

Maimonides' 8 Levels of Charity

Source: Mishneh Torah, Laws of Charity, 10:7-14

Note: The list is organized from most honorable to least honorable way to give charity.

1. Investing in a poor person in a manner that they can become self-sufficient.
2. Giving to the poor without knowledge of the recipient and without allowing the recipient to know your identity.
3. Giving to the poor with knowledge of the recipient but without allowing the recipient to know your identity (anonymous giving).
4. Giving to the poor without knowledge of the recipient but allowing the recipient to know your identity.
5. Giving to the poor without or before being asked.
6. Giving to the poor after being asked.
7. Giving to the poor happily but inadequately.
8. Giving to the poor unwillingly

