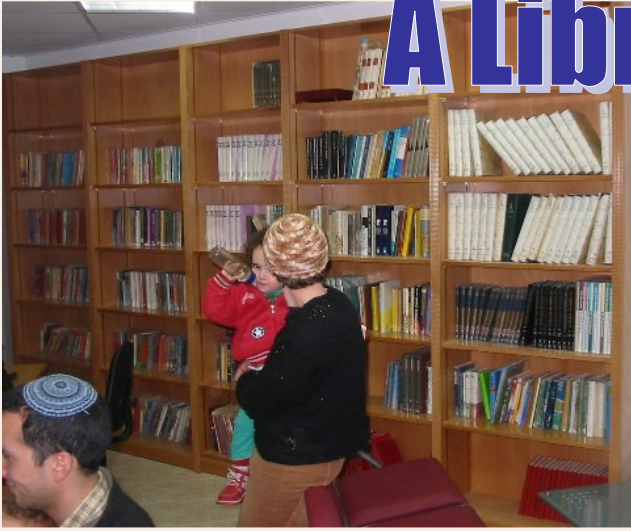


A Library for Maskiot



Shirat Hayam was a small beachfront community in the Gush Katif bloc of communities in the Gaza region. It was founded in the year 2000, on the very same day of the brutal terrorist bombing of a Kfar Darom school bus. Nine years later it is gone, wiped away from the face of Biblical Israel. But the people—these heartbroken but never broken pioneers, are alive and struggling, to keep their spirits alive and to reestablish their dream somewhere else on this holy soil.

The refugees of Shirat Hayam chose Maskiot in the Jordan Valley as the site of their new home. There was nothing much there except a school, and the refugees looked forward to bringing with them their dormant but very vital pioneering spirit. They knew that they could turn this hilltop into a vibrant community.

Meanwhile, though, the Shirat Hayam families were forced to wander, for years, being moved from one temporary home to another, being handed empty promises. While living in Hemdat, the sixth home they were moved to since the expulsion from Gush Katif, they heard that the building permits for their homes in Maskiot had been frozen. They decided to bring mobile homes to Maskiot and set them up, adjacent to the building site where their

new homes would one day be built. CFOIC Heartland contributed most generously to this project and in mid 2008 the families moved in.

Just recently, the building freeze has been lifted and foundations have been laid for their permanent homes! They can look out their windows and watch as their dreams take shape! They are finally looking ahead with hope in their hearts. They see themselves being able to set down roots and they hope to attract new families to join them.

The families so look forward to a sense of normalcy, and one of the projects that is dear to their hearts is a library. A place where young and old can come together ... where mothers and toddlers can snuggle together on a bean bag for story time... where teenagers can come to do school projects, researching topics with ease... where residents can come in for a quick visit to grab a good read for a lazy Shabbat afternoon.

Maskiot was given a donation to build a pre-fabricated mobile home, to serve as an all-purpose building. The families decided to add forty meters as a library and pedagogical center and equip it with shelving, tables and chairs, a children's corner, a computer, reference materials, and, of course, a glorious spread of books, books and more books!

This past year CFOIC Heartland donated generously to this project and the people of Maskiot can see its completion in sight. They are so thrilled that they have reached the point that they can concentrate on a quality of life and a solid future. They are being so brave... ever optimistic and ever hopeful. Help these Biblical pioneers build a life for themselves and their children.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED:\$14,865

To participate in this project:

Click Here: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=KR2BTK8NY79Y2

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

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