



Hesed Projects for Bar/Bat Mitzvah
The United Synagogue Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center
8 Agron Street, Jerusalem
www.uscj.org.il

Dear Rabbi, Cantor and Educator,

As you plan the curricula for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah class, the United Synagogue Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center would like to suggest how the Bar/Bat Mitzvah could connect with Israel and Israeli Gemilut Hesed projects in a meaningful way. This is a wonderful hands-on educational opportunity for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to adopt a Hesed project for the year and make it his or her own.

The B'nai Mitzvah could research the project and discover what Jewish values are involved. Later on in the year the children could make a presentation in B'nai Mitzvah class. They could also involve their families. Some of the projects need funding. Other projects solicit donations of various supplies (not to be sent via the mail -due to customs regulations). The Fuchsberg Center could help by making sure that the supplies collected and brought over to Israel are directed to where needed the most.

Many of the projects welcome volunteers (a great family experience when visiting Israel).

On the day of the Simcha, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah could share with the congregation his or her Hesed project done in conjunction with the United Synagogue Fuchsberg Center. The school or the congregation might also offer a special award.

(When you initiate this program, please notify Rabbi Ed Romm, Fuchsberg Center Director of Education, romm@uscj.org. He is eager to assist.)

Rabbi Steven C. Wernick
Executive Vice President, USCJ

Rabbi James M. Lebeau
Director, USCJ Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center

The following are just a few examples of projects that allow various levels of personal involvement. For more guidance contact: Tarbut@uscj.org.

The Family Education Initiative (FEI) , a National Network of Family Education Centers That: Empowers Ethiopian Jewish Immigrants

FEI does its work with the aid of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Israel Association of Community Centers.

- Empowers Ethiopian Jewish Immigrants
- Strengthens the Family Unit
- Contributes Innovative Holistic Educational Programming
- Helps Participants Become Contributing members of Israeli Society

For more information contact Aviva Groen, FEI Educational Director:
groenda@012.net.il, or Rabbi Paul Freedman, USCJ Israel Commission Director:
freedman@uscj.org

Masorti Congregation Moreshet Yisrael Lone Immigrant Soldiers Project

- Supports lone soldiers who are without families in Israel by distributing food and other products, gift boxes at holiday times, supermarket vouchers and invitations to holiday events.

For more information contact Joan Kedem, joankedem@gmail.com

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah for the Special Child – www.masorti.org

- Program of the Masorti Movement annually prepares over 300 children with special needs for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony. Since 1995, the Masorti Movement has been running Israel's only national Bar/Bat Mitzvah program, which reaches out systematically to children with special needs in Israeli schools.

Warm Home Program – mavraham@zahav.net.il

- Sponsored by Masorti synagogue Kehillat Moreshet Avraham, currently helps children from disadvantaged homes receive a hot meal, and help with homework. Children also receive a scholarship to a day camp.

Kehillat Yotzer Or - Rabbi Uri Ayalon, info@yotzeror.org.il

- Yotzer Or serves the Talpiot neighborhood residents (especially the low income part) from its base at the Beit Lazaros Center..
- The Kehilla combines text study, the arts, family experience and social action in an empowering Jewish-Israeli setting.
- Library for the surrounding neighborhood.
- Specialty classes, Family activities.
- Women's' Circle empowering women who come from various strata of Israeli society

Table to Table - www.tabletotable.org.il

- Table to Table partners with catering halls, restaurants, bakeries and hotels in all regions of the country to ensure that surplus food is delivered to needy people.
- Leket . Tens of thousands of tons of fresh fruits and vegetables are wasted each year. Leket is our attempt to reverse the phenomenon. Rather than let good food go to waste, Israeli farmers invite Table to Table to harvest their fields and to provide the produce to needy people around the country.

Lifeline for the Old – Yad Lekashish - www.lifeline.org.il

- Lifeline For The Old - *Yad Lekashish* is a unique organization that provides a place for the elderly and the disabled to work and socialize. Some 250 Jerusalemites come to the

organization's workshops each morning to meet their friends and make a vital if modest amount of money creating high-quality products that are sold in *Yad Lekashish's* gift shop. "We enable them to help themselves rather than simply giving them charity."

The Jaffa Institute - www.jaffainstitute.org

- The Institute's mission is to provide educational, recreational and social enrichment programs that endow children with a sense of self-worth by supporting their self-esteem so they can break the cycle of bitter poverty they were born into, and grow to be healthy, educated and productive adults.

Magen David Adom - www.mda.org.il

- Blood Drives. Over 280,000 blood units are collected yearly from non-paid volunteers: 90% of which are collected using MDA Mobil Units in schools, factories, community centers and army camps. The other 10% are collected in fixed - sites and donor rooms at MDA first-aid stations located in towns and cities all over Israel. The United Synagogue Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center has hosted blood drives at its beautiful Jerusalem Campus.

House to House - www.housetohouseisrael.org

- Shoes are provided for needy school children as well as hot lunches and school supplies.
- A shelter housing women and children victims of abuse continuously advises House to House of immediate and urgent needs that exceed the limit of its budget:
- Elderly survivors of The Holocaust living in Israel are provided with whatever aid will elevate their human dignity in these their later years.

Koach Latet - www.mifalchaim.org www.meirpanim.org

- Supplies basic amenities to the homes of needy families such as – beds, refrigerators, baby carriages, tables and chairs, etc.
- Meir Panim, part of Koach Latet, is a very well-known soup kitchen and storage room which packs boxes of food for Russian elderly olim and needy families

Shalva - www.shalva.org

- Works with special needs children and their families. Provides a therapeutic and supportive environment that advances the special needs child and enables the family to raise that child while living a normal and healthy lifestyle.