

# Help Those Who Help Themselves in Sussya



and absorbed into their homes and hearts, a number of special-needs people, who, otherwise would, more than likely, have been institutionalized for the rest of their lives. Sussya continues to provide emotional support for its neighbors, but the harshness of the economy is forcing them to cut off the financial aid. Also, the economy is creating only more and more stories of need, and fewer and fewer people in the position to help. And for all sides—those who continue to need, those who can no longer give, and those who have been forced to become takers-- it is heartbreaking.

Sussya is a community filled with children. Lots of children. Almost all the residents are blessed with large families and ongoing cuts cut in the government's family allowance has literally crippled some of these families—families, who just want to live in this land, live off the land, and fulfill God's commandment to be fruitful, and fill the land.

No child should have to lie in bed at night wondering what is causing the tightness and falseness in his father's smile. No child should have to feel she should drop her after-school tutoring in order to erase the worry from her mother's eyes. And no child should have to go to bed hungry. The community set up the Ezra Fund, whose main purpose is to help these needy families with basics like food and clothing. And, since the unity of the community is so important to Sussya, is what strengthens and typifies them, the fund feels strongly about subsidizing community projects for children. They want every child to be able to attend after-school programs, class trips, social activities... even kindergarten.

You can help these people continue to help themselves.

Sussya is a small community located south of Hebron, in the mountainous area Abraham crossed as he traveled between Hebron and Beersheba. Adjacent to the archeological site of ancient Sussya, a second-century Jewish village, modern Sussya seeks to reestablish a strong Jewish presence in an area where Jewish communities once flourished.

Sussya's strategic location on a barren hilltop in the Hebron Hills made the community quite vulnerable since the outbreak of the war of terror in 2000. Yet perhaps because of Sussya's relative isolation and because of the people's shared value of their love for the land and their desire to revive this piece of God's land, the people of Sussya built a close-knit community, characterized by incredible warmth and mutual aid. These people care for their own. These are people who need very little, who get satisfaction in knowing that they know what's important: God, His land, and the future generation who will serve Him.

Up until just a few years ago, this community of Sussya was able to respectably support, both financially and emotionally, all those in need, who lived in the community. They had even "adopted"

**TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: .....\$29,730**

### *To participate in this project:*

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