



Serving Opportunities
&
Servant Evangelism Ideas

Community Outreach Opportunities

We are told every weekend that we are sent with love and power. Jesus called us to express His love to our region by serving those who are in need.

This booklet is composed of many organizations that have a passion to help others in need. It is not an exhaustive list of charities and ideas in the Pittsburgh area, but it's a list of organizations that feel a burden for those in need. This booklet has the current website and contact information for each organization. You will even find some small group leaders who have been involved with these groups that you can ask questions.

The booklet has also been updated with 92 Servant Evangelism ideas for your small groups. These are ideas that your group can use to minister to people all around you. Ideas have been grouped together to make selection a little easier.

Community Outreach Opportunities

ALIQUIPPA IMPACT (Aliquippa)

Aliquippa Impact is Christian, neighborhood-based, non-profit, youth development organization serving the young people and families of Aliquippa. Our mission is to foster tangible hope to youth in toxic environments by building relational bridges and developmental assets.

- One-on-one mentoring
- Hands-on projects
- Summer Camps

Website - www.aliquippaimpact.org

Phone - 724-512-0011

BLESSED BAG (Coraopolis)

Blessed Bag's mission is to show God's love to those going through the cancer journey and undergoing chemotherapy treatments. We accomplish this by giving patients a Blessed Bag; a high quality bag filled with comfort items to combat the side effects that chemotherapy often bring.

- Donate Items
- Hold a packing party

Website - <https://blessedbag.org/>

Community Outreach Opportunities

BRADLEY CENTER (Robinson)

Bradley Center was founded by The United Methodist Women in 1905 as The Elizabeth A. Bradley Home for Children and operated for many years as an orphanage and as interim housing for children whose parents were separated or divorced. In 1972, it was incorporated as The Bradley Center to serve abused, neglected and dependent children.

- Mentor at risk youth ages 6 to 18 living in a residential treatment facility

Website - www.thebradleycenter.org

Phone - 412-788-8219

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS (Pittsburgh)

Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers and children ages 6-13 in Allegheny, Washington and Greene Counties.

- One on one mentoring

Website - www.bbbspgh.org

Phone Number - 412-363-6100

Community Outreach Opportunities

CENTER FOR HOPE (Ambridge)

The Center for Hope in Ambridge has been helping those in need to break the bonds of poverty and lead independent lives.

- Food pantry
- Family dinners
- Clothes Closet
- After school mentoring programs

Website - www.thecenterforhope.com

Phone - 724-251-4899

CITY MISSION (Washington)

At City Mission, a Christ-centered rehabilitative homeless shelter, we facilitate this transformation by providing food, shelter, case management, biblically based counseling, and life-changing programming. Our goal is to help each person who walks through our doors to become a healthy, productive member of society.

- Serving and preparing meals
- Providing devotions and music during chapel
- Assisting at Hidden Treasures thrift stores
- Childcare

Website - <https://www.citymission.org/ways-to-help/volunteer>

Phone - 724-222-8530

Community Outreach Opportunities

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK (Duquesne)

The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's mission is to feed people in need and mobilize our community to eliminate hunger.

- Distribute produce and vegetables in local communities
- Pack food donations to be distributed through out the area

Website - www.pittsburghfoodbank.org

Email - volops@pittsburghfoodbank.org

Phone - 412-745-7600

CORNERSTONE MINISTRY CENTER (Children's Bible Ministries of Southwest PA) (Jefferson, PA)

ALL 2020 CAMPS CANCELLED

Summer camp junior counselors, senior counselors, kitchen staff, worship leaders, and operational staff needed-Lots of opportunities to serve in a Christian camp environment. There are several weeks of camp so consider coming for a few days or the entire summer.

Website: www.cbmswpa.org

COUNTRY MEADOWS SENIOR LIVING (South Hills)

Country Meadows believes that by understanding their residents' needs, they can offer them ways to improve their lives – through truly personalized senior living.

