



SHELTERED LIVING AT HEART OF BENJAMIN

One of the most formidable challenges for parents of special-needs children is the constant ache and worry about the future—what will become of my child when she is an adult? How will he manage when I am no longer here? The Heart of Benjamin program in Ofra caters to special-needs children, adults, and their families residing in the Benjamin region, providing them with resources to help navigate the myriad of challenges they face.

The Graduates Program in Heart of Benjamin provides an on-site apartment for adults with special needs, supervised by counselors who help them gain hands-on life skills, social skills, and vocational skills at sheltered employment locations. There are currently three such residences in Ofra, one for women and two for men, where these young adults are able to develop a greater degree of independence. The Graduates Program has proven to be quite successful, with many new families seeking admittance for their adult children. But with only three apartments, the program is at maximum capacity.

During the day, able residents work in the kitchen of the Heart of Benjamin Center, serving the Heart of Benjamin children and offering catering for local events. Residents also work at the local Ofra coffee shop, preparing snacks, taking orders, serving, and managing the cash register. Jobs at the coffee shop are highly desirable, affording real-world work experience and integration into mainstream society. Filled with pride, the special-needs workers enjoy daily interaction with local Ofra residents and high-school students who buy snacks during school breaks. But perhaps more importantly, their customers learn that people with limitations can still contribute to society.

This year, Heart of Benjamin would like to expand the program and create two more sheltered group home apartments in Ofra, one for women and one for men. Government funding will cover the bulk of the operational expenses, including rent, utilities, and salaries for counselors, social workers, and maintenance workers. But Heart of Benjamin still needs to cover the costs of furnishing and equipping these two new apartments. And they cannot do it without your help.

Heart of Benjamin urgently needs your help to furnish two sheltered group home apartments for special-needs adults. Each group home provides program graduates with a supervised home where they gain life and vocational skills. With your support, special-needs adults in the Biblical Heartland can achieve greater independence and integrate into Israeli society. Your gift today will give them immeasurable value as they contribute to building Biblical Israel.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Founded:** 1975
- ☆ **Location:** On the border between Biblical Samaria and Benjamin, near Beth El, between Jerusalem and Nablus
- ☆ **Biblical Significance:** Named after the ancient Jewish town in the territory of Benjamin, mentioned in Joshua 18
- ☆ **Historical Significance:** The first Jewish community established north of Jerusalem in modern times
- ☆ **Population:** 4,000



The local Café provides jobs for the special-needs adults of Heart of Benjamin who love serving their community



Your gift will furnish apartments that will enable these special-needs adults to live semi-independently

HEART OF BENJAMIN SHELTERED APARTMENT

PROJECT BUDGET

Furnishings & Appliances for two apartments\$62,290

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED \$62,290

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)