

MITZVAH PROJECT BEST PRACTICES

HANDSON VOLUNTEERING

- Contact the organization to determine if you meet the age criteria to volunteer - you may need a parent present to volunteer. Coordinate volunteer times.
- Contacting each organization will be different: sometimes it is emailing; sometimes it is calling; sometimes it is signing up for their volunteer portal; and sometimes it is filling out a form and waiting for them to contact you.
- Keep track of the number of hours you spend volunteering. Sometimes, your day school will require volunteer hours.
- Come prepared to help in any way. Sometimes, an organization's volunteer opportunities may seem small, but every little action makes a huge difference!

COLLECTIONS

- Confirm with the organization what specific items are needed.
- Find a location to do your collection. You may choose to have a collection bin in front of your home, at synagogue, or even outside of the b'nai mitzvah celebration.
- Set a timeframe for when people can drop off items.
- Promote your collection drive. You may want to create flyers, poster boards, or special emails to your friends and family.
- Coordinate with the organization how you will get the items you have collected to them. Sometimes, it may be bringing items to an office or a warehouse or shipping them to the organization if they are not local.

FUNDRAISING/ PHILANTHROPY

- Creating an online fundraising page should include a brief write-up about why the organization is important to you and the community and why others should donate to this cause. (An adult must set up most online fundraising pages.)
- It is also beneficial to video record yourself reading this write-up. People will be more inclined to donate if they can see why it is important to you.
- Set a goal that is feasible for you. You can always increase your goal if you reach it. Every amount matters to an organization, no matter how small or large.
- Fundraising can take many forms. Examples include running a lemonade stand, a bake sale, creating customized friendship bracelets, offering to walk your neighbors' pets, participating in a walk-a-thon, and so much more.

EDUCATION/ ADVOCACY

- Teaching others about the chosen social justice topic while showing public support for that particular cause.
- Consider the following questions:
 - Who is your audience?
 - Where will your education or advocacy take place?
 - What are you teaching about/advocating for? Where will you find this information?
 - How will you share your knowledge with others?
- Find an organization that can support your goal of education and advocacy.