

# Mitzvah Projects Requirements

Every student is expected to participate in the following three mitzvot:

- **Ben Adam L'Havero** (actions between people/for people), such as G'milut Hasadim (Deeds of Loving Kindness)
- **Ben Adam L'Makom** (between people and God)
- **Tzedakah** (Financial and Material Contributions)

**Ben Adam L'Havero** (actions between people/for people): Gemilut Chasadim (Deeds of Loving Kindness)

As part of the sixth grade curriculum, students do an "Interest/Talent Inventory". They and their parents attend the Mitzvot of MetroWest Event in January, where they are introduced to the myriad opportunities to help in the Jewish and general community.

Examples include: •

- L'Dor Va'Dor: Connecting with our elderly Temple members (phone calls, visits, birthday cards, etc.).
- Supporting a food pantry.
- Visiting a nursing home or assisted living facility.
- Visiting children in a homeless shelter.
- Removing litter from a park in your local community.
- Mitzvah Clowns
- Working with organizations to help needy and/or disabled community members.
- Mini-Minyan leaders
- Madrichim
- Shadows for students with special needs

## **Ben Adam L'Makom (between people and God)**

As a person who has "taken on the responsibility for Commandments", students can make a commitment to:

- Study with a Havruta Partner
- Take on a commandment- Shabbat, Kashrut, Minyan, Torah reading, etc.

This activity will include keeping a journal or creating a blog of the experience.

## **Tzedakah** (Material Contributions)

Each family organizes a collection (e.g., books, toiletries, winter clothing, non-perishable food, etc.) in support of the needy. Suggestions for these programs will be found at Mitzvot of Metrowest or through the RS office. One option is *Bima Baskets*: Items can be collected and then displayed as Bima decorations on the day of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This helps both the organization and TBAY Teen Institute, which collects a fee for creating the baskets. See the Religious School office for more details

## **Tzedakah** (Financial Contributions)

Jewish tradition encourages us to offer tzedakah at the time of a simcha. Because we are so grateful for our blessings, we offer something to others in need. Each student makes a personal contribution to a tzedakah-of-choice in honor of his/her bar/bat mitzvah. The Rabbi helps guide the student appropriately. It is hoped that the family makes a similar contribution, perhaps, as a family, discussing the recipient and amount.

Please submit these forms to the Religious School Office one month after your first Bar/Bat Mitzvah meeting with Rabbi Mallach.

### **Ben Adam L'Havero Mitzvah Project Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Date \_\_\_\_\_

I will be doing my ongoing volunteer service project for the following organization:

Name of organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address of organization \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number of organization \_\_\_\_\_

This is what I will be doing:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Tzedakah Project Collection Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Date \_\_\_\_\_

I will be collecting the following items

\_\_\_\_\_

The items will be donated to the following organization

\_\_\_\_\_

The collection will take place in my community at

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Sample Insert for Your Invitation

A number of parents have asked us to provide a sample "insert" that explains their child's Mitzvah Project Collection and that they could include in their invitation. Here is a sample that you can customize as appropriate:

Dear Family and Friends, As part of my bar/bat mitzvah, I am asked to take on a Mitzvah Project Collection. In honor of my bar/bat mitzvah, I will be collecting \_\_\_\_\_. These will be donated to \_\_\_\_\_. I chose this collection because \_\_\_\_\_. I'm asking you to help make this collection a success by your participation!

Today

## Ben Adam L'Makom Project Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have chosen to take on the following *Mitzvat Ben Adam L'Makom*:

\_\_\_\_\_ Committing to be part of the weekly minyan

\_\_\_\_\_ Learning with a partner (Havruta).

- My partner is \_\_\_\_\_
- We will be studying \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Kashrut

\_\_\_\_\_ Shabbat

\_\_\_\_\_ T'fillin

\_\_\_\_\_ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_