Activity and Service Ideas for Groups

Group Service Projects

Completing this activity may take more than one meeting.

- Send one or two leaders to the Idaho Falls Area Humanitarian Center (IFAHC) to obtain a pattern and learn how to create projects that we make at the Center. (We prefer that leaders complete one item at IFAHC to clarify how they should be completed and make sure the pattern directions are clear).
- Purchase and donate supplies needed for projects made at IFAHC or items IFAHC places in the community. Lists of items to donate are on the IFAHC website at https://ifareahumanitariancenter.org under the Donate/Serve tab and at the front reception desk at 1415 Northgate Mile.
- Teach and supervise individuals as they complete their projects.
- Donate the completed items to the Humanitarian Center.

Ideas for projects could include make an item such as folder games, sanding or painting wooden toys, braiding jump ropes, cutting out felt puppets, stuffing fleece balls, or tying a quilt.

Have a Fun Donation or Service Party

Be creative!

Everyone loves a party, and they can be a great service project too.

Here are a few ideas:

Adult Bingo Party

Invite guests to play bingo. Bingo prizes could be service projects like: Scrubbing a tub, organizing a cupboard, walking a pet, dusting furniture, folding laundry, emptying, and cleaning trash cans, wash their windows, etc.

Assisted Living Center ideas

- File and paint the fingernails of the women residents.
- Help them make a craft.
- Share a talent with them.
- Bring them a DVD of one of your favorite movies and help them view it.
- Share a flower or candy bouquet
- Ask them to share a funny experience with you.
- Residents of assisted living or care centers can always use care packages filled with hand and body lotion, chap stick, magazines, note pads, pens, and other goodies.

Bike Fix-up

Plan an afternoon when children's bikes could be dropped off for repair. Chains and gears could be oiled. Seats and handlebars could be adjusted. Bikes could be washed, and flat tires could be repaired. A list of bike safety rules could be prepared, and instruction on bike maintenance could be taught.

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Bread Making Activity

Teach bread making skills and let everyone try their hand at making enough dough for a loaf of bread. Experiment with different types of bread. Try adding your favorite herbs. Bake the bread and sample each kind. Share recipes.

Cleaning Party

- Gather and share ideas of cleaning hacks. Pinterest has lots of ideas.
- Invite a professional house cleaner as a guest speaker.
- Have a demonstration.

Turn it into a **service project** by asking each guest to bring a cleaning donation for IFAHC. We can use laundry detergent, dish soap, all-purpose surface cleaner, disinfectant surface cleaner, bathroom cleaning products, floor cleaner, sponges, and cleansers. Service at IFAHC could include washing windows, dusting and cleaning shelves, and washing chairs.

Hair Care

Make a cute hair clip. Invite young girls to a night where they are taught by older girls some fancy braids, ponytails, and other hair styles. Style their hair for them. Demonstrate how to wash, detangle, and brush their hair.

Learn A Skill Party

- Teach basic crochet and knit stitches.

Letter Writing Night

Write and send a letter to a grandparent or favorite aunt or uncle. Tell them about your recent activities. Invite them to write back and tell you of a favorite adventure.

Letter writing Service

Make some cute note cards. Take them to a nursing home and offer to write and mail notes for the residents to send to their friends and family.

Mock Baby Shower

- Play silly shower games.
- Create a name for the baby using unusual topics.
- Have attendees give their favorite child advice.
- Share new parent fails.

Turn it into a **service project** by asking each guest to bring a newborn donation for IFAHC. Collect and donate items used in our newborn kits. We can use newborn baby socks, newborn disposable diapers, onesies, bibs, baby lotion, diaper cream, and baby wash.

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Make Baby Sitting Kits

- Make sock puppets.
- Gather good used children's books or games that older children have outgrown.
- Gather and share ideas for games.

Turn it into a **service project** by asking each guest to bring donation for IFAHC. We can use socks for men, women, and children and *new* children's books or toys for our annual Christmas drive.

