



Gush Etzion

CARING FOR SENIOR PIONEERS

There is a reason why they are called the golden years; Aging has its perks — perspective, wisdom, self-confidence, more leisure time, and grandchildren. But for some seniors, this time can be marked by loneliness, deteriorating health, and cognitive decline. Public assistance can only reach so far, and then what?

Gush Etzion is home to over 2,000 senior citizens, including Holocaust survivors and many of the original pioneers who settled in Judea. Although many of these seniors are healthy and enjoy their golden years engaging in fulfilling activities with family and friends, some live in complete solitude. Sadly, approximately 240 seniors in Gush Etzion live hand-to-mouth, receiving monthly financial assistance from Social Services. But as more founding pioneers reach retirement age, the number of needy seniors continues to rise. The Gush Etzion Regional Municipality has stepped up to provide food vouchers, assistance with costly medications, and financial aid, ensuring seniors can maintain their independence and live safely in their own homes.

In Israel, senior citizens' basic needs are covered by Social Security, national medical insurance, and subsidized dental care. But, when medical emergencies arise, these older pioneers are often forced to make some tough decisions, having to choose between buying necessary medication or paying for heating during the frigid winters. For seniors, who are especially vulnerable to freezing temperatures, heating is a matter of survival.

The cost of dental care is another significant concern for needy seniors. The inability to afford even the subsidized price of dentures or treatments for deteriorating teeth often impacts seniors' health. It robs them of dignity as they struggle to eat and experience shame when they speak. Sometimes they are too embarrassed to leave their homes. Additionally, hearing loss is a common issue for seniors. Unable to afford even the subsidized price of hearing aids diminishes seniors' quality of life, as it prevents them from participating in social activities, understanding medical advice, and responding to important sounds and alarms.

The people of Gush Etzion need your help to care for their elderly residents. These seniors, who helped establish the modern State of Israel, are no longer independent. They need assistance. Your gift today will ensure these pioneers in their golden years have heat in the winter, prompt medical and dental treatments, and suitable hearing aids. Your support will ensure the dignity of Judea's original pioneers and honor their contribution to Biblical Israel.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ☆ **Regional Communities Include:** Bat Ayin, Gevaot, Har Gilo, Sde Bar, Sde Boaz, Tekoa
- ☆ **Historical Significance:** First settled in the 1920's, four kibbutz settlements were destroyed by the Jordanians on the eve of Israel's independence in 1948. Re-settled in 1967, right after the Six Day War
- ☆ **Geographical Significance:** Strategically protects the southern approach to Jerusalem
- ☆ **Population:** over 25,000 residents



Senior citizens in Gush Etzion include Holocaust survivors and many of the original pioneers who settled Judea



You can help Seniors in Gush Etzion with heat in the winter, prompt medical and dental treatments, and hearing aids.

GUSH ETZION SENIORS ASSISTANCE

PROJECT BUDGET

Dental Treatments, Medicine & Hearing Aids for Needy Seniors	\$28,580
Financial Assistance and Heating.....	25,210
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED	\$53,790

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