

Something for Everyone in Barkan

Back in 1981, when Barkan was established, there were fifty families, living the Zionist dream, of being pioneers in Biblical Israel. Life was hard, but the ideological spirit was strong. By 1987, forty more families joined, and today Barkan is a community of over three hundred families. This Samaria community has maintained its original ideology, but has developed into a lovely neighborhood of private homes with a high quality of life. The atmosphere is pastoral and quiet, making the neighborhood ideal for raising children. Its relatively isolated location allows the residents to shelter their children from the outside world, but at the same time it's not far from the bustling Ariel, providing the services a city has to offer.



Barkan is a true community as the residents make it a priority to take care of everyone. There are 273 school-age children and great investment has been made in their youth centers. This year they want to advance projects for three other age groups.

There are 150 children through the age of 6 with very little opportunity for comfortable recreation. So a Gymboree was opened in a neighborhood clubhouse. Walls were constructed and some very basic equipment was purchased. Barkan wants to keep admission low and affordable. It's a great meeting place for parents and children and even some older kids come to play the board games that are there. But they need to enrich the area with mattress-padded walls for safety and lots more of that wonderful equipment Gymborees have become famous for. The place is crowded with children of all ages, which sometimes presents a hazard. A second-level loft with rope-climbing apparatus will divide the crowd and create double the playing room.

These past year Barkan has started an adult Community Choir, adding enrichment and culture. The conductor is from Barkan and he has his own recording studio. The group today numbers thirteen and they've already started performing at Barkan events. Unfortunately, the participation costs don't cover the conductor's salary. They need some funding to give them the breathing space to grow and start covering their costs.

The senior citizens deserve some focus too. There is a lovely, spacious building but budget constraints limited activities to once-a-week shows, trips or films. The center needs content... something that will attract a crowd without high costs turning them away. This population has the time and the desire to fill their days with cultured, healthy and quality recreation. Barkan wants to open two classes— exercise and art— at a subsidized fee, offering a happier lifestyle for these golden-agers.

Children have always been of utmost importance to the people of Barkan. Parents see their future in their children and see the necessity of passing on pure Zionist values and true Biblical ideals. They are thrilled that the next generation is marrying and staying in the neighborhood. Please help keep Barkan growing and flourishing.

Project Summary

Barkan Gymboree, Choir and Seniors' Center

- The people of Barkan believe that their children are their future, and even the very young deserve focus.
- The adults of Barkan work hard. The pleasure of making music together can offer culture and a sense of community.
- The senior citizens are ready for recreation designed especially with their needs and interests in mind.



*B*arkan has so much to offer every segment of their population. Help them nurture this special sense of caring and community in the Biblical Heartland.

Project Budget

Gymboree rope equipment and padded walls	\$9,525
Community Choir Director	2,540
Senior Citizens Center Art and Exercise Classes	6,350

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED:.....\$18,415

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