

Creating New Ideas for Generosity

Fact Sheet

There are countless community service projects conducted each year by 4-H Clubs across the State of Indiana. Listed below is a small sample of projects conducted in various counties. It is important to recognize that each community is different, but there are certain needs that are present in every community. Although not all of these projects may be possible in your community, perhaps they will help you think of a need in your community that is underserved or not met.

1. Visit nursing homes to spend time with residents. Many homes enjoy visitors away from holiday times, as they don't usually have groups come in at these times.
2. Collaborate with local United Way, Community Foundation, or other youth-serving organizations to create a youth philanthropy organization.
3. Mentor elementary students. Spend time after school doing reading programs, planning fun and educational activities, and serving as a consistent role model.
4. Use 4-H project skills to benefit those in need. Sew warm clothes for needy children; use construction skills to help with repairs at community buildings; or assist parks departments with landscaping or beautification efforts.
5. Participate in Relay for Life to help fund cancer research. Hold creative fund drives and camp out during the annual event.
6. Hold drives for the local food pantries. Think beyond non-perishable food items. Many food banks also provide families with paper towels, toilet paper, toothpaste, tooth brushes, other toiletries, dish soap, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, and various necessary items.
7. Conduct a pet food and supply drive for the local Humane Society.
8. Sponsor a family at Christmas to provide presents and grocery items and gift certificates.
9. Host a Bingo night for senior citizens, a nursing home, or mental health facility.
10. Participate in tree planting or distribution on Arbor Day, or at a local park or state park.
11. Sponsor a team or athlete through Special Olympics.
12. Volunteer to conduct 4-H-based programs at the Boys & Girls Club.
13. Clean up a roadside through the Adopt-A-Highway program.
14. Partner with the local Soil and Water Conservation District to conduct a Conservation Camp.
15. Collect school supplies and prepare school bags for elementary children.

You can find more ideas on these Web sites

- 366 Community Service Ideas, by University of Nebraska, <http://lanaster.unl.edu/4h/serviceideas.shtml>
- Do Something, <http://www.dosomething.org/>
- Serve, <http://servenet.org>
- Or, you may conduct your own Internet search using the keywords "community service ideas for 4-H youth"

