

What can you do to...

Feed the Hungry

- **serve** in a soup kitchen
- **adopt a family** for the holidays
- **serve** at a Thanksgiving and Christmas community dinner
- **collect food** for your local shelter or food pantry
- **have a food scavenger hunt** at a local grocery store with all the food being donated to a food pantry. Give the children a list of items and a capped amount of money they can spend. They have to get everything on the list, in a set amount of time and not go over in their spending. You can also do this with families as a way of bonding and getting them involved.

Give drink to the thirsty

- **raise money** for an organization that helps communities get clean water (like Episcopal Relief and Development)
- **serve at a soup kitchen**
- **bring special drinks** (juice, milk, etc.) to a local shelter

Welcome a stranger

- **create welcome kits** for your church,
- **make welcome cards** for those who are new to their school or church
- **write letters and send care packages** to service men and women

Clothe the naked

- **do a clothing drive** for a shelter or homeless drop-in center
- **raise money** or work with a local organization that helps to cloth those in need
- **make scarves** out of fleece! All you need is fleece that is cut into strips about 5 feet long and 10 inches wide. Have the children cut 1-2 inch fringe at the bottom and you have a scarf! By going to your local fabric store and telling them what you are doing, you may get a discount.

Care for the sick

- **write notes** to those from your congregation that are sick
- **make center pieces, holiday cards, birthday cards, and notes** for those in assisted living, children's hospital, or hospice
- set up a time to **visit a hospital or assisted living unit** and bring the gift of song, cookies, art, or simply your presence.

Visit those in prison

- **write notes** to those in prison
- **create a prayer** that they can pray for those who are in prison
- **make "hygiene kits"** These kits are a great way to get children active and involved. Ask the prison you will deliver them to what kinds of items the prisoners can have and collect them into small baggies or kits for the prisoners.

General Service Project Ideas

- **Donate presents** for Christmas and birthdays (look into programs like the Angel Tree program that can give you tags with children's Christmas wishes)
- **Host a "Penny Harvest"** where each child brings in as many penny's as they can find in their home. Count them up and see how much money you can raise! You can also do fun things like weight them, see how high you can stack them, find your birth year on the coin, etc. Then, when you are done, take them to the bank and have them turned into cash to donate to your local shelter or food pantry.
- **Make "hygiene kits"** for people who are homeless, in prison or in need of extra help. These kits are a great way to get children active and involved. Ask your local shelter or you look on the Church World Service website (http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kits_hygiene) they have great ideas and ways of connecting you with people who need the kits.