- Activities with elderly residents

Website - www.countrymeadows.com/south-hills

Phone - 412-257-4581

Community Outreach Opportunities

EAST END COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES (Pittsburgh)

EECM provides the necessities of life: a hot meal, a safe, place to sleep, food for the family. For others, it is a place to regain strength after a hospital stay, a support system to work toward recovery, or one-on-one help to change life for the better. For young people, EECM is educational programs, drug and alcohol prevention programs, violence prevention programs, Summer Day Camp, and a concerted effort to show our children a better future.

- Tutoring
- Youth mentoring
- Food Pantry
- Soup Kitchen
- Emergency housing shelter

Website - www.eecm.org

Phone - 412-361-5549

FAITH IN ACTION (North Fayette)

West Allegheny Faith in Action (WAFIA) provides volunteer services in the West Allegheny community to seniors 60 years and over, to help them maintain their independence and quality of life, and to build caring relationships; neighbors helping neighbors.

- Transportation to and from doctor visits
- Friendly visits
- Run errands
- Grocery shopping
- Telephone conversations

Contact - Judy Heck (724-899-3159) & Peg Landon (412-788-1716)

Community Outreach Opportunities

FOSTER LOVE PROJECT (Dormont, PA)

We seek to provide love in action to foster children in Western Pennsylvania as well as support to the foster families who are providing care for them. This may look like providing a placement bag for a child, easing the transition with gift cards, assisting with additional resources or connecting families with a time of respite.

Website - <https://www.fosterloveproject.org/>

FOUNDATION OF HOPE (North Side)

Donate items for inmates, or get involved with their programs like lead worship, teach classes.

Items requested:

- Bibles or other religious literature
- DVDs (non-violent and have no inappropriate material)
- Full size toiletry items (shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, deodorant)
- Sweat suits (sizes XL/XXL, no hoods, writing or graphics, no red or maroon)
- Unused Christmas cards

Become a PenPal Mentor with Allegheny County Jail Inmates.

The **HOPE Mentoring Program** is an interfaith pre- and post-release adult mentoring program for inmates and reentrants in Allegheny County that seeks to develop a relationship of trust and respect between a mentor and mentee. The long-term organizational objective is to support successful reentry by offering mentees support and care. We believe mentoring is a relational process that helps a mentee identify and utilize their gifts and talents. A successful mentor is someone who can focus on the needs of their mentee by being supportive, encouraging, and present.

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During this season of COVID-19 distancing, we have been matching mentees in ACJ with pen pal mentors who provide support through bi-weekly letter writing. This is an opportunity to help combat loneliness by giving mentees someone to connect with, while also providing support and encouragement for mentees to think through goals and next steps after they leave the jail.

In order to become a penpal, please email ahussian@foundationofhope.org for an application and to register for a training.

Website - <https://www.foundationofhope.org/get-involved/>

HEROES SUPPORTING HEROES (Oakdale)

The goal of the Heroes Support Network is to connect the active duty, reserve, retired & veteran military communities with the business and civilian communities locally.

- Volunteer at HSH Events
- HSH work projects for local military families

Website - www.heroessupportnetwork.com

Phone - 724-693-2755

HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (Pittsburgh)

Highland Park provides Specialty Care, Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing care on a long or short-term basis.

- Activities with elderly residents

Website - <http://www.myhighlandparkcarecenter.com/>

Phone - 412-362-6622

Community Outreach Opportunities

HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE (Pittsburgh)

Holy Family Institute provides help, healing, hope and support to children and families in western Pennsylvania. From alternative learning environments and career training, to families in need of support and counseling – including help with addiction, alcoholism and other debilitating problems.

- Interact with youth ages 9-20 years old who are in temporary housing placement with HFI.

Website - <https://www.hfi-pgh.org/>

Phone - 412-766-4030

HOSANNA INDUSTRIES (Rochester, PA)

Rehabilitation

Hosanna Industries' daily work involves rehabilitating existing homes. Through the help of donations, volunteers and a capable staff of mission workers, Hosanna Industries is able to provide such services as roof repair, siding repair, window replacement and handicapped accessibility features, to mention a few.

