

Direct Service ideas to help you get started:

- Become a mentor to a young person
- Conduct nature walks at a botanical garden or park
- Read to children at a nursing home or hospital
- Provide nutrition advice at a community center, soup kitchen, or homeless shelter
- Lead a bicycling club at a youth center
- Teach photography for an after-school program or at a youth center
- Prepare beds and meals at a homeless shelter
- Tutor students in math
- Work in a rape crisis center
- Read and discuss books and magazine articles with residents of a nursing home
- Volunteer as a receptionist at a clinic or hospital
- Become trained to staff a crisis hotline
- Assist in a clinic or blood bank
- Sort and distribute mail in a nursing home or hospital
- Comfort children in a hospital
- Donate your computer skills to a non-profit group
- Volunteer to work at your local Special Olympics program
- Teach English to recently arrived immigrants
- Participate in conflict resolution for community, neighborhood, or family disputes
- Cook for a soup kitchen, shelter, or meals-on-wheels program
- Teach yoga, aerobics or modern dance at a community center
- Gather your friends to repaint a classroom or hallways at a local school
- Join a telephone reassurance project, calling elderly or developmentally challenged people once a day
- Offer to run errands for home-bound individuals or drive them where they need to go
- Organize a theater group at a youth center
- Transport elderly people to and from hospitals and doctors' offices
- Participate in a voter-registration campaign
- Whenever you and your friends entertain, ask guests to bring one item for the local food pantry
- Get your synagogue, Hillel, school, or campus group to adopt a park and help keep it clean
- Teach first aid or water safety
- Organize a group to landscape a vacant lot
- Help kids at a drop-in center with their homework
- Work in a hospice program for the terminally ill
- Do landscaping or gardening for your community, church, library or school
- Act as a language interpreter in a hospital
- Maintain the library at a literacy center
- Write a letter to a person in prison

Adapted from "Ways to Give Direct Service" by Catherine Jackson (www.servenet.org).