

# Something for Everyone in the Jordan Valley



The Jordan Valley is a breathtakingly beautiful area of Israel, with a widespread collection of communities dotting the desert landscape. The people are diverse, both in age, background and requirements, and the local municipality tries to answer all their needs. The Community Center houses a rich variety of activities and programs and is constantly examining and reevaluating the ever-growing and changing needs and interests.

There is one segment of the population that has very specific needs. The over 50 age group is around more during the day and has a lot of time on their hands. Many, mainly women, don't work outside the home, either because of health problems or unemployment or early retirement. There is a demand for programs of enrichment for this energetic, motivated group. The communities in the Jordan Valley are very spread out and very little recreation is available, so there is a danger of people feeling isolated and bored.

The Jordan Valley Community Center has a "Morning Club" which meets once a week and attracts people from all over the area. At the moment there are twenty regular participants, but since the communities continue to age, the potential is endless! The activities include lectures, crafts, movies and trips. The small mobile building they have at their disposal is furnished

minimally and some basic renovations are necessary. There is not much funding and they would so like to continue and expand the program.

The Jordan Valley Community Center also answers the needs of the other end of the age scale... the very smallest of children! The Community Center has a "Tiny Tots Club" which was opened in Netiv Hagedud as a solution for all the wonderful young families who have recently joined the Jordan Valley, many of them second generation children who have chosen to return. The club is open twice a week and attracts approximately 60 children, from infancy to six years old. The Gymboree needs more equipment and they would love to add a Story Hour and a Crafts Corner. The young Mommies and Daddies are thirsty for the chance to have a time when they can get together and learn about, discuss and share ideas about parenting. How wonderful it would be to provide a professional psychologist who can implement Parent Workshops on a healthy, regular basis.

Let us not forget a very challenging age group--- the teenagers! This active, demanding segment of the population is a pleasure when kept busy, but during the summer months, that is no simple feat. The "Teen Occupation Summer Program" has wonderful goals... providing a work ethic, a commitment to responsible education and employment, and prevention of idle wandering and vandalism. The project includes workshops where the teens learn about their rights and receive help in finding jobs. Last year, 85 of the 150 teenagers worked during the summer and were extremely satisfied with their employment and with themselves. The Jordan Valley wants to do this again this summer and increase the number of teens who can benefit from the program.

The people of the Jordan Valley pride themselves on their sense of community, their desire to care for their own and their ability to grow.

<b>"Morning Club"</b> .....	<b>\$6,125</b>
<b>Lectures</b> .....	<b>2,970</b>
<b>"Tiny Tots Club"</b> .....	<b>10,700</b>
<b>"Tiny Tots Club" Parent Workshop</b> .....	<b>1,485</b>
<b>"Teen Program"</b> .....	<b>6,540</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED:</b> .....	<b>\$27,820</b>

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