

"Every man and woman whose heart motivated them to bring... the Bnei Yisrael brought a free-willed offering to Hashem." (35:29)

This *pasuk* seems ambiguous. It begins by stating that every man and woman contributed toward the *Mishkan* and ends by saying that all *Bnei Yisrael* contributed. Why is there a change in the text? Does the *Torah* seek to convey a secret message? **Horav Gavriel Ze'ev Margolis, zl**, suggests that the *Torah* implies a fundamental lesson for parents. If we want our children to grow up as committed Jews, we must train them as such. Being an observant Jew is no different than any other endeavor - it takes training. What better time to educate a person than when he is young? Shlomo *Ha'Melech* states in *Mishlei* 22:6, "*Educate a child according to his way, so that when he grows old he will not turn away from it.*" To infuse a child in the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah*, a parent should model the *mitzvah* and require him to participate actively in the *mitzvah*.

Bnei Yisrael did not come alone with their contributions. They sent their children to bring the money to Moshe. They realized that only through such training will their children continue along the same path.