

# Children and Teens at Risk in Karnei Shomron

Karnei Shomron was founded in 1977 by a committed group of families eager to settle the hilltops of Israel's heartland. Imbued with Zionism, these early pioneers lived for many years in mobile homes, securing the right to build the town that Karnei Shomron has become. Today Karnei Shomron is a sprawling regional center, one of the largest communities in Samaria with some 8,000 residents and growing, spanning every age group from infants to seniors.

Karnei Shomron has always been a heterogeneous town. Its founders were brave and idealistic pioneers, determined to settle the heartland of Biblical Israel. But over time, the Israeli government supported the growth of the community and with growth came diversity. Some of the residents came to the community because the housing prices were cheaper. Others came seeking a quiet lifestyle in the country. And still others came seeking the social services they so desperately needed and the larger cities were too understaffed and overburdened to provide. With time, Karnei Shomron became a place where people at every level on the socio-economic scale can call home.

Sadly, there have always been difficulties. Single parent families and parents with few employment skills struggle to make a living and feed their children. Dysfunctional families are challenged by the simplest tasks in child-rearing. And of course, there is no escape from adolescents — that awful time of life when children from even the most stable families can fall into trouble, experimenting with dangerous substances or crime.

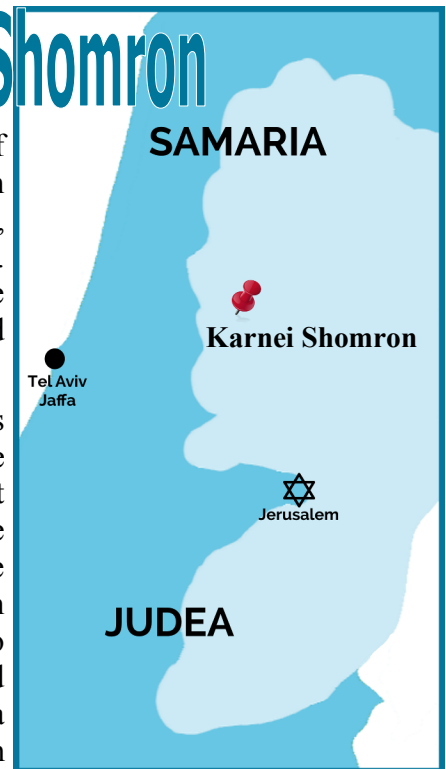
The social services department in Karnei Shomron has taken the lead at trying to meet these needs before they become critical, to provide wholesome environments for both children and teen-agers, giving them the opportunity to address their challenges and providing them with a professional and caring shoulder to cry on. In Karnei Shomron, both the leadership and the people understand that a society is judged based on how it has looked after its weakest members. And the weakest link in any society is its troubled children.

This year, Karnei Shomron has expanded its programming for at-risk children to encompass a wide variety of activities and ages. CFOIC Heartland stepped in and provided valuable resources for the teens at risk youth center last year, enabling it to open its doors and provide a home away from home for teenagers. This year, they are asking for additional funds for programming and additional furnishings. They would like to open a separate facility for teenage girls at risk, to include afternoon programming and parent-child workshops.

The sports program is paying special attention to at-risk teens, often from families too dysfunctional or too poor to pay for participation in sports clubs and the requisite uniforms. With assistance from you, our loyal and caring donors, these children can find a healthy outlet in sports and exchange violence for healthy, competitive play.

And finally, there are children who spend their after-school hours in a supervised, caring center because their parents are incapable of caring for them properly. They are given help with homework and 2 hot meals. And the social workers work with the parents to assist them to step into their roles responsibly and healthily. But government funding is not sufficient to fund the workshops, activities and furnishings that are need.

You can help these children overcome their challenges. You can partner with Karnei Shomron and ensure that these children become responsible, contributing adults.



- Children and teens at risk are the single greatest danger to the future of Israel. And identifying and providing quality programming and care for these children can make all the difference.
- Karnei Shomron has initiated a multi-pronged approach to help these children, including youth centers, after school centers and sports programs.



**T**here is no greater joy than helping children reach their full potential, especially when those children have faced nearly insurmountable challenges since childhood. Children from dysfunctional families alongside teenagers who are having trouble finding themselves in a confusing world need your help. You can provide the resources that will make all the difference. With your help, these children will become proud citizens of Israel, productive and responsible parents in their own right.

### Project Budget

Center for Teen-age Girls at Risk .....	\$13,000
Sports programming for Teens at Risk.....	16,500
Furnishings and Programming for Children at Risk Center .....	16,500
Furnishings and Programming for Teens at Risk Center.....	16,500
<b>TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED:.....</b>	<b>\$62,500</b>

To participate in this project: Visit our website at [www.cfoic.com/projects](http://www.cfoic.com/projects)  
Or mail a check with the project name in the memo to:  
CFOIC, PO Box 50833, Colorado Springs, CO 80949 (US & Canada)  
CFOIC, PO Box 752, Ginot Shomron, Israel (All other countries)