Disaster Relief

Hosanna travels to areas of disaster to help with the mobilizing of large groups of volunteers to build and repair homes damaged by tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding, or other catastrophic events to bring hope and restoration to hurting individuals and communities.

Website - hosannaindustries.org

Phone - 724-770-0262

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LIGHT OF LIFE MINISTRIES (Pittsburgh)

As a ministry of Jesus Christ, Light of Life will provide a home for the homeless and food for the hungry, and will build disciples for the Kingdom of God among the poor, addicted, abused and needy.

- Meal Ministry
- Hospitality
- Childcare
- Prayer Partners
- Mentoring

Website - www.lightoflife.org

Phone - 412-258-6100

Community Outreach Opportunities

MAD DADS (Pittsburgh)

Greater Pittsburgh Area MAD DADS is a nationally affiliated Christian organization that prepares men to restore safe communities. Our mission is to mobilize, train and guide men to impact the issues of drugs, gangs, and violence in Allegheny County.

- Community service
- Counseling on the streets
- Street Patrols
- Surrogate Dads

Website - www.pittsburghmaddads.org

Phone - 412-371-9188

MEALS ON WHEELS (McDonald)

Community Meals on Wheels is an independent, non-profit, faith-based, volunteer organization located in McDonald, PA. We are a member chapter of the Meals on Wheels Association of America and are passionate about food safety and proper nutrition for our clients. It is our joy to provide meals to anyone in need, regardless of race, background, lifestyle, or religious faith.

- Prepare meals
- Hand deliver meals to those in need
- Serve food at social gatherings

Website - <https://mcdonaldcommunitymeals.com/>

Phone - 724-926-2104 8am-11am

Community Outreach Opportunities

NORTHSIDE COMMON MINISTRIES (Pittsburgh)

At Northside Common Ministries we are committed to building that bridge that connects our neighbors in need to an improved quality of life while tearing down the walls that keep the hungry and homeless from success.

- Serving meals to the homeless
- Spending time with those in need
- Sorting and Packing food at the pantry
- Childcare

Website - www.ncmin.org

Phone - 412-323-1163

OFF THE FLOOR PITTSBURGH (Pittsburgh)

Off the Floor Pittsburgh is a local faith based volunteer ministry which, since 2004, has provided basic used furniture like beds, dressers, tables, and chairs to disadvantaged families who lack these items. The mission of Off the Floor Pittsburgh is to strengthen families and to reduce the pain and indignity of extreme poverty in the greater Pittsburgh region by recycling used furniture in good condition and delivering it free of charge to families in deepest need.

- Sorting Donations
- Delivering Furniture
- Spending time with those in need

Website - <http://offthefloorpgh.org>

Phone - 412-926-5053

Community Outreach Opportunities

OPEN DOOR PITTSBURGH (Crafton Heights)

The Open Door ministry exists to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to neighborhood young people and families through intentional relationships with caring adults in an environment of safety and fun. They are deeply committed to providing the very best programming that we possibly can to the youth of Crafton Heights and its surrounding neighborhoods.

- After school programs
- Community Clean-ups
- Family Fun Night

Website - <http://www.opendoorpgh.org>

Phone - 412-921-6153

PITTSBURGH REGION INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRIES (P.R.I.S.M) (Pittsburgh)

- Host families needed for international students. Host a student or two to enjoy your Easter or Thanksgiving dinner celebration and maybe even extending the invite for them to attend church with you beforehand. PRISM is a ministry that desires to build bridges of love with international students studying at the many universities in Pittsburgh. Sign up on-line and they will match you with a student looking for someone to host them for Easter or Thanksgiving dinner. Great opportunity to share the true meaning of the holiday with a visiting student.
- PRISM Connect- Make a meal for about 20 international students and share a Friday evening with them as they practice their English. The evening promises to be sprinkled with laughter and genuine appreciation from the students for a home cooked meal. Bellefield Presbyterian Church - 4001 Fifth Ave 15213

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Website - <https://www.prismpgh.org/>

Contact - Scott: sboyd.prism@gmail.com

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE (Pittsburgh & Morgantown)

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children. We understand families are an important part of a child's healing process.

