



Happy Returns

With all those holiday meals and gifts come a lot of post-holiday bottles, cans, and boxes. Save those recyclables from the landfill and help your community by turning those holiday recyclables into a donation for an organization that serves others.

Here's Your Project:

Do a post-holiday recyclables collection. Redeem the recyclables for cash and donate the money to an organization that helps others.

Supply List:

- Poster board or construction paper for posters or fliers
- A cart or car for collecting recyclables
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons, glitter, etc. for decorating your posters, fliers, and donation box
- Protective gloves
- Large plastic trash bags

How To Do It!

1. Contact your local social services or local soup kitchen and tell them you will be doing a food drive for nonperishable items. Ask them what their needs are and how and when to deliver the donation.
2. Make posters and fliers advertising your food drive encouraging families to buy an extra can or box of food as they do their holiday shopping. Include when, where, and how people should drop off their donations.
3. Ask local businesses, especially grocery stores, if they would display your posters and fliers.
4. Decorate and setup your collection box.
5. Collect those cans!
6. Sort through the donations. Make sure nothing has expired. Count your grand total of items.
7. Drop off your donation with the local social service or soup kitchen.
8. Thank everyone who helped you and tell them the grand total of items donated!



Interesting Fact:
Recycling one aluminum can instead of throwing it away saves enough energy to light a regular light bulb for 4.3 hours



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. How did our project help the environment?
3. What worked well about our project?
4. What can we do better next time?
5. 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 _____"



