Exploring Values in Tzedakah
Introduction
One of the core values of Judaism is Tzedakah (charity). This activity is designed to spark a discussion about how we prioritize our values in giving Tzedakah. This includes both giving of time (volunteering) and of resources (philanthropy). For this activity the two concepts are interchangeable.

Instructions
• Looks at the following set of cards each of which depict a certain Jewish value in “giving”. Together, put the list in order of what you believe to be most important to least important.
• In the slides following the cards, you’ll find 5 sayings from Jewish Literature (based on the program: Pop-Up Giving Circle). Read each of them and discuss how this might impact your giving of Tzedakah.
• Come up with your own GP/GC value in giving
**Compassion**
Just as G-d is compassionate, so too you too must be compassionate (Talmud Shabbat 133b)

**Areyvut-Jewish Peoplehood**
Rabbi Akiva said: Love your fellow Jew as yourself This is an essential principle of the Torah (Jerusalem Talmud, Nedarim 9:4)

**Geographic Proximity**
The poor of one’s city take precedence over the poor of another city (Maimonides Laws of Poor, 7,13)

**Kiddush Hashem-Sanctifying G-d’s Name**
I would be sanctified among the children of Israel... (Leviticus 22:32)

**Tikun Olam- Repairing the World**
Human responsibility for fixing what is wrong with the world.

**Saving A Life**
Whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5)

**Chinuch-Jewish Education**
Known as "People of the Book", Jews value education

**Justice**
Justice, justice shall you pursue (Deuteronomy, 16,20)

**Israel**
The residents of Israel take precedence over the residents of the Diaspora (Sifre2 Devarim Parashat Re’eh #116)

**Your Addition:**
What other value do you think is important when it comes to donating time & money?
Rabbi Jonathan Sacks,  
*To Heal a Fractured World: the Ethics of Responsibility*

We are here to make a difference, to mend the fractures of the world, a day at a time, an act at a time, for as long as it takes to make it a place of justice and compassion where the lonely are not alone, the poor not without help; where the cry of the vulnerable is heeded and those who are wronged are heard.
Deuteronomy 15, 7-8:11

If however, there is a needy person among you...do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your needy kinsman. Rather you must open your hand and lend him sufficient for whatever he needs...For there will never cease to be needy ones in your land; therefore I command you: “You shall surely open your hand to your poor and needy kinsman, in your land.”
Rabbi Irving “Yitz” Greenberg

In the 1960s, I was deeply involved with the effort to persuade the Federation system to fund Jewish education as well as services for the poor. Once someone posed the question to me as a stark either/or: “if you had to fund a hospital for the poor or a Jewish school, which would you choose?” When I said, “I’d fund the Jewish school,” my interlocutor cried that he had unmasked me as “an enemy of the poor and the sick;” I replied: “But wait - you forgot to ask me what I will teach in the Jewish school. I will teach them to open hospitals that care for the poor.”
Babylonian Talmud, *Gittin* 61A

Our rabbis have taught: We support the non-Jewish poor along with the poor of Israel, and visit the sick of the non-Jews, along with the sick of Israel, and bury the poor of the non-Jews, along with the dead of Israel, in the interests of peace.
You Come Up with your Own GP/GC value in Giving

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