



Gush Etzion

CARING FOR SENIOR PIONEERS

They are called the golden years for a reason. Getting older has its perks — perspective, wisdom, self-confidence, more leisure time, and grandchildren. But aging can also be a time of loneliness, as spouses and friends pass on and children move away. A time of deteriorating health and cognitive decline. Public assistance can only reach so far, and then what?

Gush Etzion is home to over 1,800 senior citizens, including Holocaust survivors and many of the original pioneers who settled Judea. Although many of these seniors are healthy and enjoy their golden years engaging in fulfilling activities with family and friends, some live entirely alone. Approximately 130 seniors live hand-to-mouth, receiving monthly financial assistance from Social Services. They assist with transportation to medical appointments, costly medications, and even house repairs, enabling seniors to continue living independently in their own homes.

Senior citizens' basic needs are covered by social security, national medical insurance, and subsidized dental care. But when medical emergencies arise, these older pioneers often choose between buying medicine and paying the heating bill. In the cold winters of Gush Etzion, heating is a matter of survival for seniors, who are especially susceptible to freezing temperatures. The cost of dental care is another significant concern for needy seniors. The inability to afford even the subsidized price of dentures or treatments for deteriorating teeth often impacts seniors' health. It robs them of dignity as they struggle to eat and experience shame when they speak. Sometimes they are too embarrassed to leave their homes.

In recent years, the Gush Etzion region established a center for elderly residents suffering from dementia, which provides a safe and supervised environment, hot meals, and activities for seniors at different stages of cognitive decline. Social Services can cover a portion of these expenses, but they need your help to care for all of their elderly residents.

The people of Gush Etzion need your help to care for their elderly residents. Today, your gift will ensure they have heat in the winter, prompt medical and dental treatments, and those with dementia receive the care they need. These seniors, who helped establish the modern State of Israel, are no longer independent and need assistance. Your support will go directly to help Judea's senior pioneers. You will ensure their dignity and honor their contribution to building Biblical Israel.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Regional Communities Include:** Bat Ayin, Elazar, Gevaot, Har Gilo, Migdal Oz, Sde Bar, Sde Boaz, Tekoa
- ☆ **Historical Significance:** First settled in the 1920's. Four kibbutz settlements were destroyed by the Jordanians on the eve of Israel's independence in 1948. Re-settled in 1967, right after the Six Day War.
- ☆ **Geographical Significance:** Strategically protects the southern approach to Jerusalem
- ☆ **Population:** over 25,000 residents



Senior citizens in Gush Etzion include Holocaust survivors and many of the original pioneers who settled Judea



You can give Seniors in Gush Etzion heat in the winter, prompt medical and dental treatments, and dementia care

GUSH EZTION SENIORS ASSISTANCE

PROJECT BUDGET

Center for Seniors with Dementia	\$12,900
Home Repairs for Seniors	11,100
Financial Assistance and Heating.....	8,300
Dental Treatments for Needy Seniors	2,050
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED	\$34,350

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