

Community of the Month

Throughout May...

CFOIC is taking a look at Yitav...

Dear Friend of CFOIC Heartland,

This month we are highlighting the community of Yitav in the Jordan Valley. This special community has a heritage of making a new start under difficult circumstances. Those who have been successful in overcoming obstacles have committed themselves to help those who are less fortunate, so that they too can succeed.

The community needs your help to make their dream become a reality. Please join us this month in sending a blessing and a word of encouragement to the people living in Yitav. The children are their most precious resource; they are the future leadership of Israel. The investment in them today will make a world of difference tomorrow.

Your gift today will benefit not only the current generation, but also validate their grandparents' dream to better their lives in the Promised Land.

Shalom,

Kimberly

Kimberly Troup

Director, US Office

Christian Friends of Israeli Communities



Where is Yitav?

In the 1950's and 1960's, a group of Jewish citizens of the Former Soviet Union dreamed of making their way to Israel. They went underground to learn and teach Hebrew, and inspired their children with stories about Israel and the dream of "Aliyah" – to settle in Israel. Their hopes were crushed by the authorities but their children succeeded. Finally settling in Israel, these children

established a community in their parents' honor. They chose to set down roots in the Jordan Valley, a geographically breathtaking region of the land. These 35 families believe that in establishing this community, they are living their Zionist ideology. They named their new home "Yitav", meaning "to do good" and that is what they set out to do.

What Does Yitav Need?



Through the years, some of the residents have struggled to integrate into Israeli society and struggled in their roles as parents... perhaps partly because of the language barrier and partly because of the hardships of acclimating to a new culture and a different mentality. As a result, the

children suffer. The staff of the local school, teachers, administrators, social workers and guidance counselors, examined the situation: low achievement levels, behavioral problems, lack of homework preparation, truancy, and a lack of social skills. Something needed to be done.

"Bayit Cham", literally, "A Warm House", was established in a public building in the community, and has become just that—a warm, welcoming, home away from home, for children who need individualized support, both scholastically and emotionally. The Center is open twice a week for fifteen children between the first and eighth grades, for four hours each day; and once every two weeks there is an activity, open to all the children of Yitav. There is help with homework and individualized learning programs which can help the learning disabled and enrich the gifted.

The principles may sound simple, but they can be life-changing: The child and his needs are central; the child is accepted as a special individual with love and respect; every child has ability, and the potential to grow. When these children walk through the door of "A Warm House", greeted by caring professionals who are there, just for them, it strengthens their sense that they can succeed and it makes them want to succeed. The coordinators are themselves, immigrants who live in Yitav, have grown up in the same environment, understand the difficulties the children and parents are dealing with... and have succeeded.

The project, besides working wonders with the children, has had the added benefit of instilling a sense of pride and a spirit of community in the people of Yitav, who know they are part of something good and worthy.

Yitav was a dream too long in coming—let us ensure that it does not shrivel and die.

Total Funds Required: \$11,890

How Can I Help Yitav?

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=EYNNVSDR9RKQ

Your donation will help the children of Yitav excel, thereby fulfilling their grandparent's dream of Aliyah. You may donate by calling 1-800-647-3344, emailing info@cfoic.com, donating online at www.cfoic.com, or mailing a check made payable to CFOIC (with Yitav in the memo) to:

Christian Friends of Israeli Communities, PO Box 50833, Colorado Springs, CO 80949-0833

all donations are US tax-deductible