Soaringwords & SoaringBridges to Israel: Bar & Bat-Mitzvah Programs

Each year, it is estimated that 18% of all children in the U.S. suffer from chronic illness. This means that, each year, 22 million children and their families and friends, as many as 66 million people in all, face the challenges of catastrophic pediatric illness. That’s where Soaringwords comes into the picture. Soaringwords’ mission is to help millions of ill children and families heal. Including Soaringwords at your Bar or Bat-Mitzvah celebration will inspire all of your friends and family to do something positive at your celebration that will directly benefit hospitalized children in the U.S. and/or in Israel.

Soaringwords is devoted to helping millions of all children and families to heal. When a child is ill, the entire family is in crisis. Soaringwords motivates healthy kids and families to do fun and meaningful hands-on service projects that inspire ill children in hospitals throughout America and Israel to heal and “to never give up!”

Soaringwords fits perfectly with becoming a Bar or Bat-Mitzvah. As your first step to becoming a Jewish adult, you are embracing Rabbi Hillel’s adage, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?” Soaringwords is a fun and easy way to put added significance and mitzvah into the actual Bar and Bat-Mitzvah celebration. Soaringwords handles all of the details so that your parents and you don’t have to do any additional work. Here’s how it works:

**Step 1: Before the Big Day**

Jump right in and become a Soaringwords Youth Leader. There are many opportunities to volunteer in your community. You can volunteer one time or several times before your actual Bar or Bat-Mitzvah. Soaringwords will help you decide on the right experiences for you and arrange all of the details.

I loved mentoring the kids at my Hebrew School. They loved making the SoaringMural, my friends and I liked helping them do a mitzvah. Everyone thought it was cool to decorate SoaringQuilts® and SoaringPillows® at my party.

—Emily, Short Hills, New Jersey

I liked sharing my mitzvah project with my entire grade. Everyone liked helping me make the SoaringMural which was displayed in the synagogue and at my party. My parents came with me to deliver the mural to NY-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Children’s Hospital. Everyone thought it was cool to make a SoaringPuppet, a SoaringIV Pole, or a SoaringTie.

—Josh, Abraham Joshua Heschel School, NYC

**Step 2: Putting the Mitzvah into the Celebration**

Decide which Soaringwords activities you’d like to share with your friends and family at your celebration. There are many fantastic experiences that your guests will love. Our most popular activity is the decoration of SoaringQuilts® and SoaringPillows® which are donated to hospitalized children in your community and/or hospitalized children throughout Israel. You decide.

Other popular Soaringwords activities to share at the celebration include: decorating Soaring T-shirts and SoaringKits which are donated to hospitalized kids; creating SoaringPuppets, Soaring IV Pole decorations, or creating Soaring Gardens.

Everything about Soaringwords added so much to our Shabbat celebration in honor of Hannah’s Bat-Mitzvah. You and your wonderful staff, your remarkable work, and the amazing Soaringwords activities were a blessing to our family and friends.

—Lea and Stuart, NYC

Soaringwords transformed the hotel ballroom into a creative and vibrant experience for all 175 of our guests. The kids had a total blast and adults said it was the first time they had smiled in decades. Everyone came together, doing something incredibly positive in honor of Natalie’s big day. It was moving for our family to donate the gifts to hundreds of hospitalized children.

—Bonnie & Richard, Highland Park, IL

Soaringwords was so tremendous at Julia’s Bat-Mitzvah celebration. Lisa and her team made the experience enormously fun for the children and the children and get the message across about the significance and importance about doing mitzvos on a community level. I cannot imagine a more meaningful time for my daughter and everyone who loves and supports her. Julia’s comment was, “that was the best thing I ever did.” What more could you possibly want for your child?

—Stefan, NYC

**Step 3: The SoaringCelebration**

Soaringwords can slap everything to the venue or send a team of high-energy Soaringwords people to run the activity at your party, depending on your needs. Soaringwords can help you with the DorTorah, and family speech. If you decide to run the activity at your party, depending on your needs.

Soaringwords can help you with the floor plan and the minute-by-minute coordination of the activities at the party. From the complete set up to managing the hands-on event, Soaringwords provides the entire package to you.

Costs depend on the activities selected, the number of your guests, and materials costs. The entire donation is 100% tax deductible since everything that you purchase is donated directly to hospitalized children.

To discuss next steps, secure your date, and agree upon materials costs, please contact Lisa Honig Buksbaum.

Lisa Honig Buksbaum
CEO & Founder
Soaringwords

**Step 4: Sharing the Gifts with Ill Children in Need**

Many children and their families want the SoaringQuilts® and SoaringPillows® donated to the local hospital in their community. Others choose the hospital where they were born or where a loved one received care. Recently, many children have donated quilts and pillows to children and families affected by Hurricane Katrina. If your family will be traveling to Israel as part of the Bar or Bat-Mitzvah celebration, Soaringwords can arrange for you to donate the quilts and pillows to hospitalized patients in Israel.

**Step 5: Announce Your Plans in the Invitation**

You can invite your guests to make a charitable donation to Soaringwords or SoaringBridges to Israel in honor of your child’s special simcha. Many Bar and Bat-Mitzvahs tell their guests that they will be donating a percentage of their gifts to Soaringwords.

**How to Get Started**

Visit www.soaringwords.org and take the website tour (click on the link located on the right side of the home page in the pale blue box) or click on the Events graphic and select a Bar / Bat Mitzvah on the palette and select your date, secure your date, and agree upon a charitable contribution. The minimum donation is $3,000, which is tax deductible, plus the cost of materials. Mazel tov on this sacred and special milestone. We look forward to enhancing the experience for your child and your celebration. The Torah says, “Words from the heart are life in the heart.” Soaringwords is the power to heal.

Warm regards,

Lisa Honig Buksbaum
CEO & Founder
Soaringwords

www.soaringwords.org