



Argaman

NURTURING GROWTH IN THE WILDERNESS

In the early 1990s, Irina and Vladimir, a math teacher and an economist, left Russia and immigrated to Israel with their two young children. Dreaming of a new life as pioneers in Biblical Israel, they settled in Argaman, an agricultural community. Here they learned agriculture from their fellow pioneers and began growing roses. When the venture failed, it did not deter them from their dream. Instead, Vladimir trained as a computer programmer while searching for other ways to fulfill their dream. Eventually, they bought a distillery and began experimenting with dates, which grow in abundance in the region, producing a first-of-its-kind date vodka. They used dates that were unsaleable because they did not meet retail and export standards. After many failed attempts, Vladimir and Irina created an award-winning product and fulfilled their pioneering dream.

Who is the quintessential Zionist pioneer? Someone deeply connected to the Biblical land and, undeterred in the face of failure and limited resources, stays the course in pursuit of meaning and purpose. It has been a difficult journey for the people of Argaman, and after decades of farming difficulties and stagnant population growth, their small community in the wilderness is growing again. Argaman is now bubbling with new life, new homes, and social opportunities. They are creating a warm and accepting environment for newcomers. In recent years, they welcomed a pre-military preparatory academy for at-risk youth. This unique institution builds confidence and responsibility in troubled teens, enabling them to take their place in the IDF with a deep connection to their Jewish homeland.

Social distancing has been difficult for the community, which is relatively isolated and has no outdoor gathering place. The residents partnered with the pre-military academy to build a recreational area and lookout point on an undeveloped piece of land. This overlook of the Jordan Valley serves residents, students, and visiting tourists. In true pioneering spirit, community members and students will take wood-working courses, and the entire community will volunteer to help build this project. But Argaman needs your help to make this project a reality.

Argaman needs an outdoor recreational area where residents can meet, connect and strengthen community life. After decades of physical and social isolation, these resilient pioneers finally gained momentum in growing their community. But now, social distancing has threatened to halt that growth. By helping the people of Argaman create an outdoor public gathering space, you will have a direct and lasting impact on the quality of life and continued growth of this developing community in the Biblical heartland.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Founded:** 1970
- ☆ **Location:** Jordan Valley
- ☆ **Origin of Name:** Hebrew for the color purple (Song of Songs 3:10). Named for two officers killed in the area, Aryeh Regev and Gad Manela, and Argaman is an abbreviation of both names.
- ☆ **Geographic Significance:** Located along Israel's border with Jordan
- ☆ **Population:** 50 families



After years of zero population growth in Argaman, the community is bubbling with vitality, and children.



Argaman's youth work hard to beautify and develop a barren spot in the community

ARGAMAN COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT BUDGET

Outdoor Recreation Area and Overlook	\$3,700
Woodworking Courses	1,900
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED	\$5,600

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, Karnei Shomron, Israel (all other countries)