

Danny Siegel's List of Practical, Easily-Doable Mitzvah Projects

Holiness With Your Tzedakah Money

דרש רבי דוסתאי ברבי ינאי....אדם נותן פרוטה לעני זוכה ומקבל פני שכינה
Rabbi Dosta'i the son of Rabbi Yannai explained in a sermon:...
If a person gives even a perutah (the smallest coin) to a poor person,
that person is privileged to sense God's Intimate Presence, (Bava Batra 10a,
Psalm 17:15)

With Your Time, Effort, and Talents: Gemillut Chassadim

לא ישתמש אדם בפניו ידיו ורגליו אלא לכבוד קונו
One should use one's face, hands, and feet only to honor one's Creator. (*Tosefta Brachot 4:1*)

וכל המקים נפש אחת...כאלו קים עולם מלא
...Whoever saves a single life —
it is as if that person has saved *an* entire world. (*Mishnah Sanhedrin, Chapter 4, end*)

בן עזאי אומר:...שמצוה גוררת מצוה...ששכר מצוה מצוה
Ben Azzai says:...one Mitzvah attracts another...the reward for a Mitzvah is a Mitzvah.
(*Pirkay Avot 4:2*)

Collections and distribution of collected items

(*For distribution in Israel, contact Arnie Draiman, ajdraiman@gmail.com)

POTENTIALLY LIFE SAVING MITZVAHS

1. Cellphones for survivors of domestic violence
2. Infant car seats
3. Rescuing leftover food to donate: www.rockandwrapitup.org,
Contact sydmandelbaum@att.net - **SYD KNOWS EVERYTHING!**

EASY TO BRING FROM HOME

- *4. **Legos**, toys, puzzles and games, board games, kids' card games, marbles, jacks, blocks, bubble blowers, jump ropes, fun stickers
5. Videos and DVD's (kid and adult) for hospitals
- *6. soaps, shampoos, hand lotion, other toiletries from hotels to shelters
- *7. gloves, sweatshirts, sweaters, sneakers
- *8. **Dolls** (including baby dolls for residents with Alzheimer's disease)
- *9. Sports equipment
- *10. Eyeglasses

FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

- *11. **stuffed animals** (gently used) - Police, sheriff's office, fire department, rescue squads, ambulance units (for hospitals must be brand-new)

MAKING KIDS HAPPY

- *12. **Fun pajamas, fun socks**

- *13. *crayons from restaurants* (and drawing pad, ribbon, note to have fun)
Colormyworldproject.org, sgreenwald1995@gmail.com
- *14. Dancing shoes
- *15. school supplies (and backpacks)
- *16. Kid's books – Gently-used – for kids in shelters, New – for hospitals
- 17. balloons (and then entertaining kids with them)

OTHER PROJECTS

MAIMONIDES' HIGHEST LEVEL OF TZEDAKAH – PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT

- 18. **Purchasing kippot made by Guatemalan-Mayan women**
for your guests), www.mayaworks.org
- 19. **Purchasing purses and clutches** made by Honduran women as presents for girls and young women, www.Manosdemadres.org

FOR THE SYNAGOGUE

- 20. Magnifying glasses in synagogue for visually-impaired persons
- 21. Pull-down flap in Torah reading stand to have the Torah at eye level
For people who use wheelchairs
- 22. **Mitzvah crib** for collecting items for infants
- 23. Centerpieces at Synagogue events: sports equipment, books, school supplies
If flowers: sectionalized (consult your florist) to donate to individuals who live alone or who can't get out

FOR ELDERS IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

- 24. Plants for elders (and instructions for care of the plant)
- 25. Certifying your dog or cat to visit
- 26. Playing mah-jongg and poker with the residents
- 27. Making dreams come true – **Second Wind Dreams** (www.secondwind.org)

HUMAN-ANIMAL MITZVAHS

- 28. Invite a Veterinarian to speak at the synagogue to explain the
Full range of human-animal interrelationships and benefits
And set up a subcommittee of the synagogue Mitzvah committee
Relating to human-animal interactions
- 29. Support Avshalom Beni's awesome animal-assisted therapy program
In Israel, HAMA-(ISRAEL)-Humans and Animals in Mutual Assistance, with
money, donations of medications and equipment: beni.avshalom@gmail.com
- 30. Volunteer at an organization that provides therapeutic horseback riding
For individuals with disabilities. Go to www.pathintl.org to find
A local organization
- 31. Socialize a service guide dog for blind people or other people with disabilities
- 32. Learn about and observe a local program when children with reading problems
Read to dogs and have the program introduced into the religious school,
Contact Sharon Frant Brooks: Sfrantbrooks@excite.com

33. Have your local animal shelter train you to match rescue animals with individuals who might need them. Have the rabbi suggest members Who might want or need such a pet
34. Donating money to an animal shelter to buy dog food for homeless people

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH-RELATED MITZVAHS

35. Donate videos and DVD's – for kids and adults
36. Certifying your dog or cat to visit
37. Dolls and stuffed animal – new
38. **Songs of Love** – providing individual songs written for children with life threatening illnesses (www.songsoflove.org)
39. Hearing aid batteries
40. **Casting for Recovery** retreats for women who have had breast cancer surgery www.castingforrecovery.org
41. Providing *challot* for Shabbat and holidays

ASSISTANCE TO ELDERS OR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES LIVING AT HOME

42. Checking smoke alarms
43. Changing light bulbs and other simple tasks
44. Raking leaves, cutting the lawn, taking care of plants and flowers
45. Shopping
46. Walking dogs
47. Arranging for drivers to take them on errands and to community events

ISRAEL

48. Do **advocacy** for Israel by reading honestreporting.com, CAMERA.org [Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, www.ngo-monitor.org, www.dailyalert.org and informing friends, schoolmates, and relatives about what you learned
49. Support Israeli Mitzvah heroes making an enormous impact on thousands of Individuals in Israel (go to: <http://dannysiegel.com/finalzivreport.pdf> for A description of their Tikkun Olam work)

THE BIG TIME

50. Run a bone marrow testing drive: www.giftoflife.org
51. Encourage a local medical school to integrate animal-assisted therapy into the curriculum. Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, VA) The Center For Human-Animal Interaction, dekey@vcu.edu, Denice I. Ekey
52. Encourage a local veterinary school to take in animals for a family fleeing domestic violence (Use Google to find the program “Petsafe” at Purdue University’s School of Veterinary Medicine
53. Inform your local shelter for survivors of domestic violence of Face to Face: Surgeons who repair faces of women who are survivors of domestic violence battered free of charge, www.facetofacesurgery.org

To quote Nike, “Just do it.”