

Sample 2: Making Tzedakah Boxes **Adaptable program for one facilitator/multiple facilitators**

Overview

In this program campers will use quotes from the “Jewish Values to Guide Our Work” handout to create their own *tzedakah* box. They will come together in the end to explore how much money they could collect if they worked together. In the conclusion, campers learn what a teen foundation is, the work they will be doing, and how their own values will inform the process.

Group Type

Adaptable program for one facilitator/small group OR multiple facilitators/large group

Space Needed

A large room or outdoor space with table and chairs (campers will be completing a somewhat messy art project)

Supplies Needed

- Scissors for each camper
- One copy of the “Jewish Values to Guide Our Work” for each camper and staff – Appendix 1
- 1 Tzedakah Box per camper - these can be made from a variety of materials or found online at <http://www.torahaura.com/ItemDetails.aspx?ItemNo=DECTZEDAKAH> or http://www.discountsschoolsupply.com/Product/ProductDetail.aspx?product=26794&es=237530000ESC&utm_source=CSE&utm_medium=weblink&utm_campaign=froogle&cvsfa=408&cvsfe=2&cvsfhu=3236373934&gclid=CLLD9qPk0bUCFQZV4AodrkeAYA)
- Art Supplies to decoupage the *tzedakah* boxes (modge podge, scrapbook paper, markers stickers, paintbrushes, paints....)

Prior to the Program

- Set up the room for the art project including covering the tables, putting out supplies...
- If you are working with multiple foundations in a large group, decide the groups for each foundation and who their group facilitator will be. Create name tags for each camper that has their foundation written on it. Use numbers for each of the foundations (Foundation 1, Foundation 2....). Note that these are the foundations that the campers will work in for the duration of this project, so it is important to choose the groups carefully.

Timetable- 45 minutes

15 minutes- Introduction

20 minutes- Creating *tzedakah* boxes

10 minutes- Meet your foundation

Introduction (15 minutes)

1. Ask campers: When you have a really important decision to make, how do you make it? (talking to friends, family, thinking about what is important to them....)
2. Steer campers towards the idea that they have their own set of values that helps them make these decisions. We learn these values from our families, friends, counselors, religion, and other people around camp.
3. Explain to the campers that they are going to discuss how values influence the world around them and help them make decisions in their lives. During this program they will have the opportunity to share the values that they feel are important.
4. Hand out to the campers the “Jewish Values to Guide Your Work” sheet. Ask campers to look through the page and pick 1-2 values that are central to their own beliefs and 1-2 quotes that resonate with them (they do not necessarily have to be related)

Creating *tzedakah* boxes (20 minutes)

1. Explain to campers that they are each going to create a *tzedakah* box (a receptacle for collecting money designated for charity) that reflects what they believe is important. They can decorate their *tzedakah* box however they want, but it needs to include the value words and quotes that they chose. They can cut the quotes out along with their own decorations. (*Note that each camper is going to be making his/her own tzedakah box.*)
2. Have campers put the modge podge or glue on their *tzedakah* box and add the cut out quotes, values, and decorations that they chose. When they are done, they should cover the entire piece with the modge podge to finish it.

Wrap-up in Foundations (10 minutes)

1. If you are working with a larger group with multiple foundations, break up in to foundations with your foundation facilitators leading the following discussion.
2. Ask campers to share with their group the quotes and values on their *tzedakah* box. Ask them to explain why they chose these values and quotes.

3. Ask campers:
 - If your tzedakah box was full, how much money do you think it could hold? What do you think the money could do for an organization? What could it buy?
 - What if we put all of our tzedakah boxes together? How much do you think that would be? What do you think that money could buy?
 - How would you decide where the money would be donated?
4. Explain to campers that Jews have, throughout the ages, combined their money into tzedakah collectives or foundations. In Eastern Europe Jews formed landsmannschaften that pooled together money to help people from their village. The Israeli Kibbutzim did the same. They pooled together their money to help those in need. Jewish Federations are a modern example of this, as are new online opportunities for giving.
5. Explain to campers that for the rest of the camp session they are going to be working with their foundation. They will be giving away *real* money to *real* organization(s) by bringing their own values to the table, and working with their fellow campers to make educated decisions and reach consensus. Spend a few minutes to explain the teen foundation model and the funding you have received from the Jewish Teen Funders Network (as well as any other sources).
6. Ask campers: Knowing that you will be part of a teen foundation where you are going to have the opportunity to give money to an organization, why do you think we spoke about values before we began this process? (*Possible answers: work together to get to know others in their group, know what is important to the group before donating*)
7. Conclude by explaining to the campers that in order to make the decision about where the money will be donated, they will need to bring their own values to the table, learn how to compromise and work with their fellow campers to make an educated decision. Together, they will see how their money can make a difference.

