

# Mitzvah Project Info

What is a Mitzvah project, what do I do, and how do I even begin?

Many congregations now have a Mitzvah Project component to the B Mitzvah – as if studying for a year, learning the prayers, chanting Torah and Haftarah, writing a Dvar Torah, and leading a service wasn't enough...whew! A Mitzvah Project helps B'nai Mitzvah take on a more responsible role in the Jewish community by not only learning about the concepts of mitzvot, but putting them into practice.

Each B Mitzvah will be asked to plan and implement a project that fulfills a mitzvah and serves the community. **The project should be planned before the B Mitzvah date and implemented (or started) sometime in the month or two after.** This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to others, whether by lending a hand, raising funds (in a hands-on fashion!), or giving time and expertise.

## How do you even begin to think of what project you might want to do?

Consider these questions to get started. Below the questions you will find examples of what others have done in the past.

### WHAT DO YOU LIKE?\*

- What are your hobbies?
- How do you spend most of your time? (ie: what a typical weekend looks like for you)
- What are your unique strengths and qualities?
- What qualities would you like to improve?
- What Jewish customs, traditions, or rituals do you find interesting?.
- Think about the last time you saw someone who needed help. Who was it?
- Think about all the people in your life that you care about, how can you help them?
- Think about all the times you've seen someone in despair, and you thought..'I'd love to help them'...how are you helping them?

### STYLES OF MITZVOT:

There are 3 styles of Mitzvot and your project may include one or more. These are here to help get you thinking about the ways you might want to contribute to society.

- 1: **Tzedakah/Charity** - giving money/goods to people in need
- 2: **Ritual** - volunteering at Hebrew school, helping to read Torah
- 3: **Chesed**: love and kindness - volunteering your time and/or expertise

## **B MITZVAH PROJECT IDEAS**

- **Monthly Meal Service at Shirley's Place Day Center**
  - We are looking for volunteer groups to prepare and distribute grab-and-go meals for our Day Center guests. More information about this volunteer opportunity can be found [HERE](#). We are currently looking for support during one (or more than one if interested!) of the following months: April, June, November.
- Stocking a Little Free Pantry for neighbors in need
- Being an assistant (madrach/ah) at Yavneh as a volunteer for the year
- Preparing sandwiches to donate through Everyone Home DC at Shirley's Place, a day center for unhoused neighbors
- Helping elders with their technology through Capitol Hill Village
- Becoming a reliable regular (monthly? bi-monthly?) Torah chanter at services
- Holding a series of bake sales/craft sales/etc to benefit an organization
- The Sunflower Bakery Bnei Mitzvah Seeds Program, <https://www.sunflowerbakery.org/community/bnei-mitzvah-program/>
- Fundraising for your favorite charity - such as a bake sale, running X miles, etc.
- Volunteering at a nursing home
- Work with refugees by fundraising, getting donations of food/clothing, etc
- Volunteering at our Migrant Solidarity respite site (contact Rabbi Hannah for more information)
- [Volunteering as a Baseball Coach for the Nats YBA](#) – 8th Grade and Up

\*questions written by Rebecca Cohen