

## Or Ami Inspired Mitzvah Project Ideas

(Updated 01/18/2023)

Below is a list of events and organizations that Congregation Or Ami has supported for years. You might be able to develop your Mitzvah Project in collaboration with the Or Ami member who coordinates the project you are interested in. Keep in mind that some projects are only available at certain times during the year. Also, the opportunity to join these projects may be limited, so please plan far enough in advance, and be prepared to select a different project if the one you are interested in does not need volunteers when you are available.

If you would love to . . .	For Event or Organization	Timeframe	Or Ami Contact
Help coordinate a specific aspect of creating comfort backpacks for children taken into foster care . . .	Or Ami's Mitzvah Day	August – Nov	<i>Rachel Doshevsky</i> rdashevsky@gmail.com <i>Rachel Paul</i> rachelpaul@me.com

### Local Organizations That Have Accepted Mitzvah Project Volunteers

This list was originally researched by Andie Harris for her Bat Mitzvah Project in 2011 and has since been updated with information from other B'Nai Mitzvah Students. Please note that this is NOT a list of pre-approved Mitzvah Projects and there is no guarantee that the organizations listed will be able to work with you. **Some organizations require an adult to accompany young students.** If you have a difficult time with any of these organizations, or if you find a wonderful organization that we should add, please contact Cathie Rutkin (crutkin@gmail.com) to update the list!

***As a courtesy, BEFORE calling an organization, please take the time to learn as much about whether it is a good fit for you by reviewing all the information provided on the website.***

***If you do not find an organization here that you would like to work with, check Tzedek America <https://tzedekamerica.org> for additional ideas***

## **ANIMALS**

**ANIMAL GUARDIANS HORSE RESCUE:** <http://www.animalguardianshorserescue.org>

Provides sanctuary to local senior equine in need, while connecting our Southern California community through purpose and service.

We are a 501(c)3 public non-profit charity organization for equine welfare in Ventura County, CA. We provide rehabilitation, retraining, and quality of life improvement to senior equines with special needs between the ages of 20 and 40. We practice Parelli Natural Horsemanship and work together with the Humane Society of the United States Forever Foundation Training Program to give some of our younger horses a chance at finding permanent loving adoptive homes as pleasure and companion equine partners. Our focus is on horse-human relationships, and we strive to educate the public in responsible and savvy horse ownership for life. We offer summer community-based Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) literacy education, community outreach, and professional development programs. We also offer year-round youth leadership opportunities in fundraising, and volunteer experiences.

**THE BUNNY GROOMER:** [www.bunnygroomer.com](http://www.bunnygroomer.com)

100% of the proceeds from grooming services help to keep bunnies safe till they find good homes and pays to get them spayed and neutered before they go to their forever homes! Accepting volunteers who can help with rescued bunnies once a week for two hours.

**CATS AT THE STUDIO, INC** <https://catsatthestudios.com>

Cats at the Studios, Inc. is a nonprofit rescue organization comprised entirely of volunteers. We are dedicated to nurturing, neutering and spaying, and finding forever homes for abandoned cats and kittens. The shelters are overflowing with unwanted pets that are euthanized, and many of our cats are rescued on their last days at the shelter. Sometimes people will find stray or injured cats and contact us to help. Every cat that comes into our care is welcomed with open arms. Our kitties are all fostered in private homes by volunteers. They eat premium quality food, get excellent veterinary care, and of course receive lots of love! Unweaned kittens are bottle-fed around the clock, and foster parents encounter many challenges along with much joy until the babies are past the danger zone

**GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA:** <https://www.guidedogsofamerica.org>

At Guide dogs of America, we transform lives through partnerships with service dogs. We breed, raise, and train guide dogs for individuals who are blind/visually impaired and service dogs for veterans and children with autism. We also place facility dogs with professionals in hospitals, schools, and courtrooms. Our highly skilled canines become trusted companions that increase people's confidence, mobility, and independence. All programs and services, including transportation, personalized training, room/board, and postgraduate support, are provided at no cost to the recipient.

