



READING VILLAGE FUNDRAISING TOOLKIT
JEWISH COMMUNITY





LIGHT UP LITERACY

A PASSOVER CELEBRATION WITH READING VILLAGE



This Passover **LIGHT UP LITERACY** WITH READING VILLAGE

Can you imagine celebrating Passover, our great celebration of freedom, without knowing how to read from the Haggadah? What if you could make telling the Passover story a gift to the people at your Seder and to kids in rural Guatemala who are learning to be readers and leaders? What if by collecting tzedakah at your Seder you could make a difference in the lives of people still enslaved by illiteracy who dream of a better world? How would you feel if everyone left your Seder knowing they did the mitzvah and actually felt, “they personally went out of slavery” because they helped to bring others into the light of literacy?

Passover is a time when Jews gather to read the biblical story of freedom and redemption. Each year at the Seder we ask The 4 Questions to help us remember the story of the Exodus from Egypt—the tight dark place that enslaved our people and to remind us that slavery and darkness still exist in the world today. This ancient story of bringing light where there is darkness is the story at the heart of Reading Village and our work with teenage Guatemalan Reading Promoters and their communities.

This Passover you can join Reading Village, synagogues, Jewish groups and families in celebrating our ability to read while actively addressing the darkness that is illiteracy in Guatemala. Approximately 50% of the nation’s rural population is illiterate and lives in this kind of darkness. Together we can change that. Together we can light up literacy.

Together we can change that.



How to Change Lives in Three Easy Steps:

By bringing Light Up Literacy to your Passover Seder table you can be a leader like Moses or like Miriam - a source of light in the lives of Guatemalan children.

1. Prepare to include Light Up Literacy in your Passover Seder.

- Send this link in advance to your Seder guests or get organized to show it at the Seder, this way everyone can meet your Reading Village guests: <http://readingvillage.org/why-literacy/reading-village-model>
- Print copies of the Four Questions included here for everyone to take home

2. Plan your Seder with a break after the traditional Four Questions to Light Up Literacy

- Ask and answer the Four Questions found in this pamphlet after you ask the Four Questions in your Haggada
- Invite your guests to take home a handout and encourage them to visit the Reading Village website to learn more about our work. <http://readingvillage.org/why-literacy/why-literacy-works>

3. Honor the guests at your Seder with a donation to Reading Village.

- <http://readingvillage.org/take-action/donate>

Four Questions from Reading Village for Passover Seder

Tonight we ask these 4 Questions to help us understand the freedom and hope that reading brings to our lives and how we can bring that light of literacy, the ultimate expression of freedom to others.

1. Why is this night different from all other nights?

Tonight we are obligated to see ourselves as if we personally went out of slavery from Egypt. Although we are free, there are people enslaved in many ways around the world. Tonight we think of the enslavement of our ancestors, and the enslavement of Guatemala today, illiteracy. On this night we share our light of freedom and possibility with young leaders who will light the way for their Guatemalan communities out of slavery and into a bright future.

2. How is not being able to read a type of slavery?

Reading allows us to literally see the world in a different way, to manage daily life more easily, engage with a world far beyond our immediate environment, mobilize the resources and inspiration needed to control our own destiny and to change the lives and communities around us. Tonight we see the people of rural Guatemala enslaved by illiteracy and embrace our responsibility to help learn to read in order to lead their communities in the future.

3. What do kids in Guatemala have to do with the Exodus story of Passover?

According to the Torah, the ninth plague, the plague of darkness, was so thick, "no person could move from his or her place." (Exodus 10:23). Reading empowers us to dream and to move from limiting places (like Ancient Egypt) to places where we can realize our own potential. Learning to read can literally light up a life and enable a child to change their situation, determine their future, make the world a better place.

4. How can we bring the light of freedom to the children in Guatemala?

On Passover we are obligated to eat matza and make sure everyone in the community has this most basic form of sustenance. Our tradition also teaches, "without bread there is no learning and without learning there is no bread." (Pirke Avot 3:21) Combined they remind us of our responsibility at Passover to do tzedakah, to use our resources, to provide basic sustenance to those in need - the skills to read and lead, to learn and teach, to light up literacy in a dark place.

The Haggadah Reminds Us that - "Our story begins with degradation and the tale concludes with glory."

May our efforts on this night of Passover be different than all other nights. Tonight we can be like Moses and bring others from the dark narrow place of illiteracy into the open places of celebration, hope and light that come with the ability to read and lead, as together we light up literacy.

