

FAITH *at* WORK

Things to consider as you brainstorm project ideas...

When brainstorming ideas for a volunteer service project, there are several things to consider. First, think about the needs of the community you want to serve. What are the biggest challenges facing this community, and how can you address them through your project? It's also important to consider your own skills and resources, as well as those of your team. What are you uniquely qualified to do, and what resources do you have available to you? Finally, think about the impact you want to make with your project. What kind of change do you hope to effect, and how will you measure your success? By considering these factors and working collaboratively with others, you can develop a project that makes a real difference in the lives of those you serve!

- Brainstorm with your volunteers to gather their ideas
- Enlist "prayer warriors" who can serve even if not physically able to in other ways
- Drive or walk around your community with an eye toward service needs and opportunities
- Talk to the Mayor or County Commissioner(s) to assess needs and opportunities to serve
- Ask the Principals of local schools how volunteers of any age may serve them
- Approach the Ministerial Alliance with the mission of *Faith at Work* and how your team can get involved in the local community
- Ask non-profit leaders or community help organizations (such as County Extension Offices) how volunteers could assist the community
- Ask Veterans Organizations (VFW) about local veteran needs
- Ask local 4-H leaders what service projects they are doing or plan to do

CREATIVE & CRAFTY

- Make homemade toys for local animal shelter
- Make tie blankets for new moms, crisis centers, etc.
- Make placemats, centerpieces, decorations for nursing home cafeteria
- Offer to take pictures and make cards for others, or to send out
- Teach tech class or help with phone or device issues at church or local public space
- Meals for new community families and/or families with newborns
- Meals for people during harvest – quick on the go meals at elevators
- Read to younger children
- Sing for residents of elderly care
- Arm volunteers with dollar bills and send them to public places to "grace or gift" others as the Spirit moves them (Coffee, ice-cream for a child, etc.)
- Make tie blankets for shelters, veterans, hospitals, nursing homes
- Hold a bake sale and donate items to the nursing home or Meals on Wheels
- Hold a book drive and collect books for towns without libraries
- Assemble first aid kits for local shelters
- Make birthday cards and party bags for children in shelters
- Collect materials and make book bags for the pediatric wing of a local hospital or doctor's office
- Color pictures for troops or seniors
- Make quilts or blankets for children in hospitals, foster care, or shelters

NEIGHBORLY & HOSPITABLE

- Bake cookies and snacks for local food pantries
- Make lunches for the needy
- Hold a popsicle give-away at a park
- Volunteer at a local food pantry
- Clothing and/or food collection for local non-profits and/or food bank
- Hold a "Donut Event" for those who serve our communities (police and fire stations, dentists, doctors' offices, nurses' stations at hospitals)
- Collect and donate hygiene products for local shelters
- Collect school supplies for a local school
- Ask a local school what needs their families have
- Collect blankets, sheets, and newspaper for local animal shelters
- Volunteer at your local library or non-profit
- Hold a blood drive
- Hold a concert for the community
- Write letters or send cards to seniors in care facilities or service men and women
- Host a bingo event or play other games at a local shelter or nursing home
- Sponsor a bike-a-thon; learn bike safety
- Read or sing to residents at a local nursing home or shelter
- Host a sing-along or devotion time at a nursing home
- Host a dinner for your neighbors
- Partner with a local YMCA and help with events they hold
- Provide water bottles to the homeless
- Place door hangers that have Bible passages on neighborhood doors
- Babysit for a Parent's Night Out and/or plan a local Parent's Night Out

HANDS-ON & PHYSICAL

- Pick up litter at a shopping center
- Clean up a park or community area
- Clean up the school grounds of a local school
- Rake leaves, mow lawns, and clean up the yard of a shut-in/elderly person
- Complete minor repairs for a shut-in/elderly person
- Wash windows at a shut-in's house
- Hold a free car wash
- Hold a car wash and donate proceeds to a local charity
- Paint lines in a parking lot
- Cemetery upkeep/cleanup
- Clean/spruce up areas outside nursing homes that residents could enjoy from the inside
- Make window boxes for nursing home residents (give seeds to nursing homes that residents could plant in window planters)
- Pick up recyclables and/or trash around town
- Make "My Little Library" out of wood to put up around town
- Find opportunities to beautify your local community