

1. Project Title: Age Can't Stop Dreams
2. Project Summary: In October 2009, thirteen elders, with an average age of 86, will fulfill two lifetime dreams that they thought impossible. They will take part in a mission to Israel and they will celebrate their Bar or Bat Mitzvah in Jerusalem. This will be the first mission of its kind. While it will profoundly transform the lives of those who participate, it will also touch our community and the larger world with a message that age is not a barrier to achievement and that our elders, too, can live out their dreams.
3. Project Need and Beneficiaries: Our society is riddled with ageism, the belief that after a certain milestone, we can no longer achieve and we are no longer of value. Cedar Village is committed to proving that is not the case. This mission demonstrates not only the value of enriching the lives of our elders but also their remarkable abilities and wisdom. "We truly believe that age is just a number," says Carol Silver Elliott, CEO/President of Cedar Village, "and this mission is a way to prove it. Our seniors can learn, experience and share in ways that are powerful and far reaching."
4. Project Activities: This mission will be comprehensive in scope. Seniors, accompanied by their one-to-one staff buddies will tour sites from Masada to the Golan, from Tel Aviv to a kibbutz. The highlight, of course, will be a Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremony in Jerusalem near the Kotel, or Western Wall. This 10-day experience will begin months in advance with Bar and Bat Mitzvah studies, physical training to increase endurance, studies of Jewish history and more. It will continue during the mission itself and beyond, as the participants share their stories via blog during the trip and through presentations and media upon their return.
5. Donation Options:
 - \$10 will provide participants the opportunity to plant a tree in the Biblical Landscape Reserve
 - \$18 will provide supplies for a blanket, to be made by the participants and delivered to an orphanage in Israel

\$36 will sponsor a special prayer book for the Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremony

\$72 will sponsor a participant on a day trip to climb Masada

\$180 will provide a tallit (prayer shawl) and skull cap for the ceremony

\$4000 will sponsor an individual to participate in this trip of a lifetime

6. Potential Long Term Impact: While thirteen seniors and an equal number of healthcare staff will take part, the ripple effect of this mission is enormous. The story of this mission, of these elders both visiting Israel and re-consecrating themselves to their faith, will be shared both locally and nationally through media, internet and public presentations. It will serve as an inspiration, and motivation, to others of all ages who face challenges.
7. Project Message: "I never had the opportunity to have a Bat Mitzvah. It was not an option for girls when I was young. And even if it had been, those years of my life, during World War II, were spent in a concentration camp. The chance to have a Bat Mitzvah at 96 would be enough but to do so in Jerusalem is more than I could ever have imagined."
8. Project Funding Requested: Funding requested for the mission is \$50,000 which will subsidize some participants as well as fund the medical and other professional required to make this journey possible. Some of the elders will pay their own way but financial ability will not be an impediment to participation, therefore, additional funds are required.
9. Web Resources: <http://tinyurl.com/mm2007>; <http://twitter.com/cedarvillage>; www.cedarvillage.org