**HEAVEN ON EARTH (for Homeless Cats):** <http://www.heavenlypets.org>

Heaven on Earth Society for Animals, founded in 2000, envisions the day when there are no more homeless pets in the Los Angeles area. Our programs and events are aimed to rescue cats most at risk for euthanasia and to raise awareness in Los Angeles and beyond.

**HOPE RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE:** [www.hoperanchanimalsanctuary.org](http://www.hoperanchanimalsanctuary.org)

Mission - Hope Ranch Animal Rescue is a non-profit organization founded on the belief that all animals deserve a loving home with comprehensive and quality care. This family endeavor began with a big dream, a bigger heart, and a distinctive desire to shelter, rehabilitate and place unwanted and neglected animals. *Note: This group may be able to help find a project, but only for students who have prior experience around big animals (horses) and a parent will need to be present during hours of service.*

**LIFE ANIMAL RESCUE:** [www.lifeanimalrescue.org](http://www.lifeanimalrescue.org)

Adoptions are held every Saturday at the Westlake Petsmart. Volunteers are needed, but twelve-thirteen year olds need a parent or guardian with them.

**PET ORPHANS:** [www.petorphans.org](http://www.petorphans.org)

Mission – Pet Orphans is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization dedicated to the advancement of companion animal welfare and to combating overpopulation, abandonment and the need for euthanasia. We have been rescuing, rehabilitating and placing animals in loving "forever homes" for 40 years. POSC provides broad community support through our Humane Education program, and our diverse client services (medical/financial, spay/neuter, training assistance, and counseling to encourage responsible pet guardianship and reduce animal abuse.)

Our volunteers are the heart & soul of our organization. You'll be joining a team of committed individuals working with us toward our mission of rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing homeless pets. First, you'll attend one of our monthly New Volunteer Orientations to learn more about our variety of volunteer opportunities. After attending a Volunteer Orientation, you'll be invited to sign up for the volunteer training that best fits your interests and schedule. Volunteer Orientations last about an hour. Children ages 11 -15 may enter our Junior Volunteer Program. Without exception, no one under 11 is permitted to volunteer at POSC. Each Junior Volunteer must always be accompanied by a parent or guardian – the same parent or guardian who attended the orientation and training with the Junior Volunteer.

**PAW WORKS:** [www.pawworks.org](http://www.pawworks.org)

PAW WORKS is a nonprofit animal rescue dedicated to partnering with county and city shelters to give abandoned animals a second chance at life. Our ultimate goal is to address animal overpopulation and abandonment through education, awareness and community driven programs. Child Pet Ambassador (CPA) Program is geared for ages 6-15 who are passionate about helping animals. CPA seeks to educate children on responsible pet ownership, encourage community involvement and create a new generation of animal advocates.

## **RESCUE TRAIN: [www.rescuetrain.org](http://www.rescuetrain.org)**

Mission - The Rescue Train is a unique, non-profit 501(c) 3, no kill organization supported by hundreds of creative and dedicated volunteers. Together it is our mission to reduce the number of animals entering shelters by doing hands-on rescue work and creating unique programs and solutions; including our highly successful "Trained for Life" program where shelter dogs are completely obedience trained prior to adoption, and our annual "Race for the Rescues" which funds and supports many other important animal welfare organizations. Our organization is committed to educating our community about responsible pet ownership and the importance of spaying and neutering.

The Rescue Train is always looking for volunteers to participate in our annual Race For The Rescues, at The Rose Bowl in Pasadena. This life saving day raises funds for 10 nonprofit animal rescues and welfare organizations and holds dog and cat adoptions for two city shelters. This race is held in October and pre-production begins as early as June. We need all kinds of help such as event coordination, publicity, soliciting sponsors, forming teams, social networking, fundraising, race set up, course marshals, registration, adoption set up, silent auction and dog and cat handlers. To learn more visit [www.racefortherescues.org](http://www.racefortherescues.org).

