



## Mitzvah Project Ideas

### **Ambassador to the Blind / Visually Impaired**

You can become an **ambassador to the visually impaired** and **ELIYA**, to the Jewish value of **Tikkun Olam** (repairing the world), and **B'tzelem Elohim** (respecting those with challenges/disabilities) by learning about the visually impaired / blind.

Below are some ways you can get started. Contact us at [info@ELIYAusa.org](mailto:info@ELIYAusa.org) for our resource guide, which includes up to date information about local organizations catering to the blind/visually impaired.

- Schedule a tour of a local institution catering to the blind/visually impaired.
- Enroll and complete a blind sensitivity workshop (we host several throughout the year).
- You can arrange to volunteer with a local blind organization and gain community service hours (age restriction may apply).

We send regular updates on the work of ELIYA via email and Facebook. Learn more!

- “Like” our FB page [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-ELIYA-USA/426573984\\_056\\_468](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-ELIYA-USA/426573984_056_468)
- Join our Teen group on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/625433447485023/>
- Subscribe to our email list (there is a link on our FB page) or email us at [info@ELIYAusa.org](mailto:info@ELIYAusa.org) and ask to join our email list.
- Visit our website [www.eliyausa.org](http://www.eliyausa.org) (new website launching summer 2013) and [www.eliyausa.org.il](http://www.eliyausa.org.il) (click on English)
  - **We also feature stories on our website on ELIYA Mitzvah Teens. Will you be next?**

### **Mitzvah Project Ideas**

You can tie almost any service project into an opportunity to raise awareness and funds for ELIYA. Here are some ideas:

- ❖ If you play a sport, invite your friends and family to donate money each time you have a win, make a goal, have an assist, etc.
- ❖ Host a bike ride, indoor cycling class, a walk or any other activity where individuals and groups can sponsor you to complete a goal such as 5 k bike ride. Encourage friends and family to join in the activity and help you raise funds and awareness about ELIYA.
- ❖ Collect and turn in recycling products to raise funds for ELIYA.
- ❖ Gather a few friends and family to join you for a community car wash fundraiser.
- ❖ If you are passionate about baking, put on a bake sale and donate the proceeds to ELIYA.



- ❖ Ask a local restaurant, frozen yogurt, coffee shop, bowling alley to donate a portion of proceeds of one day or night's sales to ELIYA. Then invite your friends and family to join you in supporting ELIYA.
- ❖ Host parlor meetings (informational get-togethers) in honor of ELIYA. You can host the meeting at your home, school or synagogue. You can provide refreshments and invite at least 20 friends to learn about ELIYA (we help with cost refreshments expenses where needed). Our staff brings informational material makes a 25 minute presentation to the attendees. You will also have an opportunity to share with your guests all that you have learned and accomplished for ELIYA.
- ❖ Make a request to your school or synagogue to host a *Friends of Eliya- USA* speaker to talk about the work we do in Israel for visually impaired children. You can also talk about your involvement with ELIYA and any local work you may have chosen to do with the visually impaired/blind.
  - We can also arrange to bring a blind sensitivity trainer who will discuss how to respectfully treat people who are blind and do interesting role play activities.
- ❖ Include a personalized message in your Bar/Bat mitzvah, birthday, and graduation invitations to encourage people to donate to your cause in lieu of a gift.
- ❖ Don't forget to use our recommended online Tzedakah site to showcase your mitzvah project progress and assist with your fundraising activities.
- ❖ **Jchoice.org**
  - Set up an account for free
    - Write about your mitzvah Project and D'var Torah
  - Add Friends of ELIYA-USA as your "favorite cause"
    - Feel free to share video's and pictures about Eliya
    - Contact [info@eliyausa.org](mailto:info@eliyausa.org) for pictures and information about ELIYA
  - Invite friends and family via social media and email
    - They can choose to contribute to ELIYA through your page
    - 100% of any funds raised are transferred to our organization

### Visit ELIYA-Israel

If you are planning a trip to Israel, we can arrange for a tour of one or all of our three in Israel. Contact us at [info@ELIYAUSA.org](mailto:info@ELIYAUSA.org) to schedule a visit. ELIYA has facilities in Jerusalem, Petach Tikva (central Israel) and Be'er Sheva (southern Israel).

### Contact us

Please contact us if you have any questions. Feel free to request brochures, flyers, invitation cards and other material to help you prepare for your project. Contact [info@ELIYAUSA.org](mailto:info@ELIYAUSA.org) or 818-865-8722.