LIGHT UP LITERACY

A HANUKKAH CELEBRATION WITH READING VILLAGE



This Hanukkah

LIGHT UP LITERACY

WITH READING VILLAGE

Hanukkah is eight wonderful days to gather with family and friends, play *driedel*, eat *latkes*, delight in increasing light and blessing, as well as give and receive gifts of all sorts.

What if you took one night of Hanukkah and gave a very special gift to children who have neither books nor adults to read to them? This year, make a difference in a child's life and experience the joy of *tzedakah* and *g'milut chasadim* by joining us for Light Up Literacy, a *tikkun olam* program that brings books to kids in rural Guatemala.

We work with congregations and Jewish groups around the country to celebrate our ability to read while actively addressing the darkness that is illiteracy in Guatemala. Guatemala is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Approximately 50% of the nation's rural population is illiterate and lives in this kind of darkness.

Together, we can change that. Together, we can light up literacy.



How to Change Lives in Three Easy Steps:

By bringing Light Up Literacy into your family Hanukkah observance, you can be a *shamash* - an important source of light in the lives of Guatemalan children.

1. **Pick one night of Hanukkah to light up literacy with your family and friends.**
2. **In lieu of gifts, donate money that you might have otherwise spent in honor of your loved ones.**

Make an online donation to Reading Village at www.readingvillage.org/donate

3. **Make Light Up Literacy part of your celebration:**

Recite the special candle-lighting blessings found in this pamphlet

Watch the 3-minute video and meet the kids you are helping:

<http://youtu.be/mXJiXP3MmKU>

Read stories with the children in your life and celebrate the freedom and ability to read.

Reading for Before the Hanukkah Candle Lighting:

The Mayan communities in which Reading Village works are among the poorest and least literate people in the western hemisphere. If you ask a child in these communities how many books he or she owns, they would likely say, "I have never owned a book of my own." This year we choose to celebrate Hanukkah by helping to bring the joy of reading to children in Guatemala. On Hanukkah we celebrate our freedom and lives without oppressions. Because we can read, we have knowledge and that knowledge gives us choices in our lives. Through our *tzedakah* we are helping children in Guatemala become free from the oppression of poverty and illiteracy.

Reading for After the Hanukkah Candle Lighting:

We dedicate the Hanukkah candle to spreading the light of literacy in Guatemala and other parts of the world where children lack books and adults are unable to teach children how to read. Just as the *shamash* brings light to the menorah and to our celebration, so we choose to be the *shamash*, bringing light into the lives of others.

I am a light to the world when on a day of gift giving, I remember children who do not have books.

I am a light to the world when I give of myself to others by participating in the Light Up Literacy campaign.

I am a light to the world when I celebrate my own freedom by helping others to gain theirs.

I am a light to the world when I share the joy of reading and books with others who have yet to experience this joy.

Blessed is the Eternal One who grants us freedom from the oppression of poverty and illiteracy.

36 BOOKS

A MITZVAH PROJECT WITH READING VILLAGE

36 BOOKS: Promoting Literacy at Home and Abroad

36 Books is a way for you and your peers in America to help rural villages in Guatemala become places where reading is celebrated, where kids and parents appreciate the dreams and the journeys found between the covers of a book, and where books are the tools that empower readers to be leaders in their communities.

Reading Village has built a toolkit for bar and bat mitzvah students who love reading and want a mitzvah project to promote literacy at home as well as in other countries. For your project, we have prepared everything you need to promote literacy in your local community while creating a culture of reading in Guatemala.

This toolkit describes every step of the process, but here's what you'll need to do:

- Promise to read 36 story books locally, in your school, home, synagogue, local library or another community organization to young children, people with disabilities or elderly adults.
- Ask friends and family to support you by donating at least \$1 for each book you read.
- Donate the money you collect to Reading Village to help teen reading promoters in Guatemala attend school and reach children with literacy activities.

By sharing books and stories in your local community you will raise funds to support the efforts and education of teen reading promoters in Guatemala and help bring literacy to small rural villages.

Keep reading to learn more about how your mitzvah project could promote literacy at home and abroad!

“When two people read together, God’s presence hovers between them.”

- Adapted from Pirke Avot 3:3



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INTRODUCTION

Imagine living in a place where you do not have access to books and could not read. Imagine having parents and older siblings who not only do not have the time to read to you but do not have the education or ability.

