



SERVICE PROJECTS AND FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

This list of service projects and fundraisers is provided as a sample of ideas that can be used by your club.

Making a Difference in Your Community

- Organize a fundraiser (run, walk, etc) to send a child to summer camp.
- Have a service project at a summer camp for children or adults with disabilities. Activities may include leading craft projects, teaching swimming, leading a hike or a sing-a-long, etc.
- Drive homebound residents to doctor appointments, the grocery store, or friends or invite to your clubs meetings.
- Service project, providing food/supplies for the local animal shelter. Ask your local animal shelter for a wish list, and then have the families in your club help gather and deliver newspapers, old blankets and towels, and baked dog biscuits. (For more information contact www.gourmetsleuth.com/recipe_dogbiscuit.htm for recipes.)
- Help build a home or shelter. See the Lions website for more information about its relationship with Habitat for Humanity.
http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/habitat_us.pdf
- Build walk bridges, BBQ pits, picnic tables, or trails at local parks.
- Host planning meetings with other club families in your home.
- Coordinate a food or clothing drive for people in your community.
- Host a child/young adult for part of the summer. See the Lions web site for more information about youth exchange programs.
http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/youth_youth_exchange.stm
- ***Community/National/Global Emergencies***
When community, national or global causes require donations, such as hurricanes and earthquakes, kids want to help, and taking action can make them feel safe. With your

community leaders develop an emergency relief plan of action that can be implemented once an emergency occurs.

- ***Health issues***
 - Sponsor a walk-a-thon supporting Diabetes research. Use the Lions web site for more information regarding diabetes http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/programs_diab.shtml or contact www.diabetes.org for additional information

Kids Helping Kids

- ***Birthday in a Box***

Create a birthday party for a kid at a homeless shelter by volunteering at a party, stuffing goody bags, or holding a gift drive. Contact your local shelter for more information on how your club can help.
- ***Knit One, Quilt Two***

Knit or quilt blankets to donate to ill or traumatized children contact your local child welfare, social service organization or hospital for additional information.
- ***Sweet Thoughts***

Participate in your local fair by cooking up some goodies and hosting a Lions Bake Sale
- ***Welcome Basket***

Contact local social service organization about donating soft toys and duffle bags to foster kids who may arrive at new homes without comfort items of their own.
- ***Play Ball***

As a club volunteer/sponsor a challenge baseball team, where kids with physical or mental disabilities play in their own league and are paired with a peer “buddy” or an adult volunteer. For more information contact www.littleleague.org/divisions/challenger.asp

Helping Hands/Spruce Up Your Community

- Have the club repair or paint the home of an elderly couple or needy family.
- Organize a “window washing,” “spring cleaning,” or “yard” day for a needy non-profit or social service organization.
- Organize a community “closet cleaning” day/week and donate old clothes and other items to a homeless shelter or other organization.
- Plant and tend a neighborhood garden.
- Implement a community clean up project. For additional information and simple suggestions contact: www.kab.org

Music/Entertainment/Crafts

- Give a puppet show at a local library
- Organize a sing-a-long at the children's hospital
- Arrange a youth history hour at a nursing home to encourage older people to talk with children about their histories. Coordinate the visit with school history assignments and teacher input.
- Work with local high school band to organize a musical instrument drive and donate the instruments to a charity or community center. If appropriate offer to give music lessons.
- Ask a hospice what entertainment they enjoy and work with club families to organize the event.
- Teach craft projects at a local homeless shelter, adult day care or summer camp.
- Organize and direct a play at a community center.

Literacy/Reading

- Write or read letters to visually-impaired individuals.
- Learn and/or teach sign language.
- Sponsor a local spelling bee contest.

Advice/Current Affairs

- Write a letter to a local official regarding an issue of importance to the club.
- Invite a local official to speak to your club about involvement in the community.

The Environment

- In towns where no recycling process is in place, collect paper, cans, glass, plastic, and batteries and take them to a nearby receptacle or start recycling in your own community. Use the Lions website for more information <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/iad219.pdf>
- Sponsor a clean up the community service project. Select a nearby park, nature preserve, beach, or other public area.
- Provide animal care/aide for community parks or nature preserves.

- Participate in a brush-cleaning hiking trip to help keep national and state park trails in good condition.
- Organize a community garden to beautify.
- ***Go Green***
For more information regarding Lions environmental projects click on the link for more information: <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/iad219.pdf>
To learn about the environment via interactive games on screen, contact “Game Room” for kid-doable projects at www.epa.gov/kids.
- ***Speak for the Trees***
As a club, sponsor a tree-planting event, or ask your local park district about “tree tagging,” where you and your club help document what trees are where. Or contact your local arbor society for more information (www.arborday.org).
- ***On the Wild Side***
Learn about endangered animals and other wildlife and how to help them by building homes for birds and bats and more. For additional information contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Kids Corner (www.fws.gov/endangered/kids/).

Volunteer Vacation Opportunities

- Contact Lions Clubs International about “mission opportunities.” Families in your club can provide out of state or global support to families and communities. Activities include eyeglass missions, medical, clothing drop-offs, providing building assistance, etc. See the Lions web site for more information on Give the Gift of Sight Missions
 - <http://www.givethegiftofsight.com/intlmissions/whatis/>
- There are also other organizations, which provide safe, fun, and educational volunteer vacation opportunities. For more information contact:
 - The Lions Clubs International website, http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/projects_ideas.pdf
 - Contact memberprog@lionsclubs.org for additional information on volunteer vacation opportunities.

Adapted from the Corporation for National & Community Service “The Resource Center” and the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island materials