



Thank you for your interest in partnering with HIAS PA for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah project. Here are some ideas of what students have done in the past. Ideally, students do a combination of service work with us and then advocacy, community education, and/or fundraising in their communities to share what they have learned and garner support for immigrants and refugees.

- Hold a donation drive to collect school and housing supplies, furniture, blankets, and other new or gently used items for arriving refugees. We can tell you what items would be most helpful to our clients at a given time, depending on where they're coming from and the time of years.
- Do a presentation about HIAS PA at your school, your temple, your Mitzvah celebration, or another event so that people know how their donations are helping. Your presentation could involve a speech, a video or other literature about what our organization does and the needs of our refugees.
- Help us set up a home for a refugee family who is about to arrive in the United States. We make sure the house is completely ready for the family to walk off of the plane and settle into their new home, with silverware in the kitchen drawers and sheets on the beds.
- Make welcome baskets for refugee families with lotion, scarves, picture frames, candy and other treats, toiletries, and useful items. Connect with us to learn what the families are already provided with and what would be other good ideas for a welcome basket. You can also make posters welcoming the families to the US and Philadelphia and wishing them well.
- Raise funds for HIAS PA by holding bake sales, garage sales, or car washes. Make literature about HIAS PA available to raise awareness about the plight of refugees. You could also use events like these to advertise your collection drive.
- Ask for guests to donate to HIAS PA in honor of your Mitzvah celebration, or place a donation envelope at the place setting of each guest. You can also donate a percentage of financial gifts to HIAS PA.
- Volunteer with our childcare (at the HIAS PA office) and/or school-based programming (in Northeast Philadelphia) to work directly with refugee youth and support them in their educational and social goals. *If you wish to volunteer, we need at least two months' notice due to the training and paperwork required to onboard a volunteer.*

If any of the above interest you, please:

1. Email our Community Engagement Specialist at community@hiaspa.org and share your timeline and which project(s) above are of interest.
2. [Complete a volunteer profile](#) and sign up to attend an info session, offered monthly.