Zoo Day Activity:

Makoko The Gorilla Station:

Aim of peulah: teaching them about the 8 levels of tzedakah by the Rambam

Peula:
the Chanichim receive the 8 levels written on paper and must organize them in the right order in their opinion (5 min).

Going over the order together and explaining why every level is in its’ place + discussion – what do the Channies think? Would they change the order that the Rambam made? (5 min)

Simulations:
divide the Channies into 2 groups and every group receives a situation and must decide which of the 8 levels would suite this situation.

Situations:

Makoko’s Cousin Sikoko, is unemployed and is standing every day in the intersection next to your house and asks people for money – Would you give him money?

Makoko is raising money for his beloved homeland of Mokaka, he placed charity boxes all around the jungle to allow people to donate towards this noble cause – What would you do?

Makoko has lost all of his money and his job because of his bad habits – what would you do?

Makoko’s son, Lakoko is going to school with you. You have heard from your parents that Lakoko’s Family have lost all of their money. You go out with friends to have Pizza and Lakoko is coming as well, will you pay for him?

(10 min)

after every situation is handed out, every group needs to discuss what would they do according to the Rambam and according to their beliefs and in the end bring several examples up for disucussion with everybody.

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The 8 Levels in order:

[1] The greatest level, above which there is no greater, is to support a fellow Jew by endowing him with a gift or loan, or entering into a partnership with him, or finding employment for him, in order to strengthen his hand until he need no longer be dependent upon others . . .

[2] A lesser level of charity than this is to give to the poor without knowing to whom one gives, and without the recipient knowing from who he received. For this is performing a mitzvah solely for the sake of Heaven. This is like the “anonymous fund” that was in the Holy Temple [in Jerusalem]. There the righteous gave in secret, and the good poor profited in secret. Giving to a charity fund is similar to this mode of charity, though one should not contribute to a charity fund unless one knows that the person appointed over the fund is trustworthy and wise and a proper administrator, like Rabbi Chananyah ben Teradyon.

[3] A lesser level of charity than this is when one knows to whom one gives, but the recipient does not know his benefactor. The greatest sages used to walk about in secret and put coins in the doors of the poor. It is worthy and truly good to do this, if those who are responsible for distributing charity are not trustworthy.

[4] A lesser level of charity than this is when one does not know to whom one gives, but the poor person does know his benefactor. The greatest sages used to tie coins into their robes and throw them behind their backs, and the poor would come up and pick the coins out of their robes, so that they would not be ashamed.

[5] A lesser level than this is when one gives to the poor person directly into his hand, but gives before being asked.

[6] A lesser level than this is when one gives to the poor person after being asked.

[7] A lesser level than this is when one gives inadequately, but gives gladly and with a smile.

[8] A lesser level than this is when one gives unwillingly.