



Festive Community

Joy is this season's greatest gift. Give it to those who need it most by creating festive decorations to warm a senior center, homeless shelter, or community organization.

Here's Your Project:

Make festive decorations to donate to a senior center, homeless shelter, or community organization.

Supply List:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Glitter
- Yarn
- Felt
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils

How To Do It!

1. Contact a community organization and ask if they will accept homemade decorations. Ask if they have any rules about what the decorations can be made out of.
2. Arrange how you will deliver the decorations: by mail or by dropping them off.
3. Decide what decorations you will make. Snowflakes, snowmen, bows, and candy canes are all festive items that can be made out of paper or felt. Try some of our Internet Resources below for instructions.
4. Try making one of your decorations to work out any problems. Estimate how many you will be making so you know how many materials you will need.
5. Deliver your decorations. Take photos or ask for photos of the decorations being displayed.
6. Share the success of your project and thank everyone involved!



Interesting Fact:
**Almost half of all
homeless people
are families—adults
and children**



Preflection:

Before your volunteer project, ask these questions to be clear about what the goals and expectations are. If you are part of a group, talk about why you are doing a service project. Here are questions to guide your thinking or discussion:

1. Who are we helping?
2. Why are we helping them?
3. How are we helping them?
4. What are we most excited about?
5. What might be tough or challenging about our project?
6. What are everyone's jobs during the project? What do we each have to do?

Reflection:

After your volunteer project, it is important to reflect on the experience. Ask these questions or, if you are part of a group, do the Whip Around reflection activity:

Reflection Questions

1. How did our project help people?
2. What worked well about our project?
3. What can we do better next time?
4. What is our next service project?

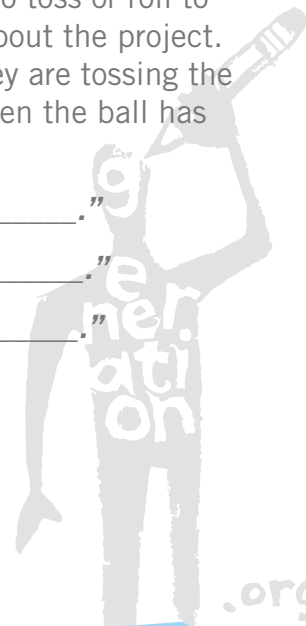
Whip Around Ball Toss:

Have your group sit or stand in a circle facing each other. One person will have a ball to toss or roll to someone else in the circle. Each person will have a chance to complete a statement about the project. The person with the ball makes a statement, and then says the name of the person they are tossing the ball to. The next person completes the statement in his or her own way, and so on. When the ball has gone around once, start a new round with a new statement. Try these:

"This project made me happy because _____"

"I didn't know I was good at _____"

"Next time we volunteer, I'd like to help _____"



Resources:

Suggested Reading

***The Sunshine Home* by Eve Bunting**

The story of a boy and the growing connection he makes with his grandmother in a nursing home.

***Someplace to Go* by Maria Testa**

This is the story of a boy and his family and their struggle to deal with homelessness.

***Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen* by Dyanne Di-Salvo Ryan**

This is a fictional view of a soup kitchen seen through the eyes of a young boy. He gets to see firsthand the experiences of those that visit the kitchen and those that work there.

Internet Resources

Instructables—Instructions on how to make paper snowflakes:

www.instructables.com/id/Paper-Snowflakes/

Skip to My Lou—Instructions on how to make paper candy canes:

www.skiptomylou.org/2008/12/11/paper-candy-canes/

Pledge this project for the **Holiday Gift Campaign** and **Hasbro** will donate a toy through **Toys for Tots** on behalf of each person helping with your project! (Up to 100,000 toys!)

PLEDGE

liveOn

