

TIPS For Parents

Here are some suggestions for empowering your children to engage in charitable giving.

Actions speak louder than words, so model the engagement you would like to see – Let your kids see what you do for charities, show them the satisfaction you derive from your philanthropy and discuss your motivation for supporting your charities.

Find the teachable moments and uncover the values behind your giving. Help kids understand why you give.

Discuss the importance of helping others and express your concerns about your community, the Jewish community and national and international issues.

Listen to your children and learn about their interests and concerns. Nurture these interests, even if they are different than yours.

Shabbat or any dinner-time conversations provide opportunities to share family memories or history of earlier generations and their charitable work.

Connect the dots by examining the nexus between Jewish teachings and secular values.

Holiday celebrations are filled with giving traditions and opportunities so incorporate tzedakah into your celebration.

Celebrate Jewish holidays, Mother's Day, Father's Day or birthdays by asking your child to make a grant from their JCF fund in your honor.

Acknowledge your child's accomplishments in school or the community by making a contribution to their JCF fund. This is a great way to recognize graduations, awards and other achievements.

Don't forget that a little praise goes a long way towards encouraging children to be charitable.

Discuss a giving goal that can help focus your teen on tzedakah. Ask your teen to decide how much they would like to give each year, and set a time table for grantmaking.

Match donations that your teen makes from his or her own money or from their teen foundation.