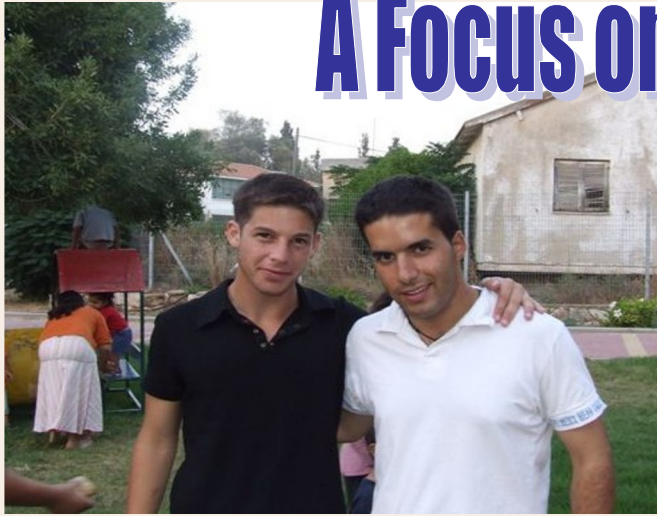


A Focus on the Youth of Bet Yatir



fling backpacks onto park benches, peel off sweaters and shoes, and start playing. Even the evenings find the teens populating the playground, swinging lazily as they socialize, perched on painted ladders for a good talk with friends.

But the playground is no longer safe. Some of the equipment has deteriorated to such a dangerous degree that the apparatus must be replaced. And in order to install the new equipment properly, some basic groundwork must be done, to prepare the infrastructure. Safety is not a luxury... is not something that can be postponed. It is a necessity.

The Youth Center is a place of socializing for the children and teens of the community and acts as a center for local events. The residents would like to invest in their youth and make the recreation options richer and more stimulating. The parents are eager to create comfortable, attractive places of leisure for their growing population, and understand that in order to raise healthy young adults, activities must be varied and easily available.

Time and use have taken their toll on this Youth Center and it shows the healthy wear and tear that comes with steady, busy activity. There is a great need to renovate and restore the center. A new ceiling with lighting and window treatments would put a welcoming fresh face on the building. Ripping up the old carpeting and replacing it with more decorative flooring and furnishing the open area with cozy couches and chairs and plush bean bags, would make the entire open space more inviting. Add a new sound system, and you can already picture the kids flocking to this home away from home.

Thanks to CFOIC Heartland, the furniture and sound system were purchased and are already in place. All that remains to be done are the ceiling, lighting, window treatments and flooring.

Your contribution will help the people of Bet Yatir feel that you care and that you respect their pioneering work and share their spirit of Zionism. Help them raise their families with a sense of well being.

Bet Yatir is a small religious “moshav”- an agricultural cooperative- the first of several small communities to have been established in the isolated and breathtaking southern Hebron Hills. Founded in 1979 by twelve young pioneering families, the community has grown to its present size of over 70 families. Despite their relative isolation, these residents of Bet Yatir make a tremendous effort to keep their community life rich and rewarding. Many people in Bet Yatir are involved in agriculture. The community has vineyards, orchards, field crops, chicken coops, a dairy barn and some smaller farming enterprises. The community has a packing plant for local produce as well as its own winery. Those not involved in farming, work either locally or travel to Jerusalem in the north or Beer Sheva in the south for work.

Bet Yatir is home to many children. Elementary and high school students travel out of the community to attend classes. For younger children, there are local preschools and a day-care center. Although things have been quiet on the roads lately, residents still want the option and availability of local recreation. Trying to keep up with the growth of new neighborhoods in Bet Yatir and the constant growth in the number of children is always an effort and priority.

The neighborhood playground gets a lot of healthy use. Mornings see young mothers with their smaller children who are not as yet in a structured setting. As soon as school lets out, the playground fills with children who

Playground	\$14,865
Youth Center	4,950
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED:	\$19,815

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