

## Social Action Ideas for B'nai Mitzvah Students

Looking for a b'nai mitzvah project but not sure where to start? The Social Action Committee is here to help. Please contact [our teams](#) for ideas on projects that match your particular interests in social justice.

### Direct Service -

- **Poverty, Homelessness, and Housing Team**
  - Food collection drive for SOME (Ezra Pantry) that could include determining what specific items are needed during the season, as well as sorting and boxing items left by others;
  - Participation in SOME's annual winter coat drive and Friendship Place's winter accessories collections (including soliciting items, helping to sort and pack them up);
  - Toiletry drive for women at N Street Village that could involve sorting and packaging the toiletries for individual use;
  - Friendship Place's Tenleytown Welcome Center needs meals for 30 people on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the day. A b'nai mitzvah family or group of families could cook together or coordinate food and a parent could drive the meal over;
  - For a combination Hesed/Social Action project, b'nai mitzvah parents could order whole fruit (any type) for the kiddush lunch and leftovers could be donated to a neighborhood program working with homeless individuals;
  - For a Hesed-focused project, work with the Dor v'Dor (DVD) program focused on assisting seniors in the Adas community, or Seabury's "Aging in Place" program;
  - Starting in 2020, assistance to families in the new short-term housing facility to be created in Ward 3 such as tutoring or organizing birthday parties for the youngest children.
- **Refugee Response Team** -- Join a refugee family mentoring group, or start a new one with your family/other families. You will receive training from the service organization IRC and then work with a family for 6 months (or more) to help them further integrate into the United States.
- **Climate Action Team** -- Develop a sustainability/composting plan for your bar/bat mitzvah, using a local provider such as Compost Cab

### Education -

- **Poverty, Homelessness, and Housing Team** -- Students could meet/talk with staff from one of our partner organizations listed above to become better informed about homelessness, especially causes and interventions, as well as the affordable housing crisis. Students could then share that knowledge with their Adas peers, as well as make a presentation at school.
- **Refugee Response Team** -- Collaborate with one of our existing partners (or a new one, like the Asylum Seekers Assistance Project) to educate their school, Adas classmates, or others about the refugee crisis

### Advocacy -

- **Poverty, Homelessness, and Housing Team** -- Students could meet with our Affordable Housing Team, learn about the affordable housing crisis in DC and in other cities, and then find out what campaigns Adas is involved with and become involved

with them. Activities could include letter writing/emailing members of the DC Council when there are budget hearings or members are voting on a bill.

- **Refugee Response Team** -- Assist HIAS with ongoing advocacy campaigns

#### Philanthropy -

- **Refugee Response Team** -- Raise money to donate to a partner organization, like IRC or HIAS, for support of refugees. Kids can do an activity they like, such as making crafts, mowing lawns, or teaching a skill to younger kids and then donate proceeds. IRC has a fund to support children from refugee families to attend summer camp, which can make an excellent connection.
- **Poverty, Homelessness, and Housing Team** -- Similar to the above, students could raise money for something specific that is needed for our partner organizations listed above. Their websites are detailed about what concrete items are needed, and students could meet the organizations in advance to come up with a specific program and goal.

#### Partners -

- **Days for Girls** -- this organization focuses on helping girls in developing countries to attend school while menstruating, which many are prevented from doing.
- Silver Springs Cares is committed to helping create opportunities for family and groups of all ages to engage with amazing nonprofits serving our community. Some great organizations to start with are DC Diaper Bank, Comfort Cases, Friends of Sligo Creek and Leveling the Playing Field. You can learn about all of them and more on their [Charity Directory Page](#), or feel free to reach out to [Heather@SilverSpringCares.org](mailto:Heather@SilverSpringCares.org).
- Visit Volunteer Match and filter by “Teens” for local opportunities.