



Projects at Kibbutz Kissufim

JNF organizations around the world agreed to “adopt” communities from the Gaza envelope to support their individual rebuilding needs, as evacuees prepare for their inevitable return home. JNF Canada decided to adopt Kibbutz Kissufim, a small town of 300 people that was badly damaged by Hamas terrorists.

\ Let's help Kibbutz Kissufim

Kissufim is a kibbutz close to Gaza in the north-west part of the Negev. It's a beautiful area surrounded by groves, orchards, and fields of anemones during the winter season. The Kibbutz was founded in 1951 by a group of youth movement members from the US and South America.

Devastatingly, on October 7th, 16 members were murdered by Hamas, three kidnapped and dozens were injured. Following the horrific day, after many residents stayed in hiding for over 12 excruciating hours, they were evacuated to the Noga Hotel near the Dead Sea. The brutal terrorist attack left profound scars among the members of the community, significantly affecting the children and youth: many are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and academic and social challenges.

They are receiving temporary welfare and health services. They have set up a self-run daycare and school schedule to try and create routine for the children. As much as possible, they are doing what they can to remain resilient and focus on what needs to be done to return home.

\ Your donations will fund

The terror attack left much of Kissufim destroyed. Homes, shelters, ambulances, community buildings, the chicken & dairy farm – all were subject to evil and deliberate destruction, with the goal of making Kissufim unliveable. But the Israeli people are resilient, and they have the support and love from the Jewish Diaspora in Canada with them.

Much of the work includes fortifying buildings - in Kissufim, when an alarm sounds, the time to reach a shelter is only about 6 seconds. This can be a source of stress and anxiety as people rush to find a safe space. The residents have painfully assessed the damage and identified the most critical rebuilding projects.



Projects at Kibbutz Kissufim

These critical projects are:

\ **A Kindergarten**, currently in the advanced stages of construction, needs to be fortified with shielding against rockets and missiles. a fully protected kindergarten will ensure that children and staff have a safe space to go to when the alarm goes off. This is critical for the emotional stability of children but also parents in their post-Oct 7th recoveries, knowing their kids are protected at pre-school while they begin forming work and home routines again. This daycare will serve three pre-schools and is aiming to be ready by the beginning of the 2024 school year.

Project Cost \$400,000 CAD



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These critical projects are:

\ **A Youth Hub** will create a nurturing and inclusive environment where Kissufim's youth feel supported and empowered to express their feelings and experiences openly. Kissufim is small, and before Oct 7th, the youth group numbered nineteen. Tragically, two friends Noya Dan (12) and Sagie Zak (15) were murdered on Oct 7th. During this challenging period, their primary focus is on providing essential mental and social support to the group as they navigate the profound impact of the recent loss of their friends. The centre will provide trained counselling, as well as an after school club and a place for homework. The current building is outdated and in disrepair, creating an unwelcoming atmosphere and failing to meet the needs of Kissufim's kids through their healing and recovery. The renovation will comprise of several activity spaces, a fortified shelter and two private therapy rooms, and is expected to be completed and open within a year.

Project Cost \$500,000 CAD



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\ **The Hope & Heal Clinic** for post-trauma treatments will allow community members to receive much-needed therapy and care closer to home. More than 70% of people who have experienced a traumatic event will develop symptoms of PTSD. This resilience clinic will house individual and group therapies, workshops and support groups, training for educators in dealing with children suffering from trauma, and counseling services for families. These services will be vital to Kissufim's members when they return home and face the enormous task of recovering from Oct 7th. A member from the kibbutz shared, "We firmly believe that the clinic will serve as a cornerstone for Kibbutz Kissufim, aiding the community in its journey of healing from trauma and paving the way toward a brighter tomorrow."

Project Cost \$375,000 CAD

This project has been fully funded by JNF Pacific donors



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\ **The social club** will be the heart of the community, a meeting place for all members. It will serve two purposes: First, it will be fortified against gunfire and missiles, providing a safe haven for kibbutz members during emergencies. Second, it will be the gathering place for various community events, meetings, lectures, and workshops. Socializing is an absolute necessity in the healing process, fighting isolation and anxiety, while fostering a supportive and inclusive community. Finding moments of joy during hardship is the ultimate symbol of resilience and a mitzvah for the Jewish people. The social club will be built within an existing building to minimize costs and construction time while ensuring accessibility and centrality.

Project Cost \$250,000 CAD



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These critical projects are:

- \ **An outdoor “Ninja” adventure park** will serve as a recreational gathering spot for individuals of all ages to engage in adventurous outdoor exercise, crucial for physical wellness, boosting mood, alleviating anxiety and depression, enhancing sleep and managing stress. With climbing walls, nets, swings, obstacles and a trampoline, the park will promote adventure and exercise, bolstering both the physical and mental well-being of community members of all ages and fitness levels. The projected timeline for planning and construction is 9 months. (Photos from a similar adventure park project).

Project Cost \$180,000 CAD

- \ **A playground**, equipped with swings, slides, and other play equipment has already been funded by a generous JNF donor.

Project Cost \$165,000 CAD

