give our students the opportunity to interact in Hebrew with students in schools all around the world,” says Tzivia Garfinkel, head of the Rochelle Zell Department of Jewish Studies. “It will help them to see that *Ivrit* is a *safa meshutefet*—a shared language—among the Jewish people. It will also give our talented teachers the opportunity to realize a dream they had and to model collaborative creativity in Hebrew and technology.”

Chagit, the namesake of the initiative, is a stuffed bear that is the symbolic center of the project. She debuted in 2009, traveling to Jewish day schools around the country and the world and acting as connector for students in a multitude of classrooms.

During her visits, students from BZAEDS and other participating schools use technology to converse with each other, share experiences and holiday observations, and build confidence in oral and written Hebrew.

The grant will allow for expansion of the program and development of a formal curriculum for it. The grant is one of a new set totaling nearly \$800,000 just announced by the New York-based Covenant Foundation as part of its mission to

support, advance and recognize excellence and impact in Jewish educational settings.

“The Covenant Foundation is injecting vitality into Jewish educational realms, promoting and encouraging new ways of thinking, supporting unique ways of interacting within and beyond the community,” says Eli N. Evans, chairman of the Foundation’s board of directors. “The potential of this new set of grant recipients is future-oriented and significant in all respects.”

“We are particularly interested in acknowledging creativity in Jewish education and going where risk and innovation co-mingle,” says Harlene Winnick Appelman, executive director of the Foundation. “These new grantees have ideas and approaches of great promise for success, effect and replication elsewhere. They are changing the face and nature of Jewish education. This initiative of the Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School is a shining example of that.”

About Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School

The Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School is an independent, community Jewish day school that challenges its students to pursue excellence in the classroom, on the stage, on the field and in the community. The school embodies a commitment to learning and ethical values in an inclusive and nurturing community. We take an interactive approach to general and Jewish studies that makes learning engaging, enriching and relevant to students’ lives. BZAEDS has been fully accredited by the National Association of Independent Schools and the Independent Schools Association of the Central States since 1961.

About The Covenant Foundation

The Covenant Foundation is a program of the Crown Family Foundation and the Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA). Through its Ignition Grants program, The Covenant Foundation supports new and untested approaches and initiatives in Jewish education with one-year grants of up to \$20,000. Since 1991, the Foundation has provided nearly \$20 million to develop and support Jewish education and community-building projects.

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