

Pay it Forward!

Family Community Service Newsletter

Fall 2007

As Christian families, we are dedicated to raising socially conscious, loving, and compassionate children. As hard as it is to find time, consider the benefits of participating as a family in community service activities.

- Spending time together
- Bringing family closer
- Making a positive impact on the community
 - Encouraging Christ-like giving
 - Facilitating health and happiness

Ideas for Simple, at-Home Projects:

- Create no-sew fleece blankets (www.binkypatrol.org)
- Make activity boxes (www.churchworldservice.org/kits)
- Make crafts (www.artistshelpingchildren.org)
- Sponsor a family (www.boxproject.org)
- Create a giving box to make contributions to children's cause of choice
- Draw pictures and mail to Color a Smile (www.colorasmile.org) – to be distributed to nursing homes and Meals on Wheels programs to make people smile!
- Hold a bake sale and donate proceeds

Explore local service options that will fit with your family's values:

VolunteerMatch.org

www.handsontwincities.org

Busy Family's Guide to Volunteering by Jenny Friedman

Points of Light Foundation

United Way

Stay tuned for details regarding November 10th

Family Service day

Please refer to these newsletters for additional project ideas that may work for your family. For more information or to help coordinate events, contact Karen.Doll@comcast.net (952)848-0965

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Christmas 2007

A reminder for us to put the consumerism and stress of the holidays aside and remember the reason for the holiday – celebration of the birth of Christ

Ideas for Holiday Giving...

- ✓ KTIS Christian Radio Shoe Box Drive
- ✓ Deliver a meal through Meals on Wheels
- ✓ Adopt a family or child for holiday gift giving
- ✓ Make treats or cookies for friends and neighbors
- ✓ Volunteer at a nursing home
- ✓ Cook and serve a meal at a homeless shelter
- ✓ Help coordinate a toy drive or participate in Toys for Tots
- ✓ Organize a drive to collect coats, hats, scarves and mittens for local shelters
- ✓ Visit Peacecorps.gov/kids/index for worldwide giving
- ✓ Hud.gov/kids provides basic ideas for charitable acts
- ✓ Unicef.org features games and activities to learn about social action
- ✓ Thevolunteerfamily.org provides ideas such as helping at pet shelters
- ✓ Visit www.holiday-project.org to learn how you can help individuals who are institutionalized in a hospital or nursing home
- ✓ Spread good cheer through making cards, gifts, crafts for people in the community

- ✓ Make cards for sick children in need
(www.hugsandhope.org)
- ✓ Collect canned goods or supplies for homeless shelters
- ✓ Decide as a family where charitable giving should go, and encourage children to donate their own resources to a selected cause

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Winter 2008

Encourage children to care – bond families together – make an impact on the community – and Pay it Forward!

Additional Ideas for service and giving as a family...

Seniors – contact local nursing homes to identify volunteer opportunities (deliver meals, make cards, play bingo, put on a music performance, bring lunch, read)

- + Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly
- + Redeemer Residence, Minneapolis (www.elimcare.org)
- + Hillcrest Nursing Home, Wayzata
- + Ebenezer Minneapolis campus (www.fairview.org)
- + Become a senior angel (www.chemoangels.com) – become a virtual partner

Poverty – Look for opportunities local and beyond to help the poor

- + People Serving People organization
- + Feed My Starving Children (www.fmsc.org)
- + Feeding Children International (www.feedingchildren.org)
- + Pack food (www.2harvest.org)

- ✚ Serve meals (Salvation Army, Sharing and Caring Hands, Cookie Cart)

Help the Sick

- ✚ Volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House
- ✚ Walk to fight disease (Race for the Cure, Silent No More, Light the Night)
- ✚ Support Diabetes, Multiple Sclerosis, Leukemia and Lymphoma, and Aids organizations

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Spring 2008

Bring your family closer and pass Christian values on to your children!

Family Friendly Charities- causes children can understand

- Heifer International (www.heifer.org): This organization provides an opportunity to buy an animal to help a family in need become self-reliant. There are typically 11 animals to select, buy, and donate to families in Papua New Guinea, China, Mexico and other countries.
- Instead of sending money, spend time shopping as a family to provide items needed. Donate diapers to local shelters, toys for Ronald McDonald House playrooms (www.rmhc.org), put together baby or school kits to be sent overseas (wwwchurchworldservice.org), send clothes/baby bottles to assist orphans in Guatemala (Common Hope International)
- World Vision (www.worldvision.org). This website provides choices for families in third world countries to select how their contribution is used. Options include providing clothes, immunizations or school fees.
- Donate to the Humane Society or the World Wildlife Fund to support animals. Friends of the Ocean (www.friendsoftheocean.org) and Defenders of Wildlife (www.defenders.org) support the protection and conservation of animals.
- Buy items to put together health, baby, or school kits to be donated to any local shelter

- Send shoes to orphans domestically and internationally (www.shoesfororphansouls.org)
- www.savethechildren.org – sponsor a child overseas

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