

Three Unusual Super Creative Mitzvah Projects

Kippot from Guatemala

It sometimes defies the imagination that such a simple item, a kippah, (as well as their gorgeous beaded mezuzzot) has the power to transform the lives of so many women and their families in a far-off place in Guatemala.

Even more profound is the fact that in 2006, more than 12,650 colorful kippot were produced and sold by this amazing organization. If you are about to have a family Simcha, check out MayaWorks.org — you will be adding a special touch to your gathering as well as allowing families and individuals to improve their lives.

[MayaWorks, Naomi Czerwinskyj, info@mayaworks.org, 312-243-8050, www.mayaworks.org.]

Purses from Honduras

Many young people have seen them: colorful purses made out of discarded gum wrappers, potato chip bags, and similar trash items. As with the Mayaworks products, buying these purses puts food on the families' table, educational opportunities for children and adults alike, and many other basics. I have "road tested" the purses, asking pre-bar and bat Mitzvah *kinderlach*, "Would you give these out as 'favors' to your friends at your party?" The answer has been a universal "Yes!" Susan Moinester has recently established a non-profit organization in Memphis, Manos de Madres, to market these wonderful, Tikkun Olam-based items.

Contact Susan Moinester at susan@connectusa.us for details and ordering. (www.Manosdemadres.org.)

This program — called "Goods of Desire" truly brings to life the verse from Jeremiah 15:19, "If you produce what is precious out of things that are worthless..."