## **RIDE ON THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP: [www.rideon.org](http://www.rideon.org)**

Mission - Ride On teaches horseback riding to children and adults with physical and mental disabilities. Founded in 1994, Ride On has given over 55,000 safe, effective and individualized lessons and therapy treatments and currently serves 160 riders each week. Serving the Conejo Valley, our Newbury Park site is operated in partnership with the Conejo Recreation and Park District. In the San Fernando Valley, Chatsworth is home to our brand new facility and permanent ranch.

## **WAGS & WALKS: <https://www.wagsandwalks.org>**

Wags and Walks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a dedicated community of dog lovers working to reduce euthanasia in local shelters and increase awareness of rescue dogs being wonderful pets. With locations in both Los Angeles and Nashville, Wags & Walks' main goal is to break the stigma around rescue dogs and decrease the number of dogs euthanized in local shelters by proving that you can rescue wonderful pups of all breeds, sizes, and temperaments.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **HEAL THE BAY: [www.healthebay.org](http://www.healthebay.org)**

Mission - You might be a dedicated surfer, in the water every morning before work. Maybe you're a mother who brings her kids to the beach in the summer. Or maybe you just like to watch the sunset over the coast, and look for dolphins playing in the waves. There are hundreds of ways you can appreciate our ocean and beaches, and there are also hundreds of ways that you can help protect them. 12 year olds can volunteer in a beach cleanup the third Saturday of every month. Also, they can volunteer in the office.

## **SANTA MONICA MOUNTAIN FUND: <https://www.samofund.org>**

The Santa Monica Mountains Fund works to protect and encourage appreciation and understanding of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The Fund achieves this by supporting National Park Service efforts in education, science, research, improved facilities, citizen engagement, stewardship and philanthropy.

## **GLOBAL ADVOCACY FOR PEACE & JUSTICE**

### **JEWISH WORLD WATCH: [www.jewishworldwatch.org](http://www.jewishworldwatch.org)**

Jewish World Watch offers many different volunteer options to help the world. They have many options for students becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, and you can set up meetings with staff to get your project started.

## **HEALTH & HEALING**

### **AIDS PROJECT LA: [www.apla.org](http://www.apla.org)**

Mission Statement: AIDS Project Los Angeles is dedicated to: improving the lives of people affected by HIV disease; reducing the incidence of HIV infection; and advocating for fair and effective HIV-related public policy. Your donations help provide guidance and individualized attention to people who have HIV/AIDS. The youngest age of volunteers is 12 years old.

### **ALEX'S LEMONADE STAND: [www.alexlemonade.org](http://www.alexlemonade.org)**

Mission - To raise money and awareness of childhood cancer causes, primarily research into new treatments and cures. To encourage and empower others, especially children, to get involved and make a difference for children with cancer.

### **AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION: <https://diabetes.org>**

**Vision:** Life free of diabetes and all its burdens

**Mission:** To prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

We lead the fight against the deadly consequences of diabetes and fight for those affected by diabetes.

### **BEAUTY BUS: <http://www.beautybus.org>**

Mission - Beauty Bus Foundation delivers dignity, hope and respite to chronically or terminally ill men, women and children and their caregivers through beauty and grooming services and pampering products. Beauty Bus focuses on quality of life services, an important part of healing and coping for both the patient and caregiver. It is through the healing and pampering touch of Beauty Professionals and Beauty Buddies that we fulfill our mission and bring beauty to patients and caregivers.

**BUMBLEBEE FOUNDATION:** <https://www.bumblebeefoundation.org/about-us/#ourstory>

The Bumblebee Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 based in Southern California and is looking to empower volunteers, fundraise and assist pediatric cancer families. We hope you'll join us! We **exist to help pediatric cancer families through the many challenges of cancer**

**CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY VALLEY:** <https://www.cancersupportvvsb.org>

The mission of the Cancer Support Community Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community.

**GAMERS OUTREACH:** <https://gamersoutreach.org>

Gamers Outreach is a charity that empowers hospitalized children through video games. We're building a world where play is easily prioritized alongside research and treatment.

