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The Parent Toolbox: Helping Parents Nurture their Teen's Interest in Tzedakah

- Bar/Bat Mitzvah's- parents, friends and family can choose to donate in a child's name.
- It is \$1,800 minimum to open a fund, it is not an endowed fund.
- In the account, you have full access to your money and can keep adding to the account.
- You shouldn't have a fundraising event where people get benefits for coming.
- An account gives teens the ability to keep giving.
- There are individual, family and group funds.
- The focus for the individual, family or group is all on the grant making and learning.
- Once the teen hits age 18, it legally becomes their fund and hopefully they will be active with it throughout college and in their 20s.
- There is a changing power dynamic with the teen gaining power.
- There can be different levels of parental control in how much parents control the fund.
- Parents should be encouraged to engage in philanthropy.
- Parents should have discussions about values with teens and be able to articulate why they are getting involved with philanthropic giving.
- You should try and get parents more comfortable with using the internet.
- Parents should keep an open mind about the teen's interest, but point out needs (especially Jewish ones).
- Parents shouldn't assume their child will follow in their footsteps.
- Don't try to convince teens to do things they don't want.
- Don't treat philanthropy as just another activity, treat it as something that impacts the family and brings change.
- Parents should model, share, reflect, listen, respect, support, reinforce, and offer structure.
- Connect with tradition during Shabbat or dinner conversations, share from your personal history of chesed and make it meaningful.
- Have all family members discuss their individual motivations for supporting the charities they are involved with.
- Parents should always look for teachable moments where they can connect actions and values.
- Listen to children and nurture interests.
- Respect and praise your teen's ideas. Look for shared values.
- Set aside some of your philanthropic dollars to support your child's charities, perhaps match any donations they make.
- Acknowledge their accomplishments with grants in their names.
- For birthdays, parents can ask their child to give a grant in their name instead of a gift.

- Reinforce the experience of giving by helping the teens use the new skills they get in other ways.

Areyvut