

And Still, They are Waiting...



In Gush Katif, it wasn't unusual for communities to have 30 or 40 farmers. Farmers could pool their resources and hire an expert consultant to deal with issues of export and the myriad complications of government regulations. Now, the few farmers who have managed to start farming again are suffering. They need specific assistance with the particular needs of farmers in mind. They need compensation for crops that never bore fruit, for whole seasons lost, because of the changes in climate and soil conditions. They need interest-free loans to enable them to invest in necessary equipment for their new farms.

The Family Narrative Documentation project is enabling the Gush Katif refugees to express their pain, their frustration, their love for the land they left behind... to tell their story and make sure the world hears it and doesn't forget.

The needs are many and varied, but funding is scarcer than ever before. Many regular donors within the Jewish community have been particularly hit by the recent economic crisis, leaving some programs without few alternative sources of funding.

Four years. Enough time for a whole world to disappear—for the lives of 10,000 people to be swept under the rug. But they cannot and will not be forgotten.

Four years. Enough time for a young tree to start bearing fruit. Enough time for a barren hilltop to turn into a vibrant community. Enough time for newlyweds to become parents... for a newborn to go off to pre-school. But for some, four years have not produced nearly enough change. So many of the refugees of Gush Katif have remained stagnant. Four years have passed, and though some of the families have started building their homes and many have found jobs, so many are still feeling lost and transitory... too many are still unemployed.

The Gush Katif Employment Project is more relevant than ever before. Only a job-- a place to go in the morning-- can restore the bounce in the steps of people who have lost confidence in their country and in themselves. So much has been accomplished these past few years with job placement and retraining, but so many more are waiting for the chance to support their families with pride. Many families need help putting food on their tables. No one should go hungry.

Temporary housing sites are difficult places to bond and build. Community workers, social workers and family therapists, through workshops, private sessions, courses and retreats, have helped families and communities feel whole again. Teenagers, remembering what they had and lost, need psychological support as well as help with their studies. Some communities have been fortunate enough to move into permanent homes and are now are ready to create a sense of normalcy by building playgrounds for their children.

Food for the needy	\$50,000
Community workers	75,000
Community retreats	20,000
Employment counseling and retraining courses	80,000
Therapeutic documentation program	15,000
Family therapy	50,000
Social services program	30,000
Teens at risk and youth study programs	100,000
Farmers' assistance	100,000
Playgrounds for permanent communities	100,000
Funds Already Raised	\$200,000
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED:	\$420,000

To participate in this project:

Click Here: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=ML8VQQ63JXQXC

~ Or mail a check with the project name in the memo:

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