

Community Service Ideas!

Here are some creative volunteer projects for middle school age students and family members! You may get some ideas by checking these out or you can think of some other ways to help in Derry!

Help the Homeless/Hungry

- * Conduct a canned food drive
- * Collect clothing/hygiene supplies/toys/paper products/blankets to give to a shelter
- * Cook casseroles to be served at the Soup Kitchen
- * Inspect and sort canned food in the food pantry
- * Make sandwiches and bag lunches for homeless children or a shelter
- * Organize snacks for walkers during fundraising events
- * Grow a vegetable garden and donate some of the food to a shelter
- * Clean fresh produce for food pantries
- * Collect clothing for needy people
- * Conduct toiletry, mitten, or book drives
- * Collect art and school supplies for needy children
- * Sponsor a birthday party for a needy child
- * Participate in a Walk or Run and gather pledges to raise funds for food banks and pantries
- * Make fleece tie blankets
- * Adopt a family – give gifts anonymously or holiday gifts, have a friendship with them, have barbecues together
- * Share a musical presentation, talent show, or dramatic production
- * Work, plant, water, weed and/or harvest in a community garden
- * Plan a meal, purchase ingredients, and prepare food for a small family in transitional housing

Assist Children

- * Make pillows, cards, games, or stuffed toys for children who are sick in the hospital
- * Collect items to make baby bags for poor mothers who recently had a baby – may contain diapers, baby bottles, pacifiers, burp rags, formula, baby food, etc.
- * Hold a drive to collect sunscreen/flip flops/healthy snacks/school supplies for children
- * Hold clothing drives and donate clothes to those in need
- * Re-paint or re-build playground equipment
- * Play basketball or other sports with children in need

- * Donate your hair for children with cancer or other medical conditions
- * Put together a baby layette for new moms
- * Make a first day of school package with school supplies
- * Conduct a fundraiser to help send a child to summer camp
- * Make care packages (i.e. sunscreen, stationery) for children at camp
- * Write letters to or for sick children
- * Organize a teddy bear drive

Befriend the Elderly

- * Have a "senior" prom at a nursing home
- * Have a talent show or musical program for residents at a nursing home
- * Make emergency storm packs for elderly in times of need
- * Organize a Bingo evening or game night
- * Organize a barbecue
- * Perform seasonal yard work including weeding, mowing lawns, raking leaves, and shoveling snow for nursing homes
- * Have puppet shows
- * Plant flowers
- * Make decorations for rooms – could make flowers out of tissue paper or construction paper to brighten up a room or attach to wheelchairs or beds
- * Clip coupons for seniors – often they are on a tight budget
- * Listen to stories and memories about his/her life
- * Label pictures to preserve memories of people and places (using acid-free materials)
- * Make cards or write letters for a special older friend
- * Play board games with nursing home residents
- * Perform a play for residents
- * Read a book or the newspaper
- * Make lap blankets

Care for Sick or Disabled People

- * Help run an event or cheer and support athletes for the Special Olympics
- * Do a Walk or Run to educate and raise money for cancer research (or another important disease)
- * Grant "wishes" for children who are sick
- * Deliver or serve meals to people who are bedridden or their families
- * Make food for families with relatives in the hospital

Respond to the Environment

- * Clean up litter on the street or in a park
- * Weed in a cemetery or park
- * Use more energy-efficient light bulbs
- * Work on a community garden or farm
- * Clear trails
- * Start a compost pile
- * Research about specific environmental issues and present for others in a creative, fun, and educational way
- * Recycle!
- * Learn about energy conservation and make daily changes at home, school, and work
- * Plant trees and other native species to preserve natural habitats
- * Plant flowers and trees in your yard or (with permission) in other public areas
- * Come up with creative craft projects out of re-used materials to combine with other volunteer opportunities (ex. helping children, the elderly, or people with disabilities)

Take Care of Animals

- * Help with a yard sale, bake sale, or lemonade stand and donate the money you earn to an animal organization
- * Make items, such as magnets, scarves, or other special animal artwork that you can sell, and donate the proceeds to animals in need
- * Protect habitats for endangered animals
- * Have a dog or cat food drive
- * Make a birdbath or birdhouse
- * Walk or run to raise money for animals
- * Adopt an endangered species