

# The Parents' Guide to B'nai Tzedek

How do we make our child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah the life-changing, meaningful experience that we wish it would be? What can we do, as parents, to ensure this important right of passage is a meaningful introduction to life as a responsible Jew?

B'nai Tzedek offers an engaging solution. By giving kids the opportunity to be philanthropists, we place in their hands the most valuable Bar or Bat Mitzvah gift possible—we teach them how to give.

We want our kids, as Jews, to care about the world in which they live. But the truth is—they already do. They just need a way to express how much they care. And their Bar or Bat Mitzvah is the perfect time to empower them, to allow them to begin to make their voices heard.

Joining B'nai Tzedek begins their journey into a life of philanthropy, immediately exposing them to a diverse group of people and Jewish organizations that are working hard to change the world.

Not only will they become more conscious and aware of the world around them, but they will also gain a community of friends who share their passion and commitment. At an age when they are defining themselves, there is no better way to introduce them to other mature and socially responsible teens.

This "Make a Difference" brochure is written for kids. But it is also written for you, because the success of B'nai Tzedek depends on your involvement. You are instrumental in your child's decision to participate. As you approach the time of your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah, this is one of the most important Jewish decisions you will make regarding their Jewish future. Their participation in B'nai Tzedek will impact the rest of their lives.

B'nai Tzedek is simple. Here's how it works: your child contributes \$250 from his or her Bar/Bat Mitzvah gift money. The money is matched with \$250 from a sponsor. Thus, a \$500 B'nai Tzedek Fund is established in your child's name.

As the years pass and your child grows, so will his or her Fund, through interest earnings and (we recommend) additional donations. Making a contribution to your child's B'nai Tzedek Fund is an excellent way to commemorate a special occasion. Each year through the end of high school, your child will choose a qualified charity (or charities) to which he or she will donate up to 20% of the Fund's balance. In June of your child's graduation year, his or her B'nai Tzedek fund can continue as a permanent fund of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis (\$1,000 minimum) or it can be donated to the Student Co-operative Fund or to other charities.

*Help shape the future of our Jewish community. Encourage your child to sign up today.*

**Beyond the party.**

**Beyond the family.**

**Beyond the hora.**

**Beyond all the gifts.**

**Memphis B'nai Tzedek!**



B'nai Tzedek operates in partnership with the Jewish Foundation of Memphis, Memphis Jewish Federation, a private sponsor, Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth, Baron Hirsch Congregation, Beth Sholom Synagogue, Chabad Lubavitch, Temple Israel, and Young Israel.

