



SERVE IDEAS

“Let’s hold orphans in our arms, Help widows in our communities, provide for the poor in our cities, serve refugees in our country, host immigrants in our homes, rescue slaves from traffickers, visit people in prison, care for victims of abuse, come alongside moms and dads with unwanted pregnancies, and do multitudes of other things that are right for people as exemplified in God’s character and expressed in God’s Word. And let’s do it all as we proclaim the name of Jesus in a world where billions of people still haven’t even heard the good news about him.”

- David Platt from his book *Don’t Hold Back*

Begin by reflecting and asking God the following questions:

- *How can you take care of the disadvantaged?*
- *Who in your neighborhood has a need?*
- *What business or organization within your sphere of influence could use a blessing?*
- *What are some areas you’re passionate about?*
- *What serve opportunities best suit your skills and abilities? (Prayer, music, physical labor, photography, art, sign language, athleticism, fitness, listening, writing, teaching, etc.)*
- *What resources do you have access to?*

Nursing Homes

- Visit with the residents. Most nursing homes love to have visitors, especially children, spend time with their residents. Share a smile, kind words and a few minutes of interaction could mean the world to them.
- Deliver fresh flowers to the residents
- Host a worship service at a nursing home (offer worship, devotions, prayer, and fellowship)
- Host a sing-along for nursing home residents
- Throw a “Senior Prom” complete with live music, food, and decorations
- Landscape a flower garden and sitting area for resident
- Build birdfeeders and put them outside the windows of residents’ rooms
- Have kids make crafts that can be given to residents
- Distribute sugar-free snacks to residents & employees (check with staff on food restrictions)
- Host an art contest and display the residents’ paintings (and perhaps set up an auction to sell them)
- Have a tea party
- Help the residents complete care packages for foster kids – this gives them a renewed sense of purpose
- Help residents get dressed up and bring in a professional photographer to have their portraits made
- Let residents have fun playing with nerf guns
- Open a companion line where senior citizens can call to receive prayer and encouragement
- Do “window visits” with nursing home residents - bring signs, music and lots of smiles



Special Needs/Youth Home

- Identify a family with a special needs child and give the family a Mom & Dad's day out
- Adopt a group home for the day and throw a party for the residents
- Build a wheelchair ramp for handicapped
- Organize a field day for a group youth home
- Organize a "fun day" for foster parents
- Do a home or room makeover
- Deliver gift baskets to a local foster care or group home
- Host a drive by parade for children with special needs
- Plan a "Back to School Bash" for foster care children. Have free food, games, and a backpack/school supply giveaway

Hospitals

- Deliver care packages to medical care heroes
- Serve free coffee, energy drinks, and snacks to staff and those waiting in the emergency room
- Give out healthy snacks to patients of chemotherapy
- Deliver small gifts to patients and families in the children's ward (toys, care packages, etc.)
- Prayer visits with patients and those in emergency room
- Take care-packages with snacks, sweets and small gift items (lotions, magazines, puzzles etc.) to families of hospitalized children
- Bring gift bags to families with babies in the NICU
- Host a prayer service and cheer rally for health care heroes in the hospital parking lot

Business/Service Organizations/Public Servicemen

- Wash windows
- Pick up trash in parking lots
- Coral shopping carts to designated spaces
- Set up a stand at a laundromat giving out quarters, detergent, dryer sheets and snacks
- Fill the employee breakroom with snacks, flowers and "Thank you" signs at local businesses
- Cook Lunch for your local police or fire station
- Goody bags for law enforcement officers, EMS, and firefighters
- Deliver a hot meal to essential workers on night shift
- Decorate frontline heroes lawn with signs of appreciation
- Bring drinks or free lunches to construction workers and linemen
- Surprise childcare workers with snack baskets and encouraging notes



Neighborhood

- Make summer art kits for kids and families in your neighborhood to pick up and enjoy
- Leave encouraging messages around town in sidewalk chalk
- Put together a dinner kit for a family in need
- Host a “Block Party” with free food, games, music, etc. for families

Local schools

- Offer assistance with cleaning, painting, or landscaping
- Offer assistance with administrative work
- Bless local teachers with gifts or encouraging notes
- Ask a local school how you could serve their faculty, students, or facility

Street Outreach

- Serve hot breakfast for people experiencing homelessness in your community
- Drop off essential kits to local shelters for people experiencing homelessness
- Do a prayer walk or drive in your community and trash clean up
- Renovate a run-down playground or park in the area
- Do a door-to-door grocery giveaway
- Have a “Free Grass Cutting” day
- Assemble and distribute hygiene packets

College

- Serve free drinks or snacks at sporting team and band practices
- Give away free energy drinks to college students
- Host a free picnic in the quad
- Give out free donuts and coffee on the quad
- Help freshman move into the dorms (moving crews, welcome baskets, care kits, etc.)

Local Churches

- Ask a local church how you could serve their people or facility

Local Organizations

- Ask a local organization how you could serve their people or facility (we have a list of contacts)

General Ideas

- Host a free garage sale
- Clean up a widow or single mom’s yard
- Give out free bottled water



- Give out free donuts and coffee at bus stop or shopping center
- Host a free car wash
- Minor car repairs for elderly, widows and/or single moms
- Kids host a free kids' toys and games garage sale
- Kids host a free lemonade stand
- Put together "family game night" kits for your neighbors
- Offer to take free family portraits
- Deliver pizza to single parents and their families
- Leave treat bags and handwritten notes for your delivery drivers
- Type up prayers for friends and text it to them
- Drop off free breakfast and treats to drivers at truck stops
- Offer to pay for peoples' gas at the pump
- Surprise shoppers at your local grocery store by paying for their groceries
- Bless parents with free babysitting and a fun evening out
- Gather school supplies for a family in need