JNF

Share your simcha, strengthen Israel

Life's milestones are more than just celebrations. They are opportunities to bring people together, create lasting memories, and make a meaningful impact beyond the occasion itself.

JNF Australia's Share My Simcha initiative offers individuals and families a meaningful way to celebrate life's special moments while making a tangible difference in Israel. Whether marking a birthday, bar or bat mitzvah, wedding, anniversary, engagement, or another milestone, those celebrating can invite family and friends to make a donation in honour of the occasion, alongside or instead of traditional gifts.

Through a personalised fundraising page, each celebration can be linked to a JNF project that reflects individual values. Donations support projects across Israel focused on restoring the environment, rebuilding communities, supporting youth, and creating opportunities for future generations. In this way, a personal simcha becomes a collective act of generosity and support.

This year, many individuals and families have chosen to support JNF Australia's Sha'ar HaNegev Community Village, a regional hub helping communities affected by October 7 rebuild, recover, and strengthen long-term resilience.



Construction is well underway at the Sha'ar HaNegev Community Village. Photo: supplied



A rendering of the Sha'ar HaNegev Community Village. Photo: supplied

Dedicated to trauma recovery, healing, and renewal, the Village will provide programs and services that support individuals, families, and communities as they rebuild their lives and look to the future.

More than a fundraising initiative, Share My Simcha encourages those celebrating a milestone to transform personal celebrations into moments of collective impact while strengthening their connection to Israel.

At its heart, Share My Simcha reflects a simple idea: a celebration can be about more than what we receive. By giving back, individuals and families can create a legacy that extends beyond the day itself, putting the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam into action and making a meaningful difference in Israel.

To learn more, visit jnf.org.au/share-my-simcha or call 1300 563 563.

FIVE TIPS FOR A BAR OR BAT MITZVAH EVERYONE WILL LOVE

Planning a bar or bat mitzvah party? The secret to a great night is keeping guests entertained, well fed and on the dance floor. Here are five tips to get it right.

1. GET THE MUSIC RIGHT

A good DJ knows how to keep the energy up and everyone on the dancefloor. Choose someone who can mix the latest hits with old favourites and get guests of all ages dancing.

2. CATER FOR ALL AGES

The kids might be the focus, but the guest list often spans three generations. Think about activities for younger siblings, music for teens and somewhere grandparents can sit and chat.

3. KEEP THE FOOD COMING

Hungry guests won't stay on the dance floor for long. Serve food that's easy to eat between dancing and socialising. Don't forget dietary requirements, and consider a dessert station or snack for an extra treat.

4. MAKE IT PERSONAL

A theme based on your child's favourite sport, movie or hobby can bring the party together. Add a photo wall, personalised decorations or a video montage. The best touches reflect the person being celebrated.

5. LET THEM ENJOY THE NIGHT

Involve your child in choosing the music and entertainment, but don't cram the schedule with formalities. Leave plenty of time for dancing and hanging out with friends. Parents, delegate where you can. You deserve to enjoy the party, too.

THE GOLDEN RULE

And always remember the golden rule: you don't need the biggest budget or the flashiest venue. Keep guests happy, the music pumping and the focus on the bar or bat mitzvah.
The rest will follow.

