



# Gitit

## ROOM TO GROW

Tucked against the eastern slopes of the Samaritan Hills, just east of the Biblical city of Gilgal (Joshua 9:6), lies the small and isolated community of Gitit. Across from Gitit, is the Sartava and beyond it lies the Jordan Valley. In ancient times, Jews from the Land of Israel would send up smoke signals from the peak of the Sartava mountain to Jews in central Babylonia, notifying them of each new lunar month, keeping the Jewish Calendar in sync.

Established in 1975 by secular Zionist pioneers who shared a deep love and commitment to reviving Jewish presence in their ancestral homeland, Gitit began as an agricultural community. The people of Gitit worked hard to settle the barren land, growing vineyards, dates, and vegetable crops. But the population of Gitit dwindled in number at the height of the second Intifada (2000), as many families left due to security threats.

Faced with the possibility of extinction, the people of Gitit made a courageous decision to change the secular character of the community to ensure a continued Jewish presence in the region. They invited religious families to join them, marking a pivotal moment in Gitit's history that helped the community thrive and grow. Today, Gitit is a vibrant and diverse community, with 100 families, including young families, older couples, and a mix of religious and non-religious Jews, all living together on the basis of mutual respect and responsibility.

It is not easy raising children in an isolated community that is vulnerable to ongoing threats of terrorism from nearby hostile Arab towns. This isolation can have negative effects on the community, particularly for teenagers who may feel restless and in need of social outlets. While Gitit already provides some learning, recreational, and volunteering opportunities for its teenagers, without a dedicated youth center, parents fear that their children will develop at-risk behavior, such as vandalism, alcohol, and drugs. Acutely aware of this need, the people of Gitit identified an existing building for the youth center, but it requires significant repair work, including painting, light fixtures, and air-conditioning units. Last year, CFOIC Heartland donors helped raise some of the funds needed for the youth center. But to complete this project, they still need your support.

**Gitit, a small, isolated community in the Jordan Valley, needs your help to renovate a youth center and create a warm and inviting safe place for their local teens. Your support will provide another building block to further develop this vibrant and growing community, providing their youth with a place to socialize, learn, grow, and blossom. Donate today to encourage the next generation of pioneers in the Biblical Heartland!**

# COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Founded:** 1972
- ☆ **Location:** Jordan Valley
- ☆ **Name Significance:** IDF General Rechavam Ze'evi named the community after an ancient stringed musical instrument (Psalm 81). He explained that from the community's vantage point, the Jordan Valley appears reminiscent of the ancient instrument
- ☆ **Population:** 100 families



*Your support of a youth center in Gitit will encourage the next generation of pioneers in Biblical Israel!*



*Gitit has 120 teenagers, who desperately need a place of their own to socialize and engage in enrichment programs*

## GITIT YOUTH AND ADULT ACTIVITY CENTERS

### PROJECT BUDGET

Youth Center Renovation .....	\$6,690
<b>Funds Already Raised</b> .....	<b>-4,600</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED</b> .....	<b>\$2,090</b>

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 Or mail a check with the project name in the memo to:  
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