



Etz Ephraim

LOVE WITHOUT BARRIERS

The Holocaust remains one of the most emotionally-heart wrenching subjects for Jews all over the world. Nearly every Jew in Israel can tell a story about a relative who survived the Holocaust, fled the Holocaust, or perished in the Holocaust. It has scarred the national psyche and remains a significant influence on the nation's decisions as a whole.

Etz Ephraim bridges the gaps between its diverse residents, religious, secular, retirees, and young families, with sensitivity to each group's needs. Seeking to connect children to their Jewish heritage, Etz Ephraim offers a unique theater program where kids portray characters and enact events from Jewish history. The program also includes therapeutic psychodrama for at-risk teens. Many of whom are dealing with acute emotional issues. By learning about the traumas that affected their grandparents or great-grandparents, the teens gain perspective and discover new strength to overcome their own pain. These inter-generational bonds do much to heal the youths' troubled souls and connect them to their heritage in the most profound way. Each year, the theater program's activities culminate in a dramatic production in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Here they proudly showcase the youths' accomplishments and bring the community together.

Etz Ephraim cares for its special-needs children and seeks to create an environment of inclusion and acceptance. Frequently, special-needs children feel isolated and alone due to a lack of social interaction. Etz Ephraim's unique program gives special-needs children firsthand experience in the joy of friendship. At the same time, it is helping them gain confidence and empowering them with enhanced social skills, improved language, and better behavior. The program offers weekly social events, where teen volunteers and special-needs children interact in playful activities and events. While simultaneously providing therapeutic and social support for special-needs children and their families and special training for the teen volunteers. The entire Etz Ephraim community benefits from the program, as it empowers both special-needs children and teen volunteers. It helps them develop their moral character and the skills needed to become tomorrow's leaders.

Etz Ephraim needs your help to support their integrated special-needs and at-risk youth programs—cornerstones of this unique community. With your help, the people of Etz Ephraim can raise an entire generation on love, acceptance, and responsibility for one another. They are breaking barriers that often divide people. Bless this beautiful community today with the vital resources it needs to care for one another in the Biblical Heartland.

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



At-Risk teens find emotional healing through drama therapy

ETZ EPHRAIM SPECIAL-NEEDS YOUTH PROJECT BUDGET

Special-Needs Children's programming	\$14,000
Therapeutic Theater Holocaust Commemorative Event	3,450
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED	\$17,450

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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