

The background of the page is a faded, light-colored photograph of a town or village. In the foreground, there are some buildings and trees. In the distance, a prominent church tower with a spire is visible against a hazy sky. The overall tone is soft and somewhat desaturated.

Otniel

CARING FOR PRECIOUS LITTLE ONES

Tamar parks her car outside the cluster of trailer homes. She zips up her coat before getting out of the vehicle. It is cold and windy, and another storm is brewing. She gently unbuckles her sleepy infant daughter, bundles her with an extra blanket, and heads inside. It is never easy leaving her baby girl in daycare each morning, but Tamar and Yoni both work to provide for their growing family of six. The little one's hands clutch onto her mother's neck as they enter the babies' room. Then, with a last kiss, she hands her daughter over to the competent and loving arms of the daycare teacher. She will be fine, Tamar tells herself, as long as there are no blackouts.

Power failures frequently occur in rural Israel. Above-ground powerlines are vulnerable to damage from the winter elements. Without a backup system, power can only be restored when repair crews arrive on the scene. In the Hebron Hills, a region heavily populated by hostile Arabs, restoring power is complicated and time-consuming, requiring security forces to accompany special repair crews. Unfortunately, blackouts occur weekly in the Hebron Hills, many lasting longer than an hour. Otniel, situated 800 meters above sea level, can have winter temperatures hover between 5-9°C (33-48°F) with strong winds and rainstorms. To keep themselves warm, many families use gas space heaters during frequent blackouts. However, daycares and preschools are legally prohibited from using gas heaters.

The youngest children, ages three months to three years, attend Otniel's only daycare center. Daycare Centers are a crucial staple of every community; they provide the youngest children with a home away from home while their parents work. Blackouts are terrifying for small children, even under normal circumstances. Weekly blackouts in poorly insulated classrooms are anything but comforting. For these little ones, each blackout feels like an eternity. Being away from their loving parents in a frigid and dark classroom is a frightening experience. Last winter, a particularly brutal blackout lasted over 5 hours. Wearing coats and wrapped in blankets, these little ones spent over 5 hours shivering--they could not keep warm. No human should endure such inhumane conditions, least of all, the most innocent and vulnerable residents of Otniel. The Otniel daycare desperately needs an emergency generator before winter begins.

The community of Otniel desperately needs your help to purchase an emergency generator for their local daycare center. This courageous community is especially vulnerable to frequent blackouts during the winter months. Babies and toddlers often experience freezing temperatures during prolonged blackouts while in daycare. You will provide heat and comfort for 60 of Otniel's youngest children by supporting this vital humanitarian project. At the same time, you will be supporting Jewish life in the Biblical Heartland.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Founded:** 1983
- ☆ **Location:** Hebron Hills
- ☆ **Origin of Name:** Named after Otniel son of Kenaz, the first of the Biblical judges. A scholar-warrior, Otniel liberated the southern Hebron area from the oppressive Emorite King (Judges 1:13)
- ☆ **Population:** 160 families



Otniel's only daycare cares for children ages 3 months to 3 years old, enabling young parents to provide for their families



Your donation will provide Otniel's most vulnerable children a warm and safe haven during frequent blackouts

OTNIEL DAYCARE GENERATOR PROJECT

PROJECT BUDGET

Generator and Installation	\$31,275
Infrastructure	6,745
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED	\$38,020

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)