As American Jews living in the 21st century, this is almost impossible for us to imagine, but for children in Guatemala it's a reality. In rural Guatemala most kids live on about \$2 per day, can't afford books, and live in communities where there are no libraries. As a result, they grow up unable to enjoy the world of words, stories and ideas, ultimately becoming illiterate adults. YOU can make a difference in the lives of those kids in Guatemala by reading here at home.

36 Books

36 Books is a mitzvah project for students who love reading and would like to promote literacy at home and abroad. As part of your bar or bat mitzvah project, you will read to children in your local community while raising money to support reading programs in Guatemala. In this way, 36 Books is the perfect project for students who love reading and want to make a difference around the world.

Two thousand years ago, Judaism became the first book-based religion and reading became central to Jewish life.

What makes this project a mitzvah?

Education and lifelong study give life to the ancient words of Torah and turn them into something sacred. Despite whatever outside threats our people faced, the greatest danger to Judaism has always been illiteracy, which is why we read Torah aloud in the synagogue, pray from a printed prayer book, build schools and libraries where people can learn and can read. For Jews, reading isn't only something secular or academic, it's something holy which is why our tradition teaches, "when two people read together God's Presence hovers between them" (adapted from Pirke Avot 3:3) This project is a mitzvah because by reading to others and raising money you will be able to do the highest form of tzedakah-the funds you raise will help others learn to read and be able to dream and succeed in their lives independently and successfully.



HERE IS HOW TO GET STARTED

1. Set a goal

- To help you decide how much money you want to raise, we've compiled a list of what our programs cost and where your money will go. See page 12 for details.

2. Identify sponsors

- Think about how many people you can contact to sponsor you and start a list. You can ask your friends and their parents, your teachers and neighbors, be sure to ask your rabbi and your cantor!

3. Create your fundraising web page

- Use Stay Classy to create a web page so you can easily contact potential donors, keep track of donations received, post photos and updates, and send thank you notes.

<http://www.stayclassy.org/fundraise/create?cid=9973&pid=10858&eid=20216&ftid=0>

4. Find a place to read

- See page 13 for ideas of where you could read
- We've also included a flyer you can print and use to introduce and explain 36 Books to the organizations where you want to read.

5. Invite your friends and family to support your project financially

- In this toolkit you'll find a sample letter you can include with your bar or bar mitzvah invitation and/or send via email through your fundraising page. We've also included give cards on page

6. Start reading

- We encourage you to say or sing one of the blessings on page 15 before you start, to help make the time feel special and holy.

7. Keep a log

- As you read the storybooks, complete the 36 Books log on page 16 (which includes space for date, location, number of kids and books read and reflections).

8. Say thank you

- Once you've finished your project and reached your goal, make sure to thank all of your sponsors as well as the organizations where you did your reading.

What do I do once I've finished reading my 36 books?

1. Inform donors about how many books you read so they can make their donations. Donations made on your fundraising page will automatically go to Reading Village. Any checks should be written to Reading Village and sent to 3210 15th St, Boulder, CO 80304.
2. Prepare to talk about your project on the day of your bar/bat mitzvah.
3. Send a follow up letter of thanks to all who supported your project.
 - A sample thank you to your donors is included in this toolkit.
 - A sample thank you to the organization/family where you read is also included.
4. Make plans to write a paragraph for Reading Village to post on their website or Facebook page. Send it to kassia@readingvillage.org
 - Use one of the reflections you wrote in your log as a place to start.
 - Be sure to share some photos of you reading as well!
5. If you like, write a letter to the teen reading promoters in Guatemala. What would you like to share with them about your mitzvah project? Send your letter to kassia@readingvillage.org and she will translate it into Spanish and get it to the teens in Guatemala.

How will Reading Village help me with my mitzvah project?

In addition to this toolkit, Reading Village has put together a list of resources to help you with your bar or bat mitzvah project. While we would be happy to answer any questions you might have, here is a list of ideas to support your 36 Books project:

- Watch a short training video with the same reading tips teens in Guatemala use when they become reading promoters: <http://youtu.be/srUEwl5Nyl4>
- Read about the Guatemalan students who are doing the same kind of hard work you are.
- The Reading Village website has lots of stories, videos and materials about this sacred work of reading. Check it out if you need extra inspiration: www.readingvillage.org

If you still have questions, Rabbi Debra Robbins is a board member for Reading Village and is available to help you. Email her at debrarobbins91@gmail.com.



