



**Keren Hayesod-UIA**  
*Celebrating together 60 Years  
 of Israel's Independence!*

## Ayalim - Dimona

### Students Mobilize for Social Change Settling the Negev and the Galilee

*"I view Ayalim as an indication that pioneering acts still take place today in the State of Israel, and that a group of ideological and motivated young people can bring about genuine change in the character of the country and Israeli society."*

**Former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon**

With the ongoing support of Keren Hayesod, the Ayalim Association is bringing about a social revolution in Israel. Inspired by the unwavering commitment of the previous generations who established the State of Israel, Ayalim is reviving the pioneering spirit on which Israel was founded. Its pioneers are idealistic college students who are settling Israel's North and South to strengthen these struggling national priority regions from within.

Through Ayalim, over 430 idealistic students have built eight student villages in the Negev and the Galilee. They are settling barren areas in the Negev desert, building their student villages with their own hands. They live in distressed areas, peripheral towns and inner cities, volunteering with the local populations and working to rehabilitate the neighborhoods physically, educationally and socially.

**Your generous donation of US\$ 126,000**  
 will support the building of one housing unit at  
 the Dimona Student Village.

**a generous donation of US\$ 1,134,000**  
 will support the total need of the village for nine  
 housing units .\*

**The housing units will be named according to the donors wishes.**



## Bringing Change to the City of Dimona

With over 35,000 residents, Dimona is the third largest city in the Negev. It also has one of the highest unemployment rates in Israel, and a large disadvantaged population. Not only is it difficult to attract new residents to the city, but many young people leave after their army service. The students of Ayalim have set out to change this. They are giving new hope to the people of the city.

The 30 students from throughout Israel currently living at the Dimona Student Village study at Ben Gurion University. They receive academic scholarships through Ayalim and in return they spend 500 hours a year volunteering in critical social and educational initiatives in the city. In conjunction with the Dimona municipality they work with over 400 children and youth at risk, with special needs children and with senior citizens. They initiate cultural and social activities and organize community-wide projects to beautify the city.

At the same time, Ayalim is working to attract the young people of Dimona to return to the city after their army service. Students from Dimona have been accepted to the project and comprise a large percentage of the Student Village participants. Through Ayalim, these young Dimona residents are receiving college scholarships and working to strengthen their city. They are also serving as role models for the city's children and youth, and inspiring positive change among the city's residents. Ayalim hopes that upon finishing their college education, these students will choose to build their future in the Negev, specifically in Dimona.

## Expanding the Dimona Student Village

When Ayalim set out to build a student village in Dimona they feared that there would not be enough students willing to join the initiative. These fears were unfounded. There were ten students vying for each place available at the Student Village. Ayalim has tapped into the social, pioneering spirit of Israel's young college students; students who want to bring about change and make a difference in their country's social advancement.

As a result, there is an urgent need to expand the student village. This includes building permanent housing and expanding the Village's infrastructure. Through building additional housing units, Ayalim can turn the successful Dimona Student Village model into a permanent student village that will serve as a catalyst for social growth and change in Israel's periphery.



\* The costs include support for the Jewish Agency's activities in immigration, absorption and support for populations in distress.