

# 30+ Ways to Help Others

Here is a list of ideas for students (and families) to share their time, talents, and blessings in our community:

1. Offer to babysit younger siblings, clean up the garage or basement, or help with another project around the house.
2. Tutor other students in need of academic support.
3. Rake leaves, shovel snow, or walk the dog for a neighbor.
4. Visit an elderly or homebound neighbor. Ask if there is anything you can do to help them such as bringing library books, grocery shopping, doing housework or yard work, etc.
5. Organize a group to help an elderly or disabled person with yard care or other tasks around the house ([www.interfaithwaukesha.org](http://www.interfaithwaukesha.org)).
6. Visit a local nursing home – ask the staff how you can help. Some ideas might be keeping someone company who doesn't get many visitors, playing games with residents, or organizing an event.
7. Participate in a benefit run/walk or other fundraiser.
8. Help in the church community by serving at mass, helping with childcare during mass, or helping at festivals and other events.
9. Be a part of helping build and rehabilitate homes for low income families through Habitat for Humanity ([www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)).
10. Send care packages and letters to military troops overseas ([www.wiwecare.com](http://www.wiwecare.com)).
11. Ask a local animal shelter for a wish list (or check their website). Collect items they need, visit the animals, or bake dog treats.
  - Elmbrook Humane Society ([www.ebhs.org](http://www.ebhs.org))
  - Humane Animal Welfare Society ([www.hawspets.org](http://www.hawspets.org))
  - Wisconsin Humane Society ([www.wihumane.org](http://www.wihumane.org))
12. Ask a local homeless shelter or women's shelter what items or services they need.
  - Hebron House ([www.hebronhouse.org](http://www.hebronhouse.org))
  - Women's Center ([www.twcwaukesha.org](http://www.twcwaukesha.org))
13. Create a story with illustrations to donate to a shelter, emergency waiting room, children's hospital, or preschool.
14. Organize a collection of new or gently used stuffed animals to be donated.
  - Project Night Night ([www.projectnightnight.org](http://www.projectnightnight.org)) provides stuffed animals, along with books and blankets, to homeless children.
  - Children to Children ([www.childrentochildren.org](http://www.childrentochildren.org)) provides stuffed animals in a duffel bag to children in foster care.
15. Knit hats for patients undergoing chemotherapy ([www.HatsOffForCancer.org](http://www.HatsOffForCancer.org))

16. Collect baby items or make baby blankets to donate.
  - UP Connection ([www.pregnancy-support.org](http://www.pregnancy-support.org))
  - HOPE Network ([www.hopenetworkinc.org](http://www.hopenetworkinc.org))
  - Rosalie Manor ([www.rosaliemanor.org](http://www.rosaliemanor.org))
  - Project Linus ([www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org))
17. Create greeting cards to send to troops overseas ([www.AMillionThanks.org](http://www.AMillionThanks.org))
18. Collect food and donate to local food pantry. Offer to help stock shelves or sort and distribute food.
  - Waukesha County Food Pantry ([www.foodpantryofwaukeshacounty.org](http://www.foodpantryofwaukeshacounty.org))
  - Hunger Task Force ([www.hungertaskforce.org](http://www.hungertaskforce.org))
  - America's Second Harvest ([www.secondharvest.org](http://www.secondharvest.org))
19. Clean out your closets and donate toys and clothing to less fortunate families. Call first or check their website to see what items they are accepting and what their donation hours are.
  - Lake Country Caring ([www.lakecountrycaring.com](http://www.lakecountrycaring.com))
  - Goodwill ([www.goodwillsew.org](http://www.goodwillsew.org))
  - Cooperating Congregations of Waukesha County ([www.ccwccares.org](http://www.ccwccares.org))
  - Salvation Army ([www.waukeshasalvationarmy.org](http://www.waukeshasalvationarmy.org))
  - Hope Center ([www.hopecenterwi.org](http://www.hopecenterwi.org))
20. Organize a bake sale to benefit needy kids across the country ([www.greatamericanbakesale.org](http://www.greatamericanbakesale.org)).
21. Collect school supplies to donate to families who cannot afford to purchase them.
  - Backpack Coalition ([www.backpackcoalition.org](http://www.backpackcoalition.org))
22. Organize a neighborhood party to raise money or collect donations for your favorite charity.
23. Pass along last year's sports equipment to those in need. ([www.sportsgift.org](http://www.sportsgift.org) or [www.globalgiving.com](http://www.globalgiving.com))
24. Donate movies to troops overseas or to their families ([www.amvets.org/taskforcedvd](http://www.amvets.org/taskforcedvd)).
25. Donate old cell phones to be recycled or refurbished and have the proceeds donated to various charities ([www.recyclewirelessphones.com](http://www.recyclewirelessphones.com) or [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com)).
26. Donate books to be distributed to schools, daycare facilities, non-profit organizations and families. ([www.nextdoorfoundation.org](http://www.nextdoorfoundation.org))
27. Donate special occasion dresses, shoes and accessories. ([www.donateyourdress.org](http://www.donateyourdress.org))
28. Donate used video games to hospitals and clinics. ([www.getwellgamers.org](http://www.getwellgamers.org))
29. Donate used eye glasses. ([www.neweyesfortheneedy.org](http://www.neweyesfortheneedy.org))
30. Make and donate "cheer kits" to for children staying at Children's Hospital.
31. Consider donating to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee. They accept art supplies, school supplies, board games, books, DVDS, computer and video games and systems, toys, sports equipment, office supplies and furniture, camping equipment, bicycles and more. ([www.wbga.org](http://www.wbga.org))

Looking for more ideas? Check out [www.volunteerwaukesha.com](http://www.volunteerwaukesha.com) or [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org).