

# A Sense of Community in Yitav



Isn't it remarkable how a dream can take hold of a person, lasting through the passages of time and periods of struggle? The dream of returning to the Promised Land has survived generations of exile, and when it is realized, it is a wondrous thing.

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 in 1970, these children established a community in their parents' honor. They named their new home "Yitav", meaning "to do good" and that is what they set out to do.

They chose to set down roots in the Jordan Valley, a geographically breathtaking region of the land.

Unfortunately, dreams are set in reality and sometimes that reality is harsh. The residents of Yitav have been struggling to grow and be self-sufficient and they have not been successful. Recently, there has been a new spirit of revival and the people are putting tremendous energies into stimulating their social activities and revitalizing their stagnant economy. Yitav has one multi-purpose building but it needs renovating in order to turn it into a recreation center where the people can meet and hold communal activities. They would like to give it a fresh coat of paint, change the doors and locks and replace the old roofing. Once the building itself is ready they would like to invest in a TV/DVD, a ping pong and billiards table, a refrigerator, and air conditioning.

They can already picture the cheery atmosphere, the cozy setting of friends coming together... talking, laughing... sharing a dream. This was a dream too long in coming—let us ensure that it does not shrivel and die.

**TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: .....\$10,700**

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