



Community Assessment

Every community has needs.

Learn about your community's unique needs: the visible and invisible.

Identify organizations and individuals that support your community:

- Research what organizations your church/school currently supports.
- Network with friends – talk about what organizations they are aware of.
- Look in the phone book: under your local town and county government – look for Senior Centers, Animal Shelter, Fire and Rescue Squads. Contact Social Services and ask about shelters.
- Online – www.VolunteersofAmerica.org run shelters/programs nationwide: look up your community – www.FeedingAmerica.org will help you find a food bank in your community.

Once you have identified local organizations, learn about them:

- What population in your community they serve;
- What they do to help those in need;
- How you can support the organization and their work.

Determine the organizations you wish to support and contact them:

- Ask how you can be involved and what you can do to help support them;
- Be specific about how you want to be involved *i.e. time commitment, personal interaction, donation of wish list items, on-going service, one-time activity, monetary donation, fundraising, etc.*
- Be prepared to make suggestions. Be creative.

Keep in mind:

- You never know when and where you will touch someone life.
- Outreach does not have to be complex, complicated or elaborate.
- The simplest acts often have the greatest impact.

On-going service to others can become an everyday and lifelong activity.

Start Today.

Make a Difference.



A List of Local Groups and Organizations Our Kids Could Help

Type of Group / Organization	If feasible for our program	Name, address, contact information
<i>Local food pantry or food bank</i>		
<i>Local shelters and transitional housing</i>		
<i>Local women's shelters</i>		
<i>Local firefighters and other programs that support victims of fire</i>		
<i>Local senior retirement homes and centers</i>		
<i>Homebound individuals</i>		
<i>Local hospital pediatric ward</i>		
<i>Local public health departments</i>		
<i>Local social services departments</i>		
<i>Local free health clinics</i>		
<i>Local WIC programs</i>		
<i>Local literacy centers and ESL programs</i>		
<i>Local animal shelters and animal rescue leagues</i>		
<i>Local programs that support at-risk, low-income children and families</i>		

Type of Group / Organization	If feasible for our program	Name, address, contact information
<i>Habitat for Humanity</i>		
<i>Ronald McDonald House</i>		
<i>Organizations that support young, at-risk mothers</i>		
<i>Therapeutic animal organizations, such as seeing eye dogs</i>		
<i>Migrant worker or refugee populations</i>		