**JEWISH HOME FOR THE AGING:** [www.jha.org](http://www.jha.org)

The Home is a place for elderly people to live at when they are unable to supply for themselves in their own houses. 13 year olds are allowed to help by moving residents from place to place every Sunday afternoon from 1-3 PM.

**JUNIOR DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION (JDRF):** <https://www.jdrf.org>

JDRF is the leading global organization harnessing the power of research, advocacy, and community engagement to advance life-changing breakthroughs for type 1 diabetes (T1D).

**LITERALLY HEALING PROGRAM AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES:**  
<https://www.chla.org/literally-healing>

The Literally Healing Program uses books to lift the spirits of our patients and their families.

A core component of the program is a dedicated therapeutic library with over 1,000 specially selected books that are designed to help children build mastery, courage and hope while they are in our hospital. Another component of the program uses books as gifts for patients to provide them with a source of distraction during their recovery. Generous volunteers make themselves available to assist patients, families and staff in selecting free books from the Gifting Library, deliver gift books to children in their rooms when they cannot visit the Library and read to patients at the bedside when they are unable to leave their rooms. To explore volunteer opportunities within The Literally Healing Program, please email [literallyhealing@chla.usc.edu](mailto:literallyhealing@chla.usc.edu).

**MINI-THERAPY HORSES:** <https://www.minitherapyhorses.com>

Mini Therapy Horses works closely with hospitals, facilities and other organizations across Los Angeles to provide equine assisted therapy/equine assisted activity



(EAT/EAA) to those who need it most. Whether it's a patient at Shriners Hospital for Children or a veteran at the VA Hospital, Mini Therapy Horses brings hope and healing to those in need. If you are interested in volunteering visit <https://www.minitherapyhorses.com/volunteer>  
**ONE GENERATION:** <https://www.onegeneration.org>

ONEgeneration is committed to providing programs and services to older adults and their caregivers that help keep them safe and protected. We provide services that enable older adults to age with family, in community or independently. We promote physical health and mental well-being, provide socialization, nutrition and access to food and resources. This is all towards the goal of keeping older adults from tipping points of decline and avoiding or delaying preventable hospitalizations and premature loss of independence.

**SAVE A CHILD'S HEART:** [www.saveachildsheartus.org](http://www.saveachildsheartus.org)

Save a Child's Heart (SACH) is an Israeli-based international humanitarian project, whose mission is to improve the quality of pediatric cardiac care for children from developing countries who suffer from heart disease and to create centers of competence in these countries. SACH is totally dedicated to the idea that every child deserves the best medical treatment available, regardless of the child's nationality, religion, color, gender or financial situation. SACH is motivated by the age-old Jewish tradition of Tikkun Olam – repairing the world. By mending the hearts of children, regardless of their origin, SACH is contributing to a better and more peaceful future for all of our children.

**SENIOR CONCERNS:** <https://www.seniorconcerns.org>

Seniors are the top priority at Senior Concerns, a private nonprofit organization located in Thousand Oaks and serving eastern Ventura County and western Los Angeles County.

For the past four decades, Senior Concerns has provided high-quality, affordable support services to seniors and their families through innovative and effective programs aimed at fostering independence, well-being and self-esteem.

**SHALVA :** <http://www.shalva.org/new/bnei-mitzva-project/>

The Israel Association for Care & Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities- has been dedicated to providing quality care for individuals with disabilities, empowering their families and promoting social inclusion for over 27 years. Non-denominational and free of charge, Shalva's programs provide therapeutic, educational, and recreational care for over 850 individuals from infancy to adulthood. Family support and respite are essential components of all of our programs, enabling parents to raise their children within the family framework. At Shalva, lives are transformed; in place of despair, real hope is offered.

Our B'nai Mitzvah program is designed not only to create a meaningful Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience, but also to enable the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student to begin fulfilling his/her newly acquired obligation that comes with reaching the age of mitzvot; which is to give tzedakah, and to know they are helping children with special needs in the process.

