



Har Gilo

PIONEERS IN THEIR GOLDEN AGE

Miriam's timeworn hands slowly open the shades to the window in her lonely apartment. She looks out into her familiar neighborhood, hoping to see someone—anyone. *Once, she thinks, I was a pioneer, a force to be reckoned with, vital to this community's development. I still want to feel needed.* In 1967, Miriam and her husband moved to the Judean Hills with their two oldest children, then so little, right after the Six-Day war. These once barren hills were a strategically critical area between Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Their presence made all the difference in securing Jerusalem. Now widowed, her children grown and busy, and the isolation from lockdowns and quarantines, her world has become even smaller. Like so many of the original pioneers of Har Gilo, Miriam is now a retired senior citizen. Perhaps, they may experience reduced mobility, but they are still eager to learn, do, connect.

The community of Har Gilo understands the great importance of caring for its founding pioneers in their golden years. Last year, wanting to give back to the founding residents, they decided to create a local senior center for social events and workshops. They began renovating an existing building that had, at one time, served as a social center for the community but had since been abandoned, as the community had long outgrown it. Unfortunately, the building was in a state of disrepair and fell short of current building codes. Most significantly, the acoustics are so poor that activities cannot be held there in its current condition — no one can understand what their fellow seniors are saying. It is one huge echo chamber!

Thanks to donations from CFOIC Heartland donors, renovations have already commenced. But Har Gilo needs funding to complete the renovation before it can open for full activities to enrich their seniors' lives. Har Gilo asks for your assistance to purchase kitchen equipment and appliances, curtains and furniture, air conditioning units, lighting, a projector and screen, an acoustic ceiling, and a music system for the new building. The seniors of Har Gilo are the community's original pioneers, and they merit having their own space. You can help make the Har Gilo Senior Center become a reality!

Har Gilo needs to complete the construction of a seniors' center for its original pioneers. These faithful pioneers dedicated their youthful energy to settle the strategic Judean Hills and build this vibrant community. Today, they deserve to be cared for and cherished in their golden years, honored for their courage and dedication. You can help build the next step in ensuring continuity in the Biblical Heartland!

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Founded:** 1968
- ☆ **Location:** Gush Etzion region, Judea
- ☆ **Origin of Name:** in English, "Mountain of Gilo"
- ☆ **Biblical Significance:** Biblical Gilo, listed in Judah's territory (Joshua 15) and birthplace of King David's renegade advisor Achitofel (II Samuel 15:12)
- ☆ **Geographical Significance:** between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, adjacent to the Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo
- ☆ **Population:** 400 families, 150 Seniors



Because they cannot easily travel, seniors in Har Gilo need a facility with age-appropriate amenities close to home



Seniors in Har Gilo love participating in workshops and classes, but lack a permanent location in which to hold them

HAR GILO SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

PROJECT BUDGET

Building renovation, appliances, air conditioning, and furnishings ...	\$86,410
Already raised by CFOIC	-13,300
Community Contribution	-5,200
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED	\$67,910

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)
 CFOIC Heartland, PO Box 752, Ginot Shomron, Israel (all other countries)