



What Do We Really Care About?



B'NAI MITZVAH FUNDS

SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Adults think we only care about talking on the phone, playing basketball or listening to music.

Well, they are totally wrong. We al-so care about our Judaism and the world we live in.

We look around and we see poverty and hunger and disease. We walk down the street and we see homeless people with nothing to eat and nowhere to sleep. We hear about terrorism and anti-Semitism. We see places where there is injustice. We watch the news and we know that people suffer.

As Jewish teens who have all just

had our Bar or Bat Mitzvah, we know that Judaism teaches us that it is a mitzvah to give tzedakah.

However, until we found out about the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation's B'nai Mitzvah Club, we wondered how we could make a difference.

A B'nai Mitzvah Fund in our own name provides us with our own individual tzedakah fund, which gives us as a chance as Jews to play a part in improving the world.

It also made our Bar or Bat Mitzvah very special. It wasn't just

about getting cheques and partying with friends. We got to do something important, something that matters. It made us feel good.

In the next few pages, we are going to tell you what we really care about.

We are fortunate in our community to have philanthropists Saul and the late Edna Goldfarb, who founded the B'nai Mitzvah Club. Through the B'nai Mitzvah Club, they are encouraging other teens like us to care for their community. The Goldfarb fund will match your donation of \$250 up to \$1000. All they ask in return is that you support Jewish agencies in the community.

HOW WE SHOW WE CARE

You don't have to be good at math to understand how a B'nai Mitzvah Fund works. It's totally easy.

Start by sitting down with your family and talking about tzedakah, and what kind of project you would like to fund. Then you or one of your parents can call the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation (OJCF).

The way it works is you get to have your own B'nai Mitzvah Fund created in your name.

So, now you have this Fund. Now you're a philanthropist. Wait, first you have to say philanthropist ten times fast. Just kidding.

The great part is you can use your B'nai Mitzvah Fund to support agencies that are important to you right now.

All you really have to do is decide which Jewish organization in Ottawa or Israel interests you the most. Then, once a year a cheque is sent by the OJCF to the Jewish organization in your name. When they get a gift from "your" B'nai Mitzvah Fund, they know it's coming from you.

Hey there's more! When you open a B'nai Mitzvah Fund, you are joining a club with a whole bunch of other Jewish kids in your community who are practicing tzedakah, helping out where they can, just like you.

We care about our Jewish Community and changing the world.



“For me, my Bat Mitzvah was more than the religious ceremony and party. Becoming a B’nai Mitzvah Club member made my Bat Mitzvah more meaningful.

I choose to allocate my money to the residents of Tamir and The Ottawa Rotary Home; organizations dedicated to assisting people with developmental and physical disabilities and their families. Having a brother with a disability who has benefited from these programs has allowed me to see the amazing things these organizations do and will continue to do for many other families.

By telling people that they can donate to my fund, I increase awareness of charities that are not as well known as some in the Ottawa area. With my B’nai Mitzvah Fund, I can help people and so can you.”



“At my Bat Mitzvah, I didn’t really think that I had the power to help. But starting up a B’nai Mitzvah Fund has shown me that I do have the power and I have taken my first step in giving Tzedakah.

When I learned about the Holocaust, I knew how important it was to inform people about how anti-Semitism has affected the Jewish people. I try to make people aware of what happened to make sure that we don’t forget.

I believe that being Jewish is important and that everyone should have the chance to feel a part of their community. Becoming a B’nai Mitzvah Fund holder is so much better than not doing anything at all. My B’nai Mitzvah Fund gives me the opportunity to make sure that our community stays strong.”



“I REALLY CARE ABOUT THE ARTS AND SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES”

**Davina Finn
B’nai Mitzvah Fund Holder**

“I REALLY CARE ABOUT HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS AND FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM”

**Hannah Gennis
B’nai Mitzvah Fund Holder**

"I wanted to find a way to help out our community. After my Bar Mitzvah, I realized that I am now considered a man in the Jewish religion. And that meant that I now had to start acting like a man. A B'nai Mitzvah Fund is the perfect way for me to do that.

I want to help the homeless because they're less fortunate than us and some people take advantage of that. B'nai Mitzvah lets me give back to the community. You feel good about helping others and you feel really good about yourself.

That's why I would tell others to go ahead and start a fund. Get involved because it's helping out not only the Jewish community but the entire community."



"I knew that I wanted the money I received from my Bat Mitzvah to go into the community. I set up my B'nai Mitzvah Fund because it was easy and a quick way of making my money help others.

To me, the B'nai Mitzvah Club means I have the opportunity to help those less fortunate than I. As a member of the B'nai Mitzvah Club, I feel proud that I am helping my community.

I love that each year, I am able to chose which organizations I want the money from my fund to go to. I can chose organizations that I am passionate about and that speak to me. I am happy to know that my annual contribution gives to those people who are in need of help and support."



"I REALLY CARE ABOUT PLAYING HOCKEY AND HELPING THE HOMELESS IN MY COMMUNITY"

**Bryan Thaw
B'nai Mitzvah Fund Holder**

"I REALLY CARE ABOUT PLAYING THE PIANO AND HELPING THE LESS FORTUNATE"

**Jenna Greenberg
B'nai Mitzvah Fund Holder**

Join Us

The most important thing about a B'nai Mitzvah Fund is that it allows you to make a difference. We enjoy giving. It is a powerful way for us to express ourselves. And it is the best opportunity to support the Jewish causes we really care about.

Make your Bar or Bat Mitzvah mean something special.

Open your fund today and show that you care about making the world a better place.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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