**SHARSHERET:** <https://sharsheret.org/bnai-mitzvah-celebrations/>

Sharsheret is a national not-for-profit organization supporting young Jewish women and their families facing breast cancer. Our mission is to offer a community of support to women, of all Jewish backgrounds, diagnosed with breast cancer or at increased genetic risk, by fostering culturally relevant individualized connections with networks of peers, health professionals, and related resources. Develop a Sharsheret Bat or Bar Mitzvah project where you are contributing to the community and helping others

**WOUNDED WARRIORS:** <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>

Mission - To foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history. To raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members. To help injured service members aid and assist each other. To provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members.

**HUNGER & POVERTY**

**ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS:** <https://www.amfb.org>

We advocate for unhoused, food & financially unsecured residents to have a seat at the table and a voice in the conversation about homelessness.

The Vision of AMFB is not prayer or proselytizing. Our primary work is to meet the basic needs of each person who we serve, with a generous compassion.

**BUNDLES OF KINDNESS:**

Care packages given with love to our neighbors in Need in Los Angeles. To find out how you can help email [support2bundlesofkindness.org](mailto:support2bundlesofkindness.org)

**FOOD FORWARD:** [www.foodforward.org](http://www.foodforward.org)

Mission - Food Forward's mission is to reconnect people with people – through food – by bringing together volunteers and neighbors to share in the gleaning and distributing of locally grown food from private homes and public spaces which is then distributed to local food pantries and organizations serving those in need. We convene at properties we have been invited to and harvest their excess fruits and vegetables, donating 100% to local food pantries across southern California. Email: [volunteer@foodforward.org](mailto:volunteer@foodforward.org) or call 818-764-1022 x 100

**FOOD ON FOOT:** [www.foodonfoot.org](http://www.foodonfoot.org)

Mission – Food on Foot is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (Tax-ID#31-1581053) dedicated to providing the poor and homeless of Los Angeles with nutritious meals, clothing, and assistance in the transition to employment and life off the streets. Food on Foot operates a weekly meal program every Sunday in Hollywood. Food on Foot began in March 1996 as one man's response to the hunger he witnessed among the poor and homeless of Hollywood. What initially began as the distribution of meals from the trunk of a car has grown through the dedication of its volunteers and now serves more than 200 meals each week to homeless, disabled, elderly and low-income adults and children.



**HOLLYWOOD FOOD COALITION:** <https://hofoco.org>

The mission of the Hollywood Food Coalition is to feed and serve the immediate needs of the hungry every day of the year so they can build better lives. Our vision is a city where everyone has food, community, and support.

**HOPE OF THE VALLEY MISSION:** [www.hopeofthevalley.org](http://www.hopeofthevalley.org)

The Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission is a non-profit 501-c-3 organization in the San Fernando Valley committed to meeting the needs of the hungry, homeless and destitute. Based on biblical principles, we are actively engaged in feeding, sheltering, and restoring broken lives. We are committed to serving ANYONE in need — regardless of race, religious or political persuasion. Our volunteers change lives of hurting men, women and children every day. Whether sorting clothes or serving meals, each and every volunteer helps bring healing. Many volunteers feel that in the simple act of serving, they often receive even more than they give. It takes thousands of volunteers to feed hungry people and bring healing to our community. The leadership team from Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission works side by side with volunteers to train them in vital outreach and recovery roles. There is no greater joy than caring for and impacting a life in need. If interested in volunteering, please call 818.392.0020.

**LA FAMILY HOUSING:** [lafh.org](http://lafh.org)

LA Family Housing (LAFH) helps people transition out of homelessness and poverty by providing a continuum of housing enriched with supportive services. Since 1983, LAFH has become one of the largest comprehensive real estate developers and homeless service providers in Los Angeles and a regional leader providing solutions to end homelessness.