Paper Party

- Create personal stationary or note cards.
- Make a silly hat out of paper plates.
- Make and personalize book covers or book markers.
- Create a dress out of toilet paper.

Turn it into a **service project** by asking each guest to bring donation for IFAHC. We can use toilet paper, paper towels, all sizes of disposable diapers, facial tissue, notebooks, feminine hygiene products, and copier paper. (No paper dinner ware please.)

Parent Date Night

Plan a night and give invitations to parents to experience a night out while you provide childcare. Have planned games, movies, and treats for the children.

Personal Grooming Party

- Have a discussion on personal hygiene.
- Have a demonstration on nail art, share ideas on creative braids and hairdos, or invite a guest to share ideas on skin care.

Turn it into a **service project** by asking each guest to bring a donation for IFAHC. We can use lotions, disposable razors, deodorant, shaving cream, and body wash. We can always use hygiene kit supplies. (See our website under the Production tab for sizes and items.)

Santa's Workshop Party

Collect and donate acrylic paint, sandpaper, paint brushes, sharpie markers, colored pencils, and new boxes of crayons.

Service Scavenger Hunt

See the end of this article for an activity page for the scavenger hunt.

Sewing Party

Collect cotton, flannel, felt, and fleece fabric for quilts, receiving blankets, lap blankets, needles for tying quilts, and yarn. See our website (https://ifareahumanitariancenter.org) under the Production tab for product specifications and dimensions. We can use scraps of cotton and flannel if they are large enough for a 4" or 6" quilt square. Fleece remnants can be used to cut out pieces for round balls.

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Shoe Drive

Collect shoes from the men in your congregation and spend an evening cleaning, polishing, and shining their shoes for them.

Soup night

Teach youth how to clean, prepare, and cut vegetables. Cook a soup and place the soup in a quart jar tied with a ribbon and a "thinking of you" card. Deliver to a widow, widowers, or home bound person.

Fill a pint jar with dry ingredients (rice, dehydrated onions, celery, potatoes, bouillon, beans, lentils, etc.) to make a soup. Attach directions and deliver to your food bank.

Spring Clean-Up

Clean around shrubbery, flower beds, and trees. Haul away trash. Sweep sidewalks, driveways, patios, and porches.

Tutoring

Volunteer at an elementary school to help children with reading or math skills.

Other Places to Serve

- Retirement Centers
- Senior Citizen Centers
- City of Refuge
- Museum of Idaho
- Preschools
- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Red Cross
- Local Hospitals
- Public Library
- Day Care Centers
- Schools
- Animal Shelters
- Club Inc.
- Parks and Recreation

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Service Scavenger Hunt

"Scatter Sunshine" Youth Activity. Split youth into teams with one leader and about 4-5 youth per group. Give a list of tasks with coordinating point values.[1]

Task	Points	Initals (by homeowner)	Total
Take out trash	3		
Pick up yard trash	3		
Feed dog or cat	3		
Water the plants	3		
Dry the dishes	3		
Dust furniture in a room	3		
Sing a church song	3		
Load the dishwasher	3		
Rake leaves	3		
Clean a mirror	3		
Clean a sink	3		
Change a light bulb	3		
Sweep the kitchen	10		
Sweep porch or sidewalk	10		
Wash the dishes	10		
Clean a window	10		
Vacuum the stairs	10		
Wash the car	15		
Pull a bucket of weeds	15		
Clean a toilet	15		
Wipe out the windowsills	15		
Mop the kitchen floor	15		
Dust the blinds	15		
Clean the microwave	15		
Homeowner's choice	15		
Vacuum a room	15		
Clean a bathroom	15		
Fold a basket of laundry	15		

[1] "At first the kids were in a rush to get from house to house, trying to accumulate the maximum number of points in the allotted time, but by the end, they were doing extra tasks at the home. After the activity, we pulled the youth together ho hear their experiences with the service expedition.