- Meal Preparation
- Story reading to children
- Decoration

Website - <https://rmhcpgh-mgtn.org/>

Phone - Pittsburgh 412-362-3400 / Morgantown 304-598-0050

STREET SHEPHERDS (North Side)

Every Friday night, at 5 pm, we feed members of our community that are in need of a warm meal. We set up tables at North Park across from Light of Life, Pittsburg, PA. We would love your support! We are always in need of prayers that we may reach our friends and show them the love of Jesus Christ our Savior.

- Serving and preparing meals
- Embracing the less fortunate
- Setting up for dinner

Phone - 412-722-9886

Contact - Liza Bauman (bpetgrooming@yahoo.com)

Community Outreach Opportunities

URBAN IMPACT (Pittsburgh)

Our mission is to do our part in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission on the North Side of Pittsburgh. By following His model of holistic ministry by investing in the lives of at-risk children, youth, and their families in order to develop mature, responsible followers of Christ.

- Preparing Meals for students
- Mentoring
- Teaching
- Coaching sports activities

Website - <https://uifpgh.org>

Phone - 412-321-3811

WEST ALLEGHENY FOOD PANTRY (Imperial)

West Allegheny Food Pantry is a supplemental food source for those in our community who are in need. The Thrift Store sells clothing and home items at low cost. It is their goal to positively impact our clients through both food and caring hearts.

- Help with sorting food
- Passing out food
- Spending time with people in need

Phone - 724-695-1305

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WORLD VISION (Sewickley, PA)

At World Vision's Pittsburgh Global Distribution Center for gifts-in-kind (GIK), donated products are sorted, processed, and prepared for domestic and international distribution. World Vision Pittsburgh offers a volunteer experience for any size group. Sign up for one day or on a recurring basis. We'd love to have you join our team!

Website - www.worldvision.org

Contacts:

Laura Kennedy - lkennedy@worldvision.org (412.259.6026)

Jonathan Damico - jdamico@worldvision.org (412.259.6025)

Rachel Kruk - rkruk@worldvision.org (412.259.6047)

Servant Evangelism Ideas

Servant Evangelism (SE) connects people to people in a natural, easy, low-risk, high grace way. Who doesn't like to be given a cold soda on a hot day? Especially by someone who is smiling, happy and having fun. SE wins the heart before it confronts the mind. A small act of kindness nudges a person closer to God, often in a profound way as it bypasses one's mental defenses. The average Christ-follower is willing to hand a stranger a can of soda (low-risk). The high grace is seen in the typical reaction. "Oh, thank you!" "This is so nice!" "I can't believe this is for free!" And, "Why are you doing this?"

Kindness builds the bridge for the person to receive a touch of love from God. Add an invitation to church or other method of connection—even a simple card with your church's name, phone number and times of services—and you've reached someone with the love of Christ! It's simple, practical, effective, inexpensive and fun! We get reports from pastors, lay leaders and ordinary Christ-followers all over the world who have discovered the power and impact of "showing God's love in practical ways," and again and again we've seen relationships with God born from these simple acts of kindness in Christ's name.

Here are some great ideas to get your small group started in servant evangelism.

EASY, LOW-COST GIVEAWAYS

1. Coffee Giveaways

Use either Igloo containers or air pump thermoses. Offer three options: regular, decaf and hot chocolate. On a cool day, you will have folks swarming for a cup of something hot. You will need three or four people to help give away coffee for each big canister. With each drink, we give out a "Just a Simple Way" Card

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2. Newspapers

Some convenience stores will allow you to purchase an entire stack of newspapers. Place a sign on the top of the stack that reads, "Free Newspapers – Courtesy of Crossroads Church" and attach a "Just a Simple Way" Card to each paper with removable adhesive.

3. Donut Giveaway during Morning Traffic Times

This giveaway is especially effective when performed by senior citizens— who can say no to a sweet grandma-type? These gals set up on a traffic island at a stoplight (make sure they're safe out there). When the light turns red, they step up to cars and ask, "Would you like chocolate, maple or glazed?" They then give them a "Just a Simple Way" Card with the snack.

