

Ideas for Thanksgiving Community Service Projects

Put your feelings of gratitude into action by involving yourself, your family, and your friends in a community service project.

Here are some ideas to help share those special feelings to better your neighbors and the communities in which you live.

- Create a placemat for each Thanksgiving guest. Write on it your favorite Grace Prayer. Count your blessings for all of the special people in your life.
- Have a neighborhood food drive. Donate the food to a local shelter or food pantry. Be thankful that you are able to provide food for your family.
- Instead of having flowers as a centerpiece on your Thanksgiving table, create a centerpiece by filling a grocery bag with nonperishable food. Decorate the grocery bag. After Thanksgiving, donate the bag of food to a local food pantry. Be glad that you can be part of a community of caring individuals.
- Host a Thanksgiving meal for people who would be alone on the holiday. Be happy for the friends and fellowship, and guidance that those special people who you often think about bring to your life throughout the year.
- Make Appreciation gifts for teachers, police, firemen, paramedics or other special people in your life. Include a short card or note telling them why you are thankful for their help and guidance. It's it wonderful to learn from a caring mentor. Thanks to all of our heroes who help keep us safe when we are in need.
- Create hygiene kits to donate to local shelters or the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Program. Be thankful that you have a warm and safe home to live in.
- Donate blood. Be grateful for the gift of life.
- Visit an elder. Tape or write down an oral interview. Tell them how happy you are that they are able to share their wisdom with you.
- Create a multicultural meal with friends from different cultures. Celebrate diversity, and the special interests and friendships that you share.
- Create a special care package for a soldier overseas. Tell them how much you appreciate all of their sacrifice and dedication to our country.
- Visit a Veterans Hospital. Show them that you appreciate their service, even after it had been completed.
- Write a card or letter to a veteran or soldier. Thank them for their service to our country. Be grateful for your freedoms.
- Help create Emergency Medical Information kits for Seniors. Be thankful that

you are in good health.

- Create a pamphlet with baby safety tips. Call your pamphlet, "We Are Thankful for Our Children: Let's Keep Them Safe". Distribute your pamphlet at local daycare centers and play groups. Say a small prayer of blessing and hope for our next generation of leaders.

May all our children grow up safe and loved in a world of peace. This is my Thanksgiving prayer. I am thankful for all of the special, wonderful, people throughout our country, who do the small, heroic, and marvelous things each and every day, that help to make our communities a better place for all of us to live.

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About the Author

Devorah Vineburg is the lead staff professional at the Volunteer Center of Brown County, Green Bay, WI, in the areas of training, consultation and technical assistance to nonprofit agencies. Her website Crafty Community Connections located at www.craftycommunityconnection.com is an excellent resource of ideas for craft and volunteer service projects that can be donated to local people, agencies and charities as a community service. It is a great resources for crafters, kids, teachers, scouts, youth groups, Sunday Schools, parents and friends. The website is updated each month. Subscribe to our free newsletter. On our Shop for Charity page, buy a featured item, and an identical item or its wholesale value will be donated to your favorite registered charity. www.craftycommunityconnection.com