Reading Village
has worked with 56 teen
youth leadres in
Guatemala

READING VILLAGE

Dear Student,

Around the world, nearly 1 billion adults are illiterate. Without this skill, their opportunities are limited. And if you can't read you can't teach your children to read so the opportunities of future generations are also limited.

To break this cycle, our model begins with extraordinary teens with dreams of a better future not only for themselves but also for the communities in which they live. We pay for their high school education and help them develop their leadership skills and capacity to change the lives of the people around them. Ultimately this investment in a teen becomes an investment in the younger children they read to, their own families, and their communities.

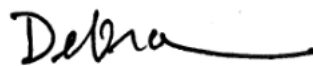
Our success at supporting teenagers and promoting literacy in Guatemala depends on our ability to inspire our families and friends to help. This is where you come in. For your bar or bat mitzvah project, we have all the tools you need to raise money and build awareness around global literacy. In the process you'll promote literacy here and abroad and help us change the lives of thousands of children.

I can think of no greater mitzvah than this and my colleagues and I at Reading Village are so grateful for your support.

Sincerely,



Linda Smith
Founder & Executive Director
Reading Village



Rabbi Debra Robbins
Board Member
Reading Village



Reading Village transforms lives through literacy. Leveraging reading and education as mechanisms to end poverty, we create the conditions for youth to discover their true potential and become agents of change in the world. Through collaboration and innovation, whole communities find and unleash their power to flourish under their own resources and creativity.

Leaders & Readers Program

Our Leaders and Readers Program empowers Mayan youth in rural Guatemalan communities to eradicate illiteracy and lead their villages out of poverty.

We invest in teenagers through scholarships, mentoring and leadership development, enabling them to complete high school (an accomplishment that less than 10% of their peers achieve). In return, they volunteer as “reading promoters” – each teenager runs several weekly reading circles for the young children in their community. And together reading promoters and program alumni initiate supporting projects to develop a culture of reading within their own villages, where only 50% of adults can read. In this way, our reading promoters become the first generation of adults in their communities to read to their own children. And the children they have taught over the years will continue the legacy of reading, learning and aspiring, improving the quality of life for themselves and the entire community.

Book Bank Program

Access to books is the first barrier between millions of children and their ability to imagine and achieve a more fulfilling, creative, and productive life for themselves. To complement its Leaders and Readers program, Reading Village’s Book Bank supports reading promotion efforts through the acquisition and distribution of books in low-income communities.

Our Book Bank program supplies books to Guatemalan orphanages, daycare centers, preschools, elementary schools, community libraries and programs that promote literacy.

In each partnership, we encourage recipient programs to design innovative systems that encourage both utilization and stewardship of the collection.



4,000
BOOKS

10,000
CHILDREN

HOW TO SET UP A FUNDRAISING PAGE

\$20

Provides five new storybooks for a reading promoter to use in his/her activities with local children.

\$50

Pays for one teen to participate in a two-day leadership retreat where he/she will learn the skills to be an effective changemaker in the community

\$100

Pays for a teen's bus fare to and from school for a whole year. Our teens live in small villages far from the city where the high school is located.

\$500

Puts one teenager through one year of high school. This \$500 pays for annual registration fees, supplies, uniforms, and transportation. This amount is half of what a teen's parents earn in an entire year.

\$1000

Pays to keep a teen in school for a year in addition to paying for their training by Reading Village to be a dynamic reading promoter and community leader.

\$3,600

Funds a village reading program that reaches hundreds of children through literacy & leadership activities. This donation will benefit an entire community in Guatemala.

FINDING A PLACE TO READ

1. Identify some organizations where you could read and get their contact information, or consider reading in your own home.
2. Set up an appointment to meet with someone at the organization either in person or on the phone to talk about 36 Books. Bring a copy of the flyer or email it to them so they will see what a special project 36 Books is. (Update it with your contact information. It is at the end of this toolkit.)
3. At the meeting agree on a plan do your reading.
4. Send a thank you note to the organization for helping you.

SAMPLE INTRODUCTION FOR THE PHONE:

Hello my name is _____ and I am working on a special project for my bar/bat mitzvah called, "36 Books: A Mitzvah Project for Teens Reading Globally and Locally." I am a ____ grader at ____ school here in [name of your city]. This project requires that I read 36 story books to people in my community in order to collect money to support Reading Village, an organization that helps teach literacy in rural Guatemalan villages. I would very much like to share more about my project with you and speak to you further about the possibility of reading at your agency/school/store/congregation. Can I please send you a short flyer about my project and speak with you later in the week to answer any questions you might have?