Contact Volunteer Services at [volunteer@lafh.org](mailto:volunteer@lafh.org)

**MANNA CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK:** <https://www.mannaconejo.org>

Founded in 1971 by a group of people who felt that no person should ever go hungry in the Conejo Valley, Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank has been providing food assistance to our friends and neighbors in need for more than 50 years; and have made it our mission — **“To feed hungry people in the Conejo Valley.”**

**MANY MANSIONS:** [www.manymansions.org](http://www.manymansions.org)

Volunteering your time and talents is a powerful way to change the world. Add yourself to a growing list of people who care about their communities, people who roll up their sleeves to tackle a cause, and share their skills with a local organization. For over 35 years, Many Mansions has provided hope and homes to people in need through affordable housing. Once a rental assistance program, Many Mansions now owns and manages 500 units of housing across Ventura County. These properties serve over 1,200 low-income residents, many of whom are disabled and or chronically homeless. Three hundred of these residents are children. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Hannah Blitstein**, Volunteer Coordinator at [hannahb@manymansions.org](mailto:hannahb@manymansions.org).

## **MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity): <http://mendpoverty.org>**

Mission - to transform the lives of the neediest residents of the San Fernando Valley – poor children and their struggling families. Starting as a small group of volunteers working from a garage, MEND has grown primarily by word-of-mouth into one of the leanest operating non-profit organizations in existence. More than 94% of the support and donations received by MEND, now the largest poverty agency in the Valley, provides emergency food, clothing, medical, vision and dental care, job skills training and job placement assistance, English as a Second Language classes, youth activities, and a Christmas program. In 2013, we served over 38,000 individuals per month. Each month, more than 14,384 hours are donated by volunteers from a broad range of backgrounds and income levels; all joining together to act as people helping people. Each person plays a vital role in meeting the mission of MEND. From the distribution of food, clothing to assistance in job training and placement, our volunteers give MEND life.

## **NEW DIRECTIONS FOR YOUTH: [www.ndfy.org](http://www.ndfy.org)**

Mission: New Directions for Youth, Inc. is dedicated to providing comprehensive programs and services to at-risk youth and their families. Volunteers Needed! Please call Program Director, Joseph Choi at 818-503-6330 x305 or [jchoi@mail.ndfy.org](mailto:jchoi@mail.ndfy.org) to find out about volunteer opportunities.

## **SHOES THAT FIT: [shoesthatfit.org](http://shoesthatfit.org)**

Childhood is supposed to be a magical, carefree time. But kids can suffer excruciating stigma, bullying, and ridicule...all for lack of decent shoes. YOU can make a difference for a child in need. Shoes That Fit doesn't just give any old shoes to kids (In fact, they never give out previously owned shoes.) Every kid receives brand new shoes measured exactly for their feet.

## **(NEW) SOLES FOR SOULS: [www.soles4souls.org](http://www.soles4souls.org)**

Mission - Soles4Souls is a global not-for-profit institution dedicated to fighting the devastating impact and perpetuation of poverty. The organization advances its anti-poverty mission by collecting new and used shoes and clothes from individuals, schools, faith-based institutions, civic organizations, and corporate partners, then distributing those shoes and clothes both via direct donations to people in need and by provisioning qualified micro-enterprise programs designed to create jobs in poor and disadvantaged communities.

## **SOVA FOOD PANTRY: [www.jfsla.org/location/sova-valley](http://www.jfsla.org/location/sova-valley)**

Mission - SOVA is a Hebrew word that means, "Eat and be satisfied." We provide free groceries and supportive services to over 10,000 individuals of all ages, ethnicities, and religions each month. Summer volunteer hours get booked in advance, so please plan ahead if you plan to volunteer regularly over the summer! You can also contact the Director of Volunteers & Training at 323-556-2928.

## **UNDIES FOR EVERYONE: <https://undiesforeveryone.org/cities/los-angeles/>**

Undies for Everyone provides children living in poverty or crisis with new underwear recognizing the importance of this small basic need as part of a child's increased chances of long-term success.

**WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN:** <https://wck.org>

WCK is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**OPERATION GRATITUDE:** [www.operationgratitude.com](http://www.operationgratitude.com)

Mission - Operation Gratitude seeks to lift morale and put smiles on faces by sending care packages addressed to individual Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines deployed in harm's way. Operation Gratitude care packages contain food, hygiene products, entertainment items and personal letters of appreciation, all wrapped with good wishes of love and support. Children ages 12 and older can volunteer but must have a responsible adult with transportation on the premises.

**THE JEWISH FEDERATION'S TOUR DE SUMMER CAMPS:**  
[www.tourdesummercamps.org](http://www.tourdesummercamps.org)

Do you attend Jewish Summer Camp? Has it helped you feel closer to your Jewish identity? Would you like to share that experience with others? Are you also looking for a fun and interactive B'nai Mitzvah project? Choose The Jewish Federation's Tour de Summer Camps – it's a community cycling event that will raise significant funds to send more kids to Jewish summer camp, helping them build a lifelong connection to Jewish identity and values. You can set-up your own fundraising page with pictures, videos and your personal story. You can email all of your friends and family and have them sponsor you. Although you can't ride, cyclists and adventurers of all kinds (from beginner to expert level) will take on the challenge of an 18-mile, 36-mile, 62-mile (Metric Century), or 100-mile (Century) ride and you can support them along the way. In addition to raising funds you can volunteer and help cheer riders along the route or as they cross the finish line; help set-up or clean-up; or even help in the Tour de Summer Camps office before the big day.

**TURN KINDNESS ON:** [www.turnkindnesson.org](http://www.turnkindnesson.org)

Mission - Turn Kindness On motivates children of all ages to change their world through volunteering, harnessing their uniquely empathetic energy and empowering them to build a lifelong relationship with community service. TKO (originally named TKO Helping Hands) was founded in 2001 with the goal of awakening a child's passion for giving at an early age. At TKO, we know that the best way to teach our children about the power of service is to engage them in meaningful projects within the community.

## **MUSIC**

**FENDER MUSIC FOUNDATION:** [www.fendermusicfoundation.org](http://www.fendermusicfoundation.org)

Mission - The Fender Music Foundation believes that music participation is an essential element in the fabric of an enduring society. Our mission is to have the benefits of making music available to everyone in the communities in which we serve, to promote

its importance through education and media initiatives, and to provide financial and in-kind resources in collaboration with other organizations to achieve our common goal.

**HARMONY PROJECT:** <http://www.harmony-project.org>

Mission: To promote the healthy growth and development of children through the study, practice and performance of music. To build healthier communities by investing in the positive development of children through music. To develop children as musical ambassadors of peace, hope and understanding amongst people of diverse cultures, backgrounds and beliefs.

**MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS FOUNDATION:** [www.mhopus.org](http://www.mhopus.org)

Mission - The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation keeps music alive in our schools and communities by donating musical instruments to under-funded music programs, giving youngsters the many benefits of music education, helping them to be better students and inspiring creativity and expression through playing music. Organizing a "gently used instrument drive" to donate to this organization would make a wonderful Mitzvah Project.

## **FOSTER KIDS, SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN & VIP SPORTS**

**ACEING AUTISM:** <http://aceingautism.org>

Mission - to connect children with autism through unique tennis programs, and to develop and advance proven methods to positively impact the children, families and communities we serve.

**ANGEL CITY GAMES:** <http://angelcitysports.org>

The Angel City Games is Southern California's only multi-sport competition for youth, adults, and military athletes with physical differences. We set out to create a one-of-a-kind event for Southern California that helps build and support the local community, while also attracting competitive participants on a national scale. The event is specific designed to support athletes with physical disabilities of all ages, skill levels, and experiences.

**BALLET FOR ALL KIDS:** <https://www.balletforallkids.com>

Providing a welcoming community for all dancers to creatively express themselves.

**Ballet For All Kids** is a non-profit program that teaches classical ballet and other dance styles using *The Schlachte Method* - a certified curriculum developed to accommodate all abilities, body types, and learning styles.

