



The small events in life leave an indelible mark, a touch, a feeling, a moment of connection. Being in the presence of animals, with their peaceful, non-judgmental attitude, has tremendous benefits to children of all ages. A few years ago, the community of Revava, in Samaria, established a small farm and petting zoo. Drawing local children and visitors from all over Samaria, the petting zoo offers hands-on fun and educational activities, completely free of charge. But for some children, the experience is more than fun or educational—it is transformative.

The Hen HaShomron school is a special education school in Revava for children and teens with emotional and behavioral disorders. The school's curriculum includes two weekly visits to the Revava petting zoo for experiential learning and therapy. Students work at the farm during each visit, feeding, caring for, and petting the animals, cleaning their pens, and learning about them. The students grow more compassionate by regularly observing the animals and encountering different scenarios, such as giving birth, development, and relationships between animals. Their visits to the farm do so much for these students' emotional well-being. The tactile experience of gently caressing the animals or adapting to their smells and textures provides a supportive environment for them to practice sensory regulation.

The community almost entirely runs the farms' day-to-day care and maintenance. Adult and children volunteers from Revava work together to feed the animals, clean the premises, and run the petting zoo in all weather conditions. Through their work at the farm, the children of Revava learn the values of responsibility, community, and giving; while spending time with the animals, they develop empathy and compassion. This small farm plays a central role in helping the people of Revava raise the next generation of Israeli pioneers with Biblical values. Revava needs your help to purchase materials to build stronger animal pens and construct bathrooms. They also want to build a pergola with benches where students, volunteers, and visitors can gather to receive job assignments, attend short education instructions or sit and caress the animals while sheltered from the elements.

Revava has created a wonderful petting zoo that is particularly beneficial to the special-needs students who spend hours there each week. But the current structures are inadequate and need to be upgraded. The giving pioneers of Revava have invested so much in fostering rich community life. With your help, they will continue enriching their community while helping special needs children from all over Samaria.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Founded:** 1991
- ☆ **Location:** Samaria
- ☆ **Origin of Name:** Located on the land apportioned to the tribe of Ephraim, the community's name, which means "ten thousand," comes from the Biblical verse: "And they are the ten thousands of Ephraim" (Deuteronomy 33:17).
- ☆ **Population:** 500 families



The Revava petting zoo offers experiential learning and therapy for special education children and teens



Families from all over Samaria enjoy free-of-charge fun and educational activities at the Revava petting zoo

REVAVA PETTING ZOO

PROJECT BUDGET

Pergola & Benches	\$10,700
Bathroom.....	7,000
Animal enclosures.....	5,600
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED	\$23,300

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