

# The Sweet Children of Hemdat

Hemdat is a community in the magnificent Jordan Valley. The breathtaking view from Hemdat spans the whole valley and on a clear day you can see the Dead Sea in the south and Mount Hermon up north. Unlike most of the Jordan Valley communities founded as pioneering agricultural settlements, Hemdat was founded as an educational center. The central institution in Hemdat is the religious pre-military academy, which attracts young boys from all over the country who would like to spend a year in Biblical studies and intensive physical training before induction in the Israel Defense Forces.



Hemdat is located in a vital area of Israel. Perched on a mountaintop, it sits on the edge of the desert mountains overlooking the entire Jordan Valley. Both from a strategic point of view and from a biblical and historical point of view, this area is vital to Israel.

The community was originally established as a “Nahal” outpost by the Israel Defense Forces in 1979. In 1997, a group of young graduates from the pre-military academy in Eli undertook to renew the community, setting up a rotation of students who would stay on the site until permanent arrangements were made. In 1998, this group established their own pre-military academy in Hemdat and laid the foundations for the surrounding community.

Hemdat has expanded quickly. There are more than 30 families living there, with many children from infant to school age, in addition to the 50 young men who study at the academy. Many applicants who wish to join the community are awaiting temporary housing.

Last year, with CFOIC Heartland’s help, Hemdat started a project, integrating children with special-needs into a regular framework. The lesson of charity that all the children learned was priceless, as both sides learned that everyone has strengths and needs and everyone has God-given gifts. This year Hemdat would like to continue focusing on their young children by adding some new and challenging equipment to their playground which supplies so much joy for so many. They also desperately need to plant trees in the area to protect them from the relentless Jordan Valley summer heat. Playing in a playground should be pure fun, but without trees providing shade, the children and their parents will swelter uncomfortably.



- Children need to play. Recreation needs to be available and comfortable.
- Hemdat wants to invest in their children but need funds to cover proper equipment and trees for their playground.

You will not only provide fun and entertainment for the children of Hemdat, but encouragement and moral support to their parents, expressing your faith in the future of this vital mountaintop settlement. With CFOIC Heartland's help, we can ensure the healthy upbringing of a new generation whose dream it is to settle the Land of Israel.

### Project Budget

**TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: ..... \$3,330**

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