We know everybody has abilities that can be used as a springboard to learn new skills and enhance a personal sense of accomplishment. Our integral approach offers a less restrictive environment paired with individualized attention and support in order to help every student succeed.

## **KEEN LOS ANGELES: [www.keenlosangeles.org](http://www.keenlosangeles.org)**

Mission - KEEN-LA exists because of community members who care deeply about promoting the best possible quality of life for children with special needs. Working with parents, volunteers, and non-profit agencies, these community members launched KEEN-LA to provide programs which serve the developmentally-disabled community in Los Angeles. By providing recreational and sports programs for kids with special needs, KEEN-LA is able to assist children with realizing their goals of becoming athletes. KEEN-LA gives these children a place to have valuable social interactions with our volunteers, make new friends, and have fun!

## **KIDSAVE: [www.kidsave.org](http://www.kidsave.org)**

Mission - To create change so forgotten orphanage and foster kids grow up in families and connected to caring adults. Lots can be done! Fundraise with a bake sale, a car wash, plan an assembly to share information with the school about the children who need families.

## **MY STUFF BAGS: [www.mystuffbags.org/how-to-help/donate-time/](http://www.mystuffbags.org/how-to-help/donate-time/)**

Mission – Imagine the trauma of being a child separated from all you know – parents, possessions and home – and not having anything to cling to for comfort. Sadly, each year, hundreds of thousands of children here in the United States must be rescued from severe abuse, neglect or abandonment. Traumatized and facing an uncertain future, they frequently enter shelters and foster care with nothing – no favorite stuffed animal, no special blanket. They are afraid, disoriented, and desperate for comfort. That's where we come in.

The My Stuff Bags Foundation, with the help of thousands of people across the country, provides these unfortunate children with new belongings and new hope through its innovative “My Stuff Bags” program. Volunteering is a “hands-on” direct connection to the children we serve. If you or your organization are located in or planning a visit to Southern California, come to our Westlake Village Volunteer Center to fill the duffels, make blankets, re-package special large donations, make toiletry bags or help with other preparation activities.

## **THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE & MIRACLE SPORTS: [www.friendshipcircleca.org](http://www.friendshipcircleca.org) (Volunteers) and/or [www.friendshipcircleca.org](http://www.friendshipcircleca.org) (Programs/Sports League)**

**Mitzvah Volunteers:** Friendship Circle offers a special program for girls and boys ages 12 – 13 who are interested in becoming Friendship Circle Volunteers. Participants in this program will learn about various disabilities, how to interact with children who have special needs, the importance of giving back to the community and the huge impact they can have. The training program includes guest speakers, video presentations, fun games and activities. The teens in training will also have the opportunity to be junior volunteers at a few programs throughout the year, in order to gain the hands-on experience they need for their future commitment as a Friendship Circle Volunteer.

**Miracle Sports:** Under the direction of Coach Denny Lubin, children with special needs, ages 6-14, will be able to enjoy a full range of mainstream sports activities such as basketball, hockey, baseball and soccer – albeit in accordance with their specific



capabilities and conceptualizations. Taking place at the beautiful gymnasium at the Oak Park Community Center, the Miracle Sports League will consist of three semesters (no summer semester).

**NOTE:** *Some Or Ami students have had great success with this program, others have found it frustrating to coordinate or to find the right “fit”. The program offerings change from year to year, so contact Miracle Sports and the Friendship Circle directly to learn about current programming.*

**NEW HORIZONS:** [www.newhorizons-sfv.org](http://www.newhorizons-sfv.org)

Mission - New Horizons empowers individuals with developmental disabilities to fulfill their dreams. Through partnerships, community education, and advocacy, we create a brighter future in which our clients are accepted by, participate in, and add value to the community.

**PRESENT NOW:** <https://presentnow.org>

PRESENT NOW is a Los Angeles based nonprofit. Our mission is to provide children living in transitional domestic violence shelters with experiences and gifts that bring them joy, comfort, and relief during a time of crisis