

*The ultimate guide to*

# Serving Your Community

*Getting started the easy way*

## 1 COLLECT

Invite freinds and family to donate new children's pajamas for the local shelter or emergency home.

## 2 COOK

Prepare a meal for a new neighbor or someone shut-in at home. Bake casseroles for the soup kitchen or make cookies for the firehouse.

## 3 PLANT

Add flowers to a senior center, a nursing home or even a friend's garden. Plant a vegetable garden to grow fresh foods for soup kitchen.

## 4 SHOP

Find the "most needed items" list for the food pantry, then shop for as much as your budget allows. Deliver at least an hour before their closing.

## 5 WRITE



Appreciate the tireless hours of the staff at the food pantry, homeless shelter, and transitional housing with email or snail-mail thank-you notes.

## 6 SIT

Babysit (free) for a single parent or a weary young couple. Offer to stay the afternoon with a friend's aging parent or physically disabled child.

MEET PEOPLE  
LIGHTEN THEIR LOAD



JESUS SAID "GO"

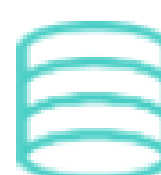
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*Invite friends & family along*

## 7 GIVE TIME

Volunteer hours to help at the library, school, or hospital. Admin help, reading to children, tutoring math are needed. Become a docent at the museum!

## 8 DONATE



Gather your gently-used clothes, shoes, and toys. Donate to a thrift store that raises funds for local needs in the community.

## 9 HOST

Invite a family over for dinner -- folks you do not know well. Host a BBQ for neighbors on your street or apartment floor. Organize a block party.

*Helpful tips*

- 1 Complete at least one opportunity in each of the twelve suggestions.
- 2 Pause and ponder: Which opportunity brought the most joy? When did you most experience God at work?
- 3 Choose a way to continue the opportunity monthly. Building relationships offers the best way to serve others.

## 10 VISIT

Invite a senior citizen to lunch, ask about life and lessons learned. Visit a senior center and talk with residents (bring ice cream). Pause & chat with neighbors before going in the house.

## 11 CREATION CARE

Grab rainboots & garbage bags, then head to the closest stream. Clear out the plastic bottles, paper trash, and other pollution from the banks.

## 12 PRAY



Walk your neighborhood streets, praying for each home you pass. Pray for faith, families, employment, school, emotional struggles, and other issues the Lord brings to mind.