

The People of Nitzan: Rebuilding



In the 1950's, Queen Juliana of Holland donated a building to the newly established State of Israel. This building was designed in the shape of a ship, in honor of the many immigrants who fled to Israel after the war and was designated as a Youth Village near the sea. The facility served the youth for many years, but when the institution closed, the building was left empty.

This building still exists today, but time and the climate has wrought its damages over the years. And perhaps, this abandoned structure was left vacant all this time, waiting for a new purpose, waiting for a chance to have life breathed back into it, waiting for a new chance to serve the people of Israel, right on this spot.

Two hundred and fifty Gush Katif families from Neve Dekalim are starting their lives over again in Nitzan. After years of expectations, disillusionment and broken promises, these families are ready to build again. They are all at different stages of planning and building their new homes, but there is great promise and hope in their lives

again. What is needed now is the construction and erection of public buildings, so the Gush Katif refugees can focus once again on creating a community, a sense of belonging.

The Ministry of Construction and Housing assessed the "Juliana House" and decided that renovation is possible. The potential is immense. Plans include small activity and meeting rooms as well as several larger rooms which will be used temporarily as synagogue sanctuaries until permanent synagogue buildings are constructed. These larger rooms will also be available for larger meetings, concerts and a variety of other activities. Juliana House will serve as a library, a youth center and possibly even a senior citizen's club.

The complete renovation costs are currently estimated at \$705,000. The government is subsidizing \$400,000 of the costs, leaving \$305,000 to be raised from private sources. CFOIC Heartland has already raised \$135,000. The Nitzan community has undertaken to raise \$80,000, leaving \$90,000 still to be raised.

The people of Neve Dekalim, now of Nitzan are finally ready to focus outwards. They are ready to leave their private worries and concentrate on building another community... different from the one they left behind on the sands of Gush Katif, but one they can be proud of, as they continue settling the beautiful land they love.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$90,000

To participate in this project:

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