

# Oh, To Play in Kedumim

Kedumim, a very special community in Samaria, is known for its Zionistic spirit. In 1975, a dedicated group of young Israeli pioneers established a Jewish community – the first Jewish community in Samaria for 2,000 years. The original settlers lived in mobile homes and other temporary structures before the first homes were built. Today there are over 900 families living in Kedumim's ten neighborhoods. Kedumim's residents come to Kedumim in fulfillment of their belief in the divine promise of a Jewish return to all areas of Biblical Israel, and they continue to push the boundaries of the community, building neighborhoods and public institutions, spanning several far-flung hilltops that surround Kedumim.



Today, there are 1,000 children in Kedumim, 500 of them between the ages of 1-5 alone! The people of Kedumim decided that they need to serve this lovely, luscious part of the population, who need more fun, elaborate, challenging and age-appropriate equipment. There is nothing in Kedumim or in nearby communities that can provide indoor recreation for the very young children. A Gymboree Play Center will offer recreation for the whole family. Toddlers, school-age children, parents, grandparents... will all benefit from and enjoy coming to a place like this. And it's so wonderful to realize that some of the participants will be grandchildren and great grandchildren of Kedumim's original pioneers, who have chosen to remain and settle in the community!

Gymboree Play Centers have proven to encourage coordination, improve motor dexterity, teach social skills, and enhance the self-confidence of the child, while providing hours of great fun. The more thought that goes into this project and the finer the equipment purchased, the greater the number of children who will come.

Despite the very real security issues of Kedumim's proximity to several Arab villages, despite the fact that Kedumim is no stranger to terror, its growth is testimony to the residents' commitment to expand the Jewish presence in the area and to hold on to its rich history. But children don't want to think about security and safety or the importance of a Jewish presence in the land. Children want to think about playing. They need to play. They need to let loose, have room to run, slide, and jump. They should play. And the community has decided that healthy recreation should be a priority. Growth of a community is a joy but it comes with responsibilities.

Participations fees will be nominal as to not discourage anyone from joining, but will hopefully be enough to cover any maintenance costs.

# Project Summary

## Kedumim Gymboree Play Center

- The people of Kedumim have grown and thrived through the years, taking pride in the return of second and third generations to their community.
- Recreation is important for the body and the soul and this year the residents would like to invest in the very young segment of the population, in building a Gymboree Play Center.



Our children are our future, and raising them in an atmosphere of love, safety and fun, is a sure way to ensure a new generation of healthy, happy, contributing members of society.

### Project Budget

Gymboree Equipment .....	\$41,270
Renovation of Building .....	47,620
Municipality Participation.....	-23,800
<b>TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED:.....</b>	<b>\$65,090</b>

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