FOLLOW UP THE PHONE CALL WITH AN E-MAIL

Dear _____,

Thank you for your time on the phone earlier today. I am eager to share my bar/bat mitzvah project called, "36 Books: A Mitzvah Project for Teens Reading Globally and Locally," with you. Please see the attached flyer for additional details about the project and about Reading Village. I will follow up with a phone call at the end of the week to see if we can arrange for me to read at your agency/school/congregation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your assistance.

SAMPLE INTRODUCTION FOR AN E-MAIL:

Dear _____,

Hello my name is _____ and I am working on a special project for my bar/bat mitzvah called, "36 Books: A Mitzvah Project for Teens Reading Globally and Locally." I am a ____ grader at ____ school here in [name of your city]. This project requires that I read 36 books to people in my community in order to collect money to support The Reading Village, an organization that helps teach literacy in rural Guatemalan villages. Please see the attached flyer for additional details about the project and about Reading Village. I will follow up with a phone call at the end of the week to see if we can arrange for me to read at your agency/school/congregation.

NEED A PLACE TO READ?

How about a library, an early childhood center at your synagogue, an elementary school, or a retirement home.



SAMPLE LETTER TO INCLUDE WITH YOUR INVITATION AND/OR EMAIL:

Dear Family and Friends,

I am excited to share my upcoming celebration with you and to share an important project I have been working on in preparation for becoming bar/bat mitzvah. As my mitzvah project I am participating in a program called, 36 Books. 36 Books is a project of Reading Village which helps train teens in rural Guatemala to become reading advocates to bring literacy to their village. Teens do this by learning leadership skills then reading to younger children in their village and inspiring them to learn to read.

As I spend hours studying and preparing to read from the Torah for the first time, I am aware of the great gift of the ability to read. In Judaism, as in all cultures, the ability to read can unlock doors to information and wisdom we would otherwise not be able to access. Participating in 36 Books is a way for me to raise money for the teen reading promoters in Guatemala while I read books here in my community. I will share the gift of reading by reading 36 stories at [place and date]. I am asking my friends and family to consider donating at least \$1 for every book I read, for a total of \$36 but you can contribute as much as you want to support my project. You can learn more about Reading Village at www.readingvillage.org and my personal fundraising page is at [Insert your url here.]

Thank you in advance for helping me celebrate this milestone in my life by working to make the lives of others better.

I look forward to sharing my bar/bat mitzvah with you.

L'Shalom,

BLESSINGS FOR DOING MITZVAH WORK, REPAIRING OUR WORLD, AND ENGAGING IN ACTS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁנָּתַן לָנוּ הַיְזְדַּמְנוּת לְתַקֵּן אֶת הָעוֹלָם.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, Shenatan lanu hizdamnut l'takein et ha'olam.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who gives us the opportunity to repair the world.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתַיִךְ, וְצִוָּנוּ לִרְדּוֹף צֶדֶק.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam asher kidshanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu lir'dof tzedek

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who makes us holy with mitzvot and commands us to pursue justice.

Turn the page and find
a reading log that will
help you keep track of
your project

	DATE	LOCATION	# OF KIDS	GREAT MOMENTS
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

YOU'RE HALF WAY THERE!

Every book you read is changing lives at home and in Guatemala!

19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				

YOU'RE SO CLOSE TO YOUR GOAL!

How many more lives are you going to change?

30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				
36				

YOU DID IT!

PROFILES OF YOUTH LEADERS



Carlos, Age 16

As far back as Carlos can remember he wanted to be a mechanic. But when he started reading to children in the Reading Village program he discovered he had a gift for relating to children and decided to become a teacher instead. Maybe you'll also discover a gift you didn't know you had when you read to children.



Olga, Age 14

In rural Guatemala, 75% of children drop out of school before the sixth grade. This was to be Olga's fate as her father told her when she turned twelve, "Girls don't study." But Olga had a different plan for herself. She argued that investing in her education would mean she could contribute significantly to the family income when she graduates. She's now in the ninth grade and in our program. That's chutzpah!

LUIS

VICTOR

ANGELICA

ROSEMERY

EDGAR

Since 2006,
Reading Village
has trained and
supported more than
56 teen reading
promoters!

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

As you prepare to talk about 36 Books during your bar/bat mitzvah, consider the following:

“A person who reads happily for a single hour will learn much more than a person who reads glumly for hours on end.” (adapted from Hayyim of Valozhin, a Lithuanian talmudist of the 18th century)

“If you have studied much Torah (or read many books) your reward will be abundant.” (Ethics of the Fathers 2:21)

Here are some Jewish texts to help you think about your project.