Task 1- Appendix 1

Jewish Values to Guide Our Work

| Value | Quote |
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| Respect כבוד <i>kavod</i> | What is hateful to you, do not do to another – Hillel |
| Compassion רחמים <i>rachamim</i> | Do not suppress this compassion, this sympathy, especially with the sufferings of your fellow man. --Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch |
| Justice צדק <i>tzedek</i> | Speak up for those who cannot speak, for the rights for the unfortunate. Speak up, judge righteously, and champion the poor and needy. --Proverbs 31:8 |
| Image of God ב'צלם אלקים <i>tzelem Elohim</i> | When I reach out to you and you to me, We become b'tzelem Elohim. When we share our hopes and our dreams, Each one of us, b'tzelem Elohim. --Dan Nichols |
| Saving a Life פיקוח נפש <i>pikuah nefesh</i> | Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if he destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world. -- Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 4:8 (37a) |
| Charity צדקה <i>tzedakah</i> | No one has ever become poor by giving. --Anne Frank |
| Diversity מגוון <i>migvan</i> | You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God: your tribal heads, your elders and your officials, all the men of Israel, your children, your wives, even the stranger within your camp, from woodchopper to water drawer; to enter into the covenant of the Lord your God. --Deuteronomy 29:9-11 |
| Cherishing the Elders הדור פני זקן <i>hiddur p'nei zaken</i> | A test of a people is how it behaves toward the old. It is easy to love children. Even tyrants and dictators make a point of being fond of children. But the affection and care for the old, the incurable, the helpless are the true gold mines of a culture. --Abraham Joshua Heschel |
| Courage אומץ לב <i>ometz lev</i> | The whole world is a very narrow bridge, and the most important thing is not to fear at all." --Rav Nachman of Bratzlav |
| Community קהילה | We come from a religious tradition that says we are all responsible for each other. |

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| <i>kehilah</i> | -- Ruth Messinger |
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| Dignity כְּבוֹד הַבְּרִיּוֹת k'vod habriyot | Dignity is as essential to human life as water, food, and oxygen. --Laura Hillenbrand |
| Kindness חֶסֶד chesed | The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving. -- Albert Einstein |
| Pursuing Peace רוֹדֵף שְׁלוֹמִים rodef shalom | Mankind must remember that peace is not God's gift to his creatures; peace is our gift to each other. --Elie Wiesel |
| Caring for Animals צַעַר בְּעֲלֵי חַיִּים tza'ar ba'alei hayyim | There is no difference between the pain of man and the pain of other living beings, since the love and the tenderness of the mother for her young ones is not produced by reasoning but by feeling, and this faculty exists not only in man but in most living things. -- Maimonides |
| Protecting the Earth שְׁמִירַת הָאָדָמָה shmirat ha'adamah | One generation goes and another generation comes; but the Earth remains forever. --Ecclesiastes 1:4 |
| Sustainability קַיָּמוּת kayamut | One day as Honi was walking along he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked him "how many years until it will bear fruit"? The man answered: "not for seventy years". Honi asked him, "do you really believe you'll live another seventy years?" The man answered: "I found this world provided with carob trees, and as my ancestors planted them for me, so I too plant them for my descendants." -- Talmud Bavli Taanit 23a |
| Recognizing the Good in Others הַכָּרַת הַטּוֹב hakaharat hatov | Despite everything, I believe that people are good at heart. --Anne Frank |
| Love of the Jewish people אַהֲבַת יִשְׂרָאֵל ahavat yisrael | All Jews are responsible for one another. --Talmud, Shavuot |
| Leadership מְנַהֲיגוּת manhigut | One person's candle is a light for many. --Talmud, Shabbat |