



A Joyous Coming of Age – WIZO Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebration Project



Presented by:
WIZO External Relations Division

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Introduction: Celebrating Belonging and Identity

For every Jewish child, the Bar or Bat Mitzvah is meant to be a moment of pride, a bridge into adulthood, a celebration of identity, family, and tradition. It is a time when the community gathers to affirm that this child belongs, not only to a family but to the Jewish people.

But for too many children in Israel today, that moment never comes. In the shadow of two years of war marked by October 7, by evacuations, by rocket fire and sirens, by fathers called to reserve duty and families displaced from their homes, the dream of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration slips away. Instead of music and blessings, these milestones risk passing quietly, without recognition.

The children who are left behind are often those already carrying the heaviest burdens: single-parent homes, large families with few resources, new immigrants struggling to find their footing, families balancing transitions, and families coping with trauma, loss, or unemployment intensified by the war.

This is where WIZO steps in. Through our nationwide network of branches, schools, and partnerships with welfare agencies, NGOs, and local authorities, WIZO identifies children at risk of being forgotten.

We step in to ensure they are not.



The Need – Why This Project Matters

A Bar or Bat Mitzvah is far more than a party. It is a declaration of belonging, responsibility, and continuity – a moment that affirms a child's place within the Jewish people.

At a time when they should feel proud and supported, too many are left standing outside the circle of celebration.

Through meaningful preparation and a joyful communal celebration, the Bar and Bat Mitzvah Celebration Project gives each child the gift of belonging – even in the hardest of times. Together with their families, rabbis, volunteers, and communities, these children celebrate with tradition, music, blessings, and pride.

Your partnership makes it possible to turn that moment of absence into a moment of affirmation:

- A moment of joy that strengthens resilience and hope
- A meaningful family experience that nurtures pride and connection
- A communal celebration that affirms each child's Jewish identity

This project ensures that a child – no matter their background or circumstance – has the chance to step into Jewish adulthood with confidence, tradition, and belonging.



The Journey: From Preparation to Celebration

Pre-Event Preparation:

In the weeks leading up to the big day, children take part in meaningful workshops that root them deeply in Jewish heritage and prepare them for their celebration:

Girls- join their mothers in a Challah-baking workshop, learning and sharing the tradition of nurturing and blessing.

Boys- guided by a Rabbi, take part in Torah learning and Tefillin preparation, gaining the skills and confidence for their first Torah reading.

The Celebration Day

When the long-awaited day arrives, WIZO brings the children and their families together for a celebration filled with joy and tradition:

Synagogue Ceremony – Boys read from the Torah, followed by a parade with drums and flags as all the children and families march to the WIZO branch.

Festive Gathering – A beautifully decorated hall welcomes everyone with music, a professional photographer, and a celebratory brunch for each child and their family.

Gifts & Blessings – Every child receives a personalized Tanach and symbolic items such as candlesticks or jewelry.

Inspiration & Joy – Entertainment and uplifting messages round off a day the children and their families will never forget.

Beyond the event, families experience a shared journey of preparation, anticipation, and celebration that strengthens family bonds and fosters community connection.



Budget and Impact

Base group size: 30 children

Cost per child (including preparation, celebration, and family participation): **NIS 1,800**

Total event cost (30 children): **NIS 54,000**

*Based on a minimum of 26 children

*Events can and will be scaled up or down depending on available funding and local needs.

Recognition Opportunities

As a valued partner, you will receive:

- Recognition at the celebration event
- A donor impact update with photos and family stories
- Opportunity to sponsor individual children or an entire celebration

Your Gift Creates Lifelong Belonging

Beyond the unforgettable experience provided to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child, this project offers their parents the meaningful opportunity to give their son or daughter a significant and dignified celebration, one that reflects the importance of this milestone in their lives.

This is not just a personal event, but a shared journey that brings joy, strengthens family bonds, and instills a deep sense of pride and connection. Starting from the early stages of planning and anticipation, all the way through to the event itself.

Through this project, families create lasting memories together and help the child feel a sense of belonging. Both within their own family and as part of the wider community.

Together, we can give young boys and girls the chance to celebrate their Bar or Bat Mitzvah with joy, pride, and a sense of belonging.