



Kid's Helping Kids - A Tzedakah Lesson

Submitted by: David Greenberg

Project Title:

Kids helping Kids

Subject Area: Tzedakah, Tikun Olam, Mitzvot

Target Age Group: 5th –7th Grades

Lesson Objective:

To give students a basic understanding of Tzedakah as much more than just "Charity". To understand that Tzedakah means "justice" and as such it is about treating people fairly and helping those less fortunate.

Lesson Plan:

1. Start out with a brief overview of the word Tzedakah, it's meaning: justice and it's connection to the concept of Tikun Olam. I talk about the word 'justice' in English and what it means to be just or fair.
2. Show them a shoe box that I have cut a slot out of the top so that money can be put through it. Then I pass out materials for an art project. I hand out old Jewish art calendars, and paper and markers crayons, etc. and tell them that we will be covering the shoe box to make a Tzedakah box and they each will get to glue one picture that they can draw, paint or cut out of a calendar or magazine.
3. Tell them that once they have finished they will each get a chance to come up to the front of the room and tell the class why they choose their picture or drawing. As the students each take a turn telling the class the connection between their item and Tzedakah, I glue the picture on to the box with the help of the class as to where each item should go.
4. Introduce, Ilene Blum, Executive Director of Stand Up for Kids. Ilene spends a few minutes explaining that Stand Up for Kids is a service provider that supports homeless youth in Boulder County. She then shows a 9 minute video about Stand Up for Kids in Boulder and then shares with the class a frank education of the issues that surround homeless youth in Boulder, allowing time for questions.

Conclusion:



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Next, I have a discussion with the class and ask them if they would like us to come up with a way to help Stand Up for Kids. I think that the idea here of kids helping kids is a very appropriate one. This lesson could certainly work with a speaker from another non-profit that helps people, but I feel that kids can relate better to Stand Up for Kids as they are for *kids*.

I offer them several options for a class Mitzvah Project. Such as having a snack stand before school and during the break to raise money for Stand Up for Kids, or doing a clothing and toiletry drive, and I also take suggestions from the class. We then vote on a project and proceed from there.

Website Support

Tzedakah Lesson, Kids Helping Kids

To schedule a class visit from Eileen Blum:

<http://www.standupforkids.org/local/colorado/Boulder/index.html>

Or Contact Eileen Blum, Executive Director at Boulder@standupforkids.org