4. Soft Drink Giveaways

"Hi, would you like regular or diet?" Use this standard opening to bless folks with a small act of kindness on a hot day. And it works! Set up at grocery store entrances with large coolers filled with ice and drinks. Buy name-brand drinks instead of the cheaper stuff, and place a "Just a Simple Way" Card under the opener. A courtesy note: Sometimes a location will conflict with vendors selling what you are giving away. Some of the most irate critics we've run into have been vendors who conclude we are trying to put them out of business. The answer: Set up in a location away from vendors. In extreme cases, consider asking the vendor how much money he/she anticipates losing by our presence, then give them that amount in cash.

5. Bottled Water Giveaway

Many people prefer water to soft drinks. Ice down bottles of water in large coolers for an alternative to a soft drink giveaway. Use the same "Just a Simple Way" Cards. I don't recommend combining this with a soda giveaway, because it offers too many options and gets complicated.

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6. Life Savers

If you are looking for an affordable entry point for a large number of people, consider this one. Purchase the candy at a warehouse store for about five cents per roll. We attach a "Just a Simple Way" Card and give out hundreds of these candies to passersby. Everyone will take a roll of these candies. Consider printing the message of the "Just a Simple Way" Card onto mailing labels and sticking them over the top of the LifeSavers wrapper.

7. Lollipops/Blowpops

These are great giveaway items for parks, festivals, and college campuses. Purchase at a warehouse store, and fold a mailing label with connection information around the stick.

8. Popcorn

You can either make bags of popcorn before you arrive at your outreach site, or consider renting/purchasing your own carnival style popping machine and do it on the spot. You will draw more of a crowd with the machine on hand.

9. Sunglasses (cheap ones!)

Have you ever left home for a sporting event only to forget your sunglasses? Many sporting events attendees experience this every weekend. Oriental Trading and eBay are a great option for cheap sunglasses.

10. Ice Cream Coupons

Approach a local ice cream store and explain your desire to give away thousands of ice cream coupons. Chances are the owner/manager will be willing to give you a good deal on ice cream coupons. Attach a "Just a Simple Way" Card to each coupon, and you'll have a project that will elicit a response from just about everyone in town.

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SERVICES

11. Umbrella Escorts

Moms with kids and the elderly find it tough to make it from stores to their cars in the rain. Use huge golf umbrellas to help get them and their purchases to their cars with as little wetness as possible.

12. Grocery Bag Loading Assistance

Moms with lots of kids hanging on them like koalas often need assistance getting their bags loaded into the car from the shopping cart. The elderly need the same sort of help. Volunteers on this project need to appear particularly safe and friendly; name tags or coordinating T-shirts identifying connection to your organization makes the servants look more "official." Note: On this project, almost everyone will try to give a tip, but as with all kindness projects, to receive money would taint what you are trying to communicate: "God's love in a practical package with no strings attached." This project may require permission from the store manager on the day of the event.

13. Bag-Packing at Self-Serve Grocers

Increasing numbers of grocery stores are cutting out services such as bag-packing. Place volunteers at these stores to pack bags for customers. Again, name tags or coordinating T-shirts or aprons helps the baggers look more official and identifies the connection with Crossroads Church and will give the feeling of safety.

14. Trash Pick-Up

There is lots of trash to pick up at festivals and sports events. Buy garbage bags, wear matching T-shirts and plastic gloves, and bring a sign to put up that says, "Kindness in Progress" while you pick up trash. People will notice.

15. Shoe Shines

Small investment + some elbow grease = big return. Set up in front of a grocery store on a Saturday, or perhaps in front of a barbershop.

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This is a great project to get talking with people; you have a captive audience while you serve!

16. Restroom Cleaning at Public Places

There's nothing like walking into a gas station, restaurant, or retail store and saying to the manager, "We'd like to clean your toilet for free!" Put a little cleaning kit together containing a toilet brush, air freshener, window cleaner, paper towels, toilet bowl cleaner, rubber gloves, and a doormat. There's nothing magical about the technique here. Note: This is probably one of the most frequently rejected projects on the list, probably because the offer to clean a toilet is a bit overwhelming. No matter—give them your "Just a Simple Way" Card, smile, and say, "OK! We'll come back some other time and clean when you need it. We're just trying to show you God's love in a practical way."

