



## Making Service a Part of Your Life – Every Day

Participating in organized events like Martin Luther King Day of Service or Mitzvah Day is a great way to get started and learn about ongoing ways to serve and to build connections in our communities.

Here are some ideas and resources to enable you to serve on your own schedule – whenever you can make time as an individual or family, a neighborhood, club, classroom, workplace or congregation.

Service ideas from Youth Community Service<sup>+</sup>:

- Have your children/grandchildren draw pictures to decorate a senior center.
- Help your children/grandchildren put on a puppet show at a local preschool.
- Create an original storybook, picture or poem with children to donate to a children's hospital.
- Have children help out around the house, watering plants, feeding family pets, and recycle paper.
- Bring flowers from your garden to a senior neighbor or a convalescent facility.
- Organize a food or clothing drive in your neighborhood.
- Help play Bingo at a community center or a convalescent facility.
- Bake monthly "birthday treats" for a shelter or hospice.
- Help clean the beach, hiking trail or bicycle route that you frequent.
- Collect change in a visible container marked with the name of the every family member able to make contributions. Decide together where the money goes.
- Do a good deed to commemorate someone's special event; for example, enclose a note with a birthday gift saying "A copy of this book was also given in your honor to our school library." The same idea can be applied to other situations; for example, if your family cannot visit an ailing family member, send a note to this person describing what you did on their behalf in your own community.
- Instead of receiving gifts for a birthday or other special event, invite your guests to bring gifts or make donations to a cause that is important to you.