

# A Playground for Kfar Eldad

From the peak of Herodian you can see the lights of several Jewish-settled hills on the southeastern approach to Jerusalem, including the communities of Tekoa, Nokdim-El David, Kfar Eldad and Sde Bar. The communities sit near the base of ancient Herodian, Herod's summer palace. For thousands of years, Herodian served as the Eastern defense line for Jerusalem, and continues to do so today, with its strategic location only 7 miles southeast of Jerusalem.

In 1992, Kfar Eldad consisted of a group of families living in a temporary army base near what became Nokdim. When these families left to move into the new Nokdim, only two families remained. Two families who insisted that this spot would develop into a community in its own right. And in 1994, it developed into an independent community.

Kfar Eldad is a mixed community where religiously observant, traditional and non-religious residents coexist in harmony. This integrated community prides itself on living a life of pluralism. Many of the families are from the former Soviet Union, some of whom have been in the country for many years. They are an educated group of professionals. The ages of the residents run the gamut from young couples just starting out, to the more elderly, who, by and large, have come in the footsteps of their children. This lends the community a strong sense of family and tradition.

The number of children is growing, but there are no local educational institutions other than a day care center and a kindergarten that opened just this year, so the children travel to nearby communities for schooling. More permanent homes have been built and the residents are thrilled that more and more people are joining them to help them fulfill this desert dream.

This year they would like to build a playground... to invest in something new, attractive, and fun. The parents are concerned that the equipment comply with safety standards and the children want to start letting loose, to jump, bounce, climb and slide. A playground is much more than a place to play for little children. It becomes a social and recreational center for all the families of the community.





- Kfar Eldad, from the base of the Herodian, serves as the Eastern defense line for Jerusalem.
- The children of Kfar Eldad, though, are not thinking of defense lines and security; they are thinking about playing. A new playground would be a wonderful place for the little ones, and a social and recreational place for the families of the community.

**T**he Gush Etzion community of Kfar Eldad plans on growing. But the people are asking for your help. Reach out across the miles and help them establish themselves on this beautiful piece of God's land, in the face of uncertainty. Your support, together with their faith, will help them remain strong.

### Project Budget

Infrastructure .....	\$41,270
Playground Apparatus .....	38,095
Funds provided by municipality .....	\$47,620
<b>TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: .....</b>	<b>\$31,745</b>

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