

A Guide to your Mitzvah Project!

Thank you for choosing THE SURVIVOR MITZVAH PROJECT [SMP] as your mitzvah project!

The Survivor Mitzvah Project is the only project in the world providing direct financial aid to the last survivors of the Holocaust scattered throughout Eastern Europe and the Baltics who are ill, impoverished, isolated and are in desperate need of food, medicine heat, shelter, and some lovingkindness.

You are one of a select group of compassionate teenagers who realizes the importance of supporting Holocaust survivors who are still suffering over 80 years after World War II. These are the last generation of Holocaust Survivors, and yours is the last generation who can help them. You are performing a major act of Tzedakah as you move forward on life's path towards adulthood.

Boys and girls of Bar and Bat Mitzvah age around the world have joined with The Survivor Mitzvah Project and saved lives by supporting hundreds of survivors for their mitzvah projects using their own creative ideas and following these suggestions:

First, choose to support Holocaust survivors in war-torn Ukraine or in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, or Transnistria. Please let us know your choice. You can also tell us to use the funds you raise to help survivors in critical need no matter what country they are in.

Make sure that everyone you know, and all of your guests know that you chose the award-winning Survivor Mitzvah Project as your mitzvah project and are helping Holocaust Survivors who have nowhere else to turn.

In the envelope along with your invitation, you can add SMP's insert (provided in the email).

You can also create your own email to your guests with some graphics and a link to SMP's website at www.survivormitzvah.org

Contact friends and family on social media to let them know you will be saving lives for your mitzvah project.

Write a short personal statement about why you chose to do this:

Let people know what their support does: it provides food, medicine, caregivers for the bedridden and blind, or lanterns, blankets, and camping stoves for those survivors without heat and electricity in Ukraine.

Mention that \$150 supports a survivor for 1 month, but any amount helps save lives. Also let them know that 100% of their donation goes directly to a Holocaust survivor in need. The Survivor Mitzvah Project is a 501c3 non-profit public charity donations are tax deductible.

Tell your guests about the project, by using some of the language on our home page like:

70% of Holocaust Survivors do not have enough food.

75% of Holocaust Survivors in Ukraine and Belarus suffer from illness due to the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

75% of Holocaust Survivors cannot afford doctors, medications, or surgeries.

Include a video link so they can see the situation for themselves -- how hard life is in these countries and how they struggle daily. Here are some links to choose from:

Be A Champion of Compassion: <https://youtu.be/pFmvu0IELIo>

Alone in a Vanished World https://youtu.be/FdFx4aDo_k4

Why We Go <https://youtu.be/TYb42rKWtOs>

Moldova Humanitarian Aid Trip <https://youtu.be/Un0SpH1idMs>

The Witnesses, Stories in a Sentence https://youtu.be/6g_Q75ALKqc

A Daily Struggle <https://youtu.be/IUIS2r4ZnkU>

Send the rest of these videos periodically to your friends and family as reminders about your lifesaving project.

In this way you can create a "GIVING CIRCLE" with your friends and family supporting Holocaust Survivors!

If your invitations have already been sent out, you can send a flyer and a donation envelope to everyone on your guest list, telling them about your project and the urgent need to help. You can print your own or ask us to help.

SET A FUNDRAISING GOAL and keep your guests apprised of your progress. If only 10 people contribute \$100, you have raised \$1000! If 10 people contribute enough to support 1 Holocaust survivor for 1 month (\$150), you have raised the magic number of \$1800 and will receive a special gift from The Survivor Mitzvah Project to commemorate your compassionate work. If you raise over \$3600 you will be the leader -- the person who has raised the most for their mitzvah project nationwide!

- **CREATE A FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER** for your Mitzvah Project. It's easy and works well. Also, "like" SMP's page and follow us for updates. Encourage your Facebook friends to join as well! Thousands of dollars have been raised by teenagers using Facebook fundraisers.
- **CREATE YOUR OWN FUNDRAISER:** Get your friends together to help out in a fundraiser. One person raised \$3600 in just 3 weekends doing a car wash fundraiser with friends. Another held cookie sales over a period of months raising funds. Yard sales and farmer's market booths are also great ideas.
- **CREATE A SPORTS FUNDRAISER:** Sports fans can have swim-a-thons, walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, or skate-a-thons where people pledge dollars for every mile you swim, walk, ride or skateboard.
- **CREATE A THEATRICAL FUNDRAISER:** Join the Hollywood stars who have read letters from Holocaust survivors to raise funds. You can create your own theatrical event in your home, school, Synagogue, community theatre or other venue, and charge admission. We will supply you with scripts and materials to make this a big success. This form of fundraising is meaningful, educational, creative, and effective. This event touches people's hearts, prompting them to help.
- **REMINDE PEOPLE** monthly about what you are doing and the progress of your goal. Send out new videos with these updates.
- **PRINT OUT FLYERS AND DONATION ENVELOPES:** Print a few hundred of each of the files we provide you. These are informational packets and donation envelopes. You can pass them out to everyone in your Synagogue, family, and circle of friends.
- **GET YOUR PARENTS & TEACHERS INVOLVED:** Have them contact your Rabbi and/or Bar/Bat Mitzvah coordinator to spread the word about your mitzvah project encouraging them to put SMP on their list of recommended projects for other teenagers. Also, see if your Synagogue will honor your mitzvah project by including it in their newsletters and publications. Sisterhoods and Social Action Committees should also be contacted and asked to donate.
- **AT YOUR RECEPTION/PARTY:** Have a SURVIVOR MITZVAH PROJECT display table so that people can donate on the spot or take materials and donation envelopes home. People who have done this have raised thousands of dollars at their party, just by having materials set out on a table, along with pens. While everyone is celebrating, they can also be part of a meaningful experience. You can also print one of our posters and hang it by the table to draw attention to your project. We can provide a slideshow that can be played on a screen or computer. We can also send a QR code to display to make donations easier.
- At your **CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY** honor your family by donating in their names to help survivors. We will provide you with certificates that you can hand out to people as you bring them up to light a candle. The certificates give the name of the survivor you are helping. This adds great meaning to the ceremony.

Your Mitzvah Project can be as big as your imagination. These are just some of the fundraising projects that have had success. You can create new and fun ways to raise money on your own. Remember, most of these elderly survivors were your age when the horrors of the Holocaust destroyed their homes, families, and communities, leaving them all alone in the world. Helping them today is your last opportunity to actually do something about the Holocaust.

Be proud that you are a part of this urgent humanitarian effort ensuring that no Holocaust Survivor who has endured the darkest Days of Human History ever be hungry, cold, or forgotten again.

Who Saves a Life, Saves the World Entire

**CNN HERO AWARD • ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE (ADL) AWARD
MENSCH INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARD • KCET LOCAL HERO AWARD**

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