

A Library for the People of Efrat

Efrat is the largest community in the Etzion Bloc, with some 10,000 people, a small city in its own right! And yet, the innate, intimate character of Efrat never allows the residents to lose that close, warm sense of community they fashioned for themselves.

Their library helps maintain that feeling. **Over 93% of Efrat's population are registered as patrons of the library, most utilizing its lending services on a regular basis.** The library is a unifier, a warm, live nucleus for the neighborhood. In a library, young and old come together... mothers and toddlers can snuggle on a bean bag for story time... teenagers can come to work on school projects... families can stop by to grab a good read for a lazy Shabbat afternoon.

Like every other library in the world, Efrat's library faces the challenges of entering the internet generation. **Things must be modernized to serve the needs of its users.** Computers can allow for more efficient cataloguing of books, bar-coding for easy tracking, networking with other communities, and help the patrons access the wealth of information available on the internet. Comfortable work stations can be set up in different corners of the library, offering better access to the world of the web.

In addition, the library is in dire need of a new shelving system to accommodate, more efficiently, the library's collection of books. The children's corner gets wonderful traffic and there is always a steady stream of chattering children, who turn silent as they enter the hush of the library. But they need and deserve a new assortment of books.

Efrat has always managed to create a wonderful balance of quality of life while settling and building a community in the Biblical Heartland. The strategic importance of Efrat is significant. In Israel's War of Independence, the brave defenders of this area helped protect Jerusalem's southern border. To this day, the entire Gush Etzion region is considered vital to the security of Jerusalem. No less important, however, is the biblical significance of Efrat. Efrat is the biblical name for Bethlehem, noted for the burial place of Rachel: "*And Rachel died, and was buried on the way to Efrat, which is Bethlehem.*" (Genesis 35:19)



- Efrat's local library services over 93% of its 10,000 residents on a regular basis!
- With technological advancement comes change and with change comes responsibility. Efrat's library needs to modernize and step into the new generation.



Efrat has grown and continues to grow, in its dedication to a Torah life while building families and homes on G-d's holy soil. CFOIC Heartland is being asked to provide education through recreation with the enhancement of their local library. Help them realize this dream.

Project Budget

13 Computers @ \$745 each	\$9,685
Book Shelves.....	3,865
200 Children's Books @ \$15 each	3,000
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED:.....	\$16,550

To participate in this project: Click Here: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=CXH4HQRJYGFUU

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)