



Barkan

HONORING THE FOUNDING PIONEERS

Barkan's story begins in 1977, just after Menachem Begin became Israel's first Likud prime minister, and the first prime minister to actively and openly advocate for Jewish settlement throughout Judea and Samaria. At the same time, the first Jews were allowed to make Aliyah from the Soviet Union. Their numbers were limited and each Jew who succeeded in making the journey to Israel had suffered years of persecution and struggle in the Soviet Union for daring to apply for emigration to Israel. But these first Russian Jewish immigrants were determined and incredibly committed Zionists.

It took time to obtain government authorization but in 1981, the first pioneers moved to the barren hilltop that would become Barkan. About half of them were Russian Jews; the rest were strong Zionists affiliated with the Revisionist Herut movement. They were committed to restoring the Biblical Heartland of Israel to the modern Jewish nation. And they succeeded beyond their wildest dreams. Today the community is a lovely suburban-like area, with homes, gardens, and a huge industrial park, where Jews and Arabs work side by side in harmony. The Industrial Park is the largest employer of Palestinian Arabs in Samaria.

Because of its large Russian-speaking population, a number of elderly Russian new immigrants moved into the community over the years, feeling immediately welcomed by their younger neighbors. At the time, there was a pressing need for a senior citizen center that would cater especially to this Russian-speaking population. CFOIC Heartland's generous donors responded to the call and helped refurbish and furnish a building to serve as the senior center. I well remember some of our tour groups visiting the center, as the Russian speaking men and women welcomed us with refreshments and songs, in both Hebrew and Russian.

Today, the original founding pioneers have reached retirement age and there is a great need to update the facility and provide quality activities for the 200+ pensioners who are eager for its service. And coming on the heels of two full years of COVID when so many seniors were alone in their homes, petrified of infection and isolated from their families, the need for an active, attractive center is more urgent than ever before.

The original pioneers of Barkan, who braved enormous hardships to found the community, face unique challenges today, especially since COVID. There is an urgent need to upgrade the local senior center and ensure that all seniors, regardless of financial ability, can enjoy quality programming and find a respite from the isolation that threatens so many golden agers. The seniors of Barkan need you!

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Founded:** 1981
- ☆ **Location:** Samaria, located near Ariel and only 25 km from Tel Aviv
- ☆ **Biblical Significance:** Located near an archeological site known as Burak, the ruins of a Jewish settlement dating back to both First and Second Temple eras
- ☆ **Population:** 450 families



Barkan's seniors have renewed their activities, but the center is in desperate need of refurbishing and new furnishings



Your gift will bless and encourage the seniors of Barkan, giving them a warm and inviting space to connect with others

BARKAN SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

PROJECT BUDGET

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| Bi-monthly activities | \$28,000 |
| Refurbishing and furnishing the center | 9,800 |
| Nominal admission fees | -2,700 |
| TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED | \$35,100 |

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)