

ropean Orthodox Jewry. The Reform elements had seized control of the Jewish community. Traditional education had slowed to a trickle. The Yeshiveth were disorganized and leaderless and the doors of the Vilna chedorim were sealed. Once again the burdens of his people were placed squarely on Rav Chaim Ozer's shoulders. The Vilna of old had to be completely rebuilt. First, the Yeshivoth, talmud Torahs and chedorim for basic chinuch had to be reopened. Second, the Roshei Yeshivoth and Menahalim of Russia had to be brought to Poland, for Anti-Semitism and persecution had been revived in Soviet Russia. These and other objectives required substantial financial assistance. Rav Chaim Ozer turned to his supporters in America and the Central Relief Organization. At his initiation, the 'Ezras Torah' fund was established in America and was extremely vital in the tremendous Chinuch and rescue programs of the 1930's and 1940's particularly in Eastern Europe.

Rav Chaim Ozer's work was crowned with success. Yeshivoth were reopened and the brilliant, young talmidim numbered in the thousands. Only a few months had passed since Rav Chaim Ozer's return to Vilna but when the American representatives of the Fund arrived there they found dozens of yeshivoth and tens of chedorim raising tens of thousands of Jewish youth in a spirit of Torah and Yiras Shomayin.

The Board for the Assistance of Orthodox Organizations was founded in 1920 in a conference conducted in Vilna, led by Rav Chaim Ozer. Composed of Rabbonim from Polish Lithuania and White Russia, the Board assumed the responsibility for the communal affairs of 119 communities in the vicinities of Vilna, Grodno, Bialystok, Brisk and Kovno. Most of the resolutions of the Board were soon actualized, chedorim being established in every Jewish Community and more than 300 Rabbonim