

# 100+ Ideas for Community Service

• Clean or sterilize toys at a church preschool, free clinic waiting room • Help maintain or update the website for a non-profit organization or church • Paint a mural over graffiti • Organize a toy drive • Translate documents into other languages for nonprofit groups • Read a book to younger kids, a blind person, or an older neighbor • Collect old magazines and donate them to day care centers • Stage a carnival to promote community spirit • Organize a safe walk-to-school event • Plant flowers in public areas that could use some color • Conduct a clothing repair or sewing workshop for needy people • Help with setup, registration, concessions, and cleanup for a major fund raising or charity event • Conduct bike safety checks for your neighborhood • Make and send cards to nursing homes, hospices, hospitals • Donate supplies to animal rescue shelters • Join a community crime prevention organization • Run or walk in a charity race with friends • Mow the lawn or do yard work for someone who is unable • Share a talent through teaching a class • Bring toys to children in a hospital • Set up a Help-O-Meter to keep track of the number of hours youth volunteer in the community • Organize a recognition program for the volunteers who lead community organizations • Take photos during an event and donate them to the event organizers • Form a carwash squad to clean and wash seniors' cars • Volunteer to be a museum guide • Assist an after-school little league or other sports program for younger children • Get permission to fix up your town's fire hydrants • Recognize veterans in your community • Donate old eyeglasses to an organization or place that recycles them for the needy • Adopt a town monument and keep it clean • Volunteer to help at charity auctions • Hold a gently used videotape or DVD drive and donate them to your library or school • Volunteer to be part of a school flag raising ceremony • Organize a coat drive in which old coats are donated for use by needy people • Tutor students that needs help learning English or some other subject • Make emergency kits for those who need them • Volunteer at a health fair • Collect gently used costumes and clothes and donate them for a dress-up area at a daycare • Set up a web page for a non-profit agency • Help clean up, play with the animals, or do whatever's needed to make an animal shelter a nicer "temporary" home for the animals • Inspect school playgrounds for hazards • Set up an informational display at a local library • Make new kid survival kits for new students at the school • Produce a neighborhood newspaper • Clean up trash along a creek, river, trail, or in a park • Design a flier of after-school safety tips and deliver it to daycare centers and grade schools • Help fix a run-down playground • Assemble new parents kits for the arrival of newborns • Help neighbors paint and repair their homes • Conduct a community accessibility check to identify potential barriers for individuals with disabilities • Design a campaign to promote tolerance and understanding of differences • Build park benches • Set up a buddy system to match new students with ones who have attended school • Conduct a bicycle rodeo to help children learn bicycle safety • Organize a sing-a-long • Clean up trash at a community event or county fair • Work with physically challenged kids on an art project • Assist with sorting and organizing items donated to a homeless shelter • Help the elderly with their house cleaning • Make signs to label community buildings and sites of interest • Pack and hand out food at a food bank • Organize a Safe Walk Service to escort young children to and from schools • Clean up a vacant lot • Hold a used book sale and donate the money • Tape your friends and yourself reading a story and give it to a children's hospital or school • Plant a garden or a tree where the whole neighborhood can enjoy it • Raise money for pet causes by organizing a pet photo session • Collect unused make-up, perfume and other cosmetics for a center for abused women • Conduct a seatbelt check at school as students leave the parking lot • Collect supplies for persons who have been in a fire or natural disaster • Sponsor a TV blackout event so that kids spend time with their families rather than watch TV • Set up a reading hour here you visit a homeless shelter, bringing books to share and leave behind • Plan a Memorial Day program • Arrange for student music performances during lunch • Explore history by interviewing a nursing home resident about how they grew up • Make first aid kits for homeless shelters • Organize a "get acquainted" lunch for students at your school • Volunteer to do office work at a local non-profit agency • Decorate and donate a Christmas tree to a nursing home, homeless shelter or the needy • Become a pen pal to a younger person or someone from another country • Create and distribute a list of hotlines for kids who might need help • Provide child care during afterschool or evening PTA meetings • Organize a newcomers group in your neighborhood to welcome new families • Help cook or serve a meal at homeless shelter • Knit, crochet, quilt, or craft baby blankets • Collect school supplies to give to kids who need them • Make care kits with combs, toothbrushes, shampoo, etc. for homeless people • Conduct an Easter Egg Hunt for needy children • Form a campus safety escort service • Plant a community garden • Set up an art exhibit at a local business, school or nursing home • Organize a food scavenger hunt to collect food for the needy • Donate art supplies to kids in a homeless shelter • Volunteer to teach others how to fix their bike • Alter and repair clothes for the needy, elderly and homeless • Form a band with your friends and give free concerts • Make Halloween Safety Kits for youth • Plant native flowers or plants along highways • Collect coupons and small gift certificates for students who show progress in school work • Provide a voter pick up or transportation service for seniors • Help with repairs at a local homeless shelter • Volunteer to help at a Special Olympics event • Design and paint a community mural • Make simple reading and math flash cards for schools or day care centers • Help senior citizens in your neighborhood obtain and install locks or smoke alarms • With the support of a vet clinic, organize a neuter and spay campaign to get animals neutered and spayed at a reduced rate • Get a group together to sing or present a play at a nursing home • Make bird feeders for public places • Start a collection drive for old sports equipment and donate it to needy families • Design a mural or quilt highlighting important aspects of the community • Gather clothing from your neighborhood and donate it to a local shelter • Organize a reading hour for children at your local school or library • Make Spring baskets for seniors' residential facility, neighbors or homeless shelters • Set up a seed or a plant exchange in your neighborhood • Volunteer at an agency that works with children with disabilities • Organize a campaign to paint storm drains to prevent dumping of hazardous materials • Teach a senior friend how to use a computer or the Internet • Organize a community dog wash • Knit or crochet a warm and colorful wool gift for families in war-torn countries • Create a children's nature garden, labeling plants and trees and scheduling guided tours • Clean wooden duck houses before each nesting season • Organize a neighborhood group to plant, tend and harvest a vegetable garden • Clean up after a natural disaster • Form a Mall Patrol with your friends to help seniors with their shopping • Help your friends fight boredom by becoming active community volunteers •

Visit these websites for more ideas and for opportunities to participate in service projects:

[www.volunteer.united-e-way-org](http://www.volunteer.united-e-way-org)

[www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)

[www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov)

[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)

[www.1-800-volunteer.org](http://www.1-800-volunteer.org)

[www.volunteerinfo.org](http://www.volunteerinfo.org)