



Gush Etzion

SAVE ONE PERSON, SAVE THE WORLD

We have all met a child on the cusp — a boy teetering on the edge of addiction, a girl about to buckle under the weight of mental trauma. In the wake of terrorism, PTSD and normal teenage angst, mental illness can creep up on everyone, especially the susceptible youth.

High rates of terror attacks and tragedies have meant that the youth of Gush Etzion were more susceptible than most to at-risk behaviors, even before coronavirus. Now, a year into the pandemic, we are seeing an alarming increase in at-risk cases. More and more students are becoming “silent dropouts” – youth who do not show up to their online classes and fall through the cracks of supervision into dark depressions. Many are turning to destructive, negative, and violent behaviors to cope, and Gush Etzion parents live in a constant state of anxiety about the fates of their children: Will my child hurt himself or someone else? Will my child be arrested? What will happen to my child?

Over two hundred local teenagers are currently classified as “at risk” across the region, and they are in desperate need of help. The regional at-risk youth center, in Gush Etzion, was recently built to support these at-risk youths. The center offers classes and workshops, crafts and individualized study, trips, and special courses. In addition, social workers are available for therapy and guidance. And they have social programs led by youth leaders. Since many of the teens suffer from addictions and emotional issues, the center received special dispensation, allowing it to continue operating within Corona guidelines.

Instead of roaming the streets and getting in trouble, teens learn different crafts, become skilled in wood and metal construction, create quality products and even sell them. This program makes a huge difference in the lives of these teens, giving them a sense of achievement, purpose and valuable vocational skills. But unfortunately, the Gush Etzion Teens at Risk program is on the brink of shutting down, since many donors experiencing financial setbacks due to corona have pulled their support

This Gush Etzion at-risk youth program needs your help to pay for materials, to create a website for selling the teen’s handiwork and to keep the program running. The program encourages teens to climb out of their despair, unlearn destructive behaviors and engage in positive activities. You can support at-risk youth in Biblical Judea so they can become productive contributing members of Israeli society. Your donation today is building Israel’s future.

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Regional Communities Include:** Bat Ayin, Elazar, Gevaot, Har Gilo, Migdal Oz, Sde Bar, Sde Boaz, Tekoa
- ☆ **Geographical Significance:** Strategically protects the southern approach to Jerusalem
- ☆ **Population:** over 17,000 residents



Gush Etzion at-risk youths attend an interactive group therapy session



A Gush Etzion at-risk teen learns valuable job skills and responsibility at the center's welding workshop

GUSH ETZION AT-RISK YOUTH

PROJECT BUDGET

Therapy sessions for at-risk youth	\$9,200
Materials for workshops	1,450
Website development	2,250
Funds already raised	-9,200
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED	\$3,700

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