



The Holocaust remains one of the most emotionally-wrenching subjects for Jews all over the world. Nearly every Jew in Israel can tell a story about a parent, grandparent or other relative who survived the Holocaust, fled the Holocaust or perished in the Holocaust. It has scarred our national psyche and remains a central influence in the decisions taken by the nation as a whole.

Etz Ephraim is a beautiful community in Samaria, but it has its share of special-needs children and at-risk-youth. As the adults in the community sought ways to connect their children to their heritage, they created a unique Theater Program which includes therapeutic psychodrama and reaches out specifically to at-risk-youth. Working together with the youth, hearing their suffering and their pain, they understood that gaining a better understanding of the Holocaust and what it meant for the Jewish people would help these youngsters connect to their heritage in the deepest way. The result was an annual production for Holocaust Remembrance Day for the entire community. As the youngsters, so many of them dealing with acute emotional issues of their own, learn more about the events that affected their own grandparents or great-grandparents and come to identify with them, they find ways to work out their own issues. The intergenerational bonds that are created do so much to heal the troubled souls of the youth as well.

The sensitivity of the people of Etz Ephraim also extends to the special-needs children. Weekly activities which include neurotypical children and youth together with special-needs children give them a consistent outlet for creativity, socializing, and integration

In addition, there is the library, a place that attracts residents of all ages. The people of Etz Ephraim would like to furnish and equip a communal space in the library to hold night classes and workshops. They would love to host art exhibitions and science workshops as well, and they plan to devote an entire section of the library for quiet study. All of these activities will strengthen the unity of the residents and bring more culture into the community.

Etz Ephraim needs your help to support their youth programs and their library, cornerstones of cohesiveness in this special community. With your help, the diverse population that makes up Etz Ephraim can be brought together. Bless this diverse and caring community today with vital programs and resources for learning, care, and growth.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Founded:** 1985
- ☆ **Location:** Samaria
- ☆ **Origin of Name:** means "stick of Ephraim," a reference to Ezekiel 37:16 — *"And thou, son of man, take thee one stick and write upon it: For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; and then take another stick and write upon it: For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and of all the house of Israel his companions."*
- ☆ **Population:** 650 families



Children enjoy story time at the Library in Etz Ephraim



At-Risk teens find emotional healing through drama therapy

ETZ EPHRAIM LIBRARY AND YOUTH PROJECT BUDGET

Special needs children programming	\$13,150
Library furnishings	9,350
Therapeutic Theater Holocaust commemorative event.....	7,850
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED	\$30,350

To participate in this project: visit our website at www.cfoic.com/projects
 Or mail a check with the project name in the memo to:
 CFOIC Heartland, 7661 McLaughlin Rd, #255, Falcon, CO 80831 (US & Canada)
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