

Making a Difference in Your Community

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How can I make a difference by being a leader in my community? There are many ways to contribute and help the community. Simple ways to help are volunteering at the local RIFA Soup Kitchen, going to a retirement home, picking up trash around town, or simply babysitting for local families. I am considering gathering with my peers at school and church and organizing a group to go around town and do some of the above activities.

There are hundreds of thousands of people all around the world that face hunger. RIFA is an organization that provides hot, free meals to those unable to pay for one. I support RIFA by donating canned or non-perishable foods and have even volunteered at our local Soup Kitchen. Every day volunteers make huge impacts on the community. Without volunteers, RIFA would be unstaffed and most likely non-existent! When we donate time to RIFA we support the fight against hunger.

Elders in our neighborhood and at the nearby retirement homes do not need to be forgotten! There are elderly men and women that are in retirement homes that do not have family or friends to go visit them. The best thing anyone can do for them is show them some attention. I would like to go read or play a short game of checkers with them. That would not only make them smile, but it is also a fun way to serve the community. I'm also thinking that I can help elderly neighbors by raking their yards or picking up leaves. Another idea I'm contemplating is offering to bathe their dogs or do any small tasks to help relieve any of their stress. Elderly are the backbone of our community and do not deserve to be overlooked.

I always see trash on the side of the road or in the parks close by. Getting with a large group of friends or maybe even the Beta Club from school and heading to the town park or even city streets or county roads to pick up trash is also a great way to serve the community. This activity allows us to enjoy nature and the beauty of it while helping the environment. Litter is not only ugly and smelly, it is toxic and harmful to the environment and the animals living in it! Animals can easily choke on plastic or ingest something that is potentially harmful to them if we leave these things lying around all about. While this task may be a bit time consuming, it is fun and positively worthwhile.

I love kids and I love to watch them at restaurants eating with their parents or out shopping with their mothers, but parents need a break! I can babysit! Another great way to easily serve the community is to babysit the kids around the neighborhood. I am going to advertise my services online and offer this service for the upcoming holiday shopping season. I am also volunteering with the after-school program at East Union Children's Corner and in the nursery at our church on Sunday mornings.

Any contribution my friends and I can make will brighten our community. From working in the nursery with babies to playing checkers with the elderly; these are all easy ways I can serve my community and be an example of a great leader. I enjoy taking time out of my week to help and watch the community flourish. How will you help your community?