The next passage is from an Ethical Will that was written in Judah Ibn Tibbon to his son Samuel in the year 1190. Judah Ibn Tibbon was a practicing physician and a well educated Jew—he was not ordained as a rabbi but translated the works of the greatest Spanish poets and commentators of the medieval period, and was renowned in his generation for his extensive personal library and his passion for everything related books, especially reading them! Here’s what he writes -

“My child! Make your books your friends. Let your bookcases and shelves be pleasure-grounds and gardens. Bask in their paradise, collect their fruit, pick their roses, gather their spices and their herbs. When your soul is weary move from garden to garden, from section to section, from idea to idea. Then your spirit will be renewed and your soul will be filled with delight!” (Hebrew Ethical Wills page 63)

Questions to think about:

- Why did you choose the text you did?
- What does this text teach about the importance of reading, especially for those that don’t grow up with books in their home, like those Reading Village supports in Guatemala?
- How does this apply in your own life?

Questions to think about for sharing your project at your bar/bat mitzvah:

- Why did you choose this particular mitzvah project? What moved you to action?
- What did you do to complete your project?
- Who did you work with to complete your project?
- What did you learn about yourself during your project? What did you learn about others?
- What did you learn about the importance of literacy during your project?
- What is the one most important thing you learned?
- What is the one most important thing you wish to teach others about your experience?

Some ideas to help you connect your project to your Torah portion:

- Ask your tutor, rabbi, cantor, teacher or parents to help you reflect on what the ability to read has meant in your life and in your Jewish experience. How is learning to read related to your experience of learning to read Hebrew, or Torah, or the prayers as you were preparing to become a bar/bat mitzvah?
- Is there something in your Torah portion that speaks about the importance of helping others? How is it similar or different to the mitzvah work you did reading 36 Books and raising money for tzedakah?
- Is there something in your Torah portion that talks about the importance of study? How is that similar to the mitzvah work you did supporting Reading Village with 36 Books?
- Is there something in your Torah portion that talks about sharing what you have? How can you relate that idea to your experience with 36 Books?

Be sure to mention 36 Books during your d'var Torah at your bar/bat mitzvah celebration. Give an update on how many books you read and even how much money you raised or how many people contributed. Be sure to thank those who helped you and encourage them to stay involved with this important work right alongside you!



SAMPLE THANK YOU LETTERS

THANK YOU LETTER TO THE ORGANIZATION WHERE YOU READ:

Dear _____,

Thank you for supporting me with my bar/bat mitzvah project, 36 Books and allowing me to read books at (name of the organization.) With the generous support of family and friends I was able to raise \$_____ to support Reading Village a non-profit organization that trains teenagers to be reading promoters in Guatemala. I am proud of my accomplishment and pleased share that with that money, this organization can help teens complete high school and serve as role models to other children in their villages who are learning to read.

My participation in 36 Books and reading at your organization taught me [share one or two important things you learned about yourself, about helping others or about Reading Village and its work.] I am grateful for the opportunity to learn these important lessons and to have shared them with others in my community. Thank you again for making that possible. I know that together we made a difference!

L'shalom,

P.S. If you want to stay involved with Reading Village you can check out their website at www.readingvillage.org

THANK YOU LETTER TO YOUR DONORS:

Dear _____,

Thank you for supporting me with my bar/bat mitzvah project, 36 Books. Your generous tzedakah contribution enable me to collect over \$_____ to support Reading Village. I am proud of my accomplishment and pleased share that with that money, this organization can help teenagers in Guatemala attend high school and serve as leaders in their communities by reading to younger children. Your support made this possible and enabled me to successfully complete this important mitzvah project.

My participation in 36 Books taught me [share one or two important things you learned about yourself, about helping others or about Reading Village and its work.] Now that I have become a bar/bat mitzvah I am responsible for using what I learned to continue to make a difference in the world. I hope to do this by [Do you have any specific ideas for continuing your volunteer work with Reading Village or any new ideas for mitzvah projects?]

Thank you again for your support of me, 36 Books and Reading Village. I know that together we made a difference!

L'Shalom,

P.S. If you want to continue to be involved with Reading Village you can visit the website at www.readingvillage.org



Reading Village would like to thank the 36 Books Jewish Leaders Advisory team for their creativity, inspiration, and intelligence in compiling this project:

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