

# Har Bracha Playground



many join the community on a permanent basis. As homes are built, they are quickly occupied, with a waiting list of people wanting to join. School-age children go to school in nearby Elon Moreh and must travel on bulletproof buses through an area adjacent to the city of Shechem, which is controlled by the Palestinian Authority. The community's development is miraculous considering the difficult security situation. Recently, they have invested in the building of 64 housing units and with little marketing, they were all sold! In addition, its natural growth is truly impressive – in 2009 alone, more than 80 babies were born! There are 350 children in the community, from newborn to five years old!

“And Moses charged the people the same day saying: These shall stand upon Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you are come over the Jordan.” (Deuteronomy 27:12) Ever since Moses spoke these holy words, Mt. Gerizim has been known as the Mountain of Blessing, or in Hebrew, “Har Bracha.” It was particularly fitting, therefore, when Jews first returned to the area of Shechem (Nablus), to create modern communities in Samaria, that a new community would arise on Mt. Gerizim, the mountain of blessing.

Har Bracha was founded in 1982 by a small group of families who were eager to settle the biblical mountain of blessing. It takes a particular brand of pioneering spirit and determination to build a community on the isolated, wind-swept mountain overlooking Shechem, and despite the hardships, the community is growing steadily. There are 200 families living in Har Bracha. The local yeshiva, where young men combine advanced Bible studies with service in the army, attracts students from all over Israel. After their studies,

Happily, the playgrounds have become shabby with use! Of the four playgrounds in Har Bracha, one has been condemned and it must be repaired to meet safety requirements. CFOIC Heartland has been asked to assist the community in providing the much needed renovation and expansion of the playground. In the mind's eyes of the parents and children, the playground is already completed, and they can't wait for the project to be completed.

Let's make this happen for them. Your contribution to this project will not only provide healthy recreation and good fun, but it will show moral support for the people of Har Bracha. It will express your faith in the future of this vibrant, growing community. It will send a strong message of love to the brave pioneers of Har Bracha as they face the challenges of raising their families against the backdrop of insecurity.

**TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: ..... \$29,730**

***To participate in this project:***

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