AROUND TOWN

17. Business Blasts

Surprise employees of local businesses with a small gift, such as a basket of candy. Bring in one package to be shared by store employees and leave a "Just a Simple Way" Card and a note that reads something like, "We appreciate how you serve the community with your business, and we wanted to share God's love in a practical way." Make sure you only give items to employees, so they don't think you are "soliciting" their customers.

18. Soft Drink Giveaway to Employees

What can you do when denied permission to give away soft drinks in front of a prime retail location? Offer to give soft drinks to the employees. As usual, place the "Just a Simple Way" Card on top.

19. Stamps in Front of the Post Office

One church holds a major stamp outreach on April 15th for late tax-filers. Not only do they give out stamps, but they also offer coffee

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and donuts— stress recovery food. Volunteers stand by the mail drop-off boxes with a card table filled with food and stamps.

20. Gatorade at Biking Trails

Some health-conscious folks like runners, bikers, and other people don't drink soda at all. Set up at along a bike trail, athletic field, or hiking trail and offer Gatorade or bottled water to exercisers.

21. Pay Library Fines

Leave \$20.00 at the front desk in the local library, and instruct the clerk to use it for the next person who has fines. Leave a "Just a Simple Way" Card in an envelope for the person, so they can see why the fine was paid.

22. Picnic in the Park

Throw a picnic with all the trimmings for anyone in the park that happens along. Instead of a traditional church picnic where only church attendees are invited, bring food for outsiders.

23. Pictionary in the Park

This was a popular game in the late 1980's similar to Charades. Set up in a local park and play the game using with a white board to draw hints. Complete strangers will start to join in, especially if your group is friendly and animated. When onlookers correctly guess the answer, allow them to play the next round. After 15-20 minutes, take a break, serve soft drinks and talk to the visitors one-to-one.

24. Golf Balls

The average golfer loses three or four balls per outing, so give away imprinted golf balls on the local golf course. Imprinting your church's name and message on golf balls is surprisingly affordable, and if it's lost on the course, another golfer will pick it up later and get your message.

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25. Golf Tees

Golfers can never get enough of these. Imprinted golf tees cost just a couple of cents apiece. Some golf courses will even give them away for you at their counter.

26. Golf Ball Cleaning

Sure, there are ball-cleaning machines spread throughout most golf courses, but most players don't take the time. With permission of the course, set up a simple clean up station and clean golf balls before golfers begin a round. Most golfers carry dozens of balls in their bag.

27. Cleaning Up at Food Courts

If you can get your foot in the door at your local mall, ask if you can do clean-up in the food court area.

28. Upsizing Food Orders in Fast Food Drive-Thru Lanes

Set-up near the drive-thru order station. As customers drive up, offer to pay the difference between their order and the bigger size—which is usually about 39 cents. Your offer will get the entire restaurant talking.

29. Free Bird Feeders and Refills to Convalescent Home Residents

Provide an acrylic bird feeder—the kind with suction cups that stick right to the window. Return occasionally to refill the bird feeder and check in on your new elderly friend. Note: Most outreaches to those in convalescent homes will touch their extended family, as well.

30. Bait at Local Fishing Spots

Those who fish with live bait need worms, grubs, goldfish, minnows, or whatever. Purchase these critters in large quantities from a bait shop, go to the local fishing hot-spot and give them away.

31. Pay Laundromat Washer and Dryer

Bring a roll or two of quarters and dimes. As patrons enter, ask them if they'd like hot or cold wash. You can also provide detergent. Note:

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This is a project that works best for women—it's a bit odd for men to reach out to women in this setting.

32. Instant Photos for Couples

A couple will hold on to a decent photo of themselves for years. Set up at a local carriage ride or other common spot for couples and take instant- print photos of them. If you want to get fancy, offer a photo frