

To Play in the Jordan Valley



There are close to 300 children, between the ages of three to six, in fifteen kindergartens located in the Jordan Valley communities. Twenty years ago, playground units were erected, but after a tragic accident in 2004, all units were examined and many were found defective and need replacing in order to conform to safety standards. Some kindergartens are new and have no playground units at all.

The Jordan Valley would like to invest in updating and establishing playground units in eight of its municipality's communities: Fazael, Hemdat, Massua, Mechora, Naama, Netev Hagedud, Roi, and Yafit. The playgrounds range in cost from \$3,000 to \$13,500, depending on the needs of each community.

The kindergarten playground is an essential element in the education of a young child. Activities which cannot be performed in the confines of a building are accomplished in the open space of the playground. There, a child can test his physical limits, improve his motor skills, cultivate independence, and build coordination and confidence. Outdoor play provides the opportunity to gain an awareness of the environment as the child develops familiarization with his physical space. There are three types of playground units required to develop basic skills, like balancing, climbing and swinging.

The Regional Council will cover the cost of preparing the groundwork, setting up the units and maintaining them. CFOIC Heartland is being asked to help fund this wonderful, child-focused project.

The Jordan Valley is a breathtakingly picturesque area of Israel, with a widespread collection of communities dotting the desert landscape. The people of the Jordan Valley communities are fulfilling a dream of building a home in a place that strategically, biblically and historically, are vital to Israel. The Jordan Valley is home to over 6,000 residents, half of whom are children and youth, living in 25 communities under the umbrella of two regional councils. The residents are diverse, both in age, background and requirements, and the local municipalities try to answer all their needs.

Since ancient times, the Jordan Valley has offered a fertile alternative to those who used the fresh waters of the Jordan River and the underground springs. When Israel returned to this area in 1967, it was sparsely populated and a virtual desert. Since then, the farming communities of the Jordan Valley have succeeded in making things grow again and people are fulfilling the dream of cultivating G-d's land in the Biblical Heartland.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$65,000

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