

Playing in the Path of the Patriarchs in Elazar

Elazar was established in 1975 as a collective farming settlement by a group of North American immigrants. This community is named after Elazar, the brother of Judah Macabee, who was killed in battle not far from this site, over 2,000 years ago. Once the community's semi-collective structure was dissolved, Elazar was transformed from a farming community to a suburban residential area, becoming very attractive to recent immigrants and veteran Israelis alike. It grew rapidly.

Located in the Judean Highlands, overlooking the Jerusalem-Hebron highway, this community is one of the strongest of the Etzion Bloc. Its location, only 18 kilometers south of Jerusalem, turned Elazar into a prime suburban community of over 400 families, most of whom work in Jerusalem. Elazar is blessed with a temperate climate, enjoying dry summer days, cool summer nights and mild winters.

The warm and accepting character of the community is due, largely, to the fact that so many of Elazar's residents are new immigrant families, mostly from English-speaking countries. They came to Israel with no family of their own and the residents became family for one another... though they interact naturally and completely with the native Israelis. Community residents help newcomers acclimate and the result is a diverse and cohesive neighborhood.

Local facilities include four synagogues, eight pre-schools, a banquet hall, mini market, library, youth clubhouse, community hall, basketball court and a number of small playgrounds.

Ten years ago, a new neighborhood was built by four Elazar families. Residents were bothered by encroaching Arab farmers on land that was too close to the community. It was very important to these families to protect their borders. They named their new neighborhood, Derech Avot, which means "Path of the Forefathers". Almost immediately, these families decided to build homes on the hilltop, on government land and today Derech Avot numbers 35 families and 100 children!

They have their own synagogue, a successful winery and a therapeutic swimming pool. Unfortunately, they have still not managed to build a playground for these 100 children and it has become a top priority. Healthy recreation is not a luxury; it is a necessity!

After 25 years of steady growth, Elazar has reached full capacity, with no more land available for development! The 80 units currently under construction will be the final units to be built for the foreseeable future. Elazar has developed into a bustling, busy community.





- Elazar is proud of what they have built... a community marked by warmth and a cohesiveness that turns neighbors into family.
- Derech Avot (“The Path of the Forefathers”) has grown and with this blessed growth comes the need for a playground for the 100 resident children.

Elazar is a lovely community in Gush Etzion, with a lot to offer those who choose to make their home among them. Help them provide proper recreation for the brave pioneers who are protecting their rightful borders.

Project Budget

Playground Equipment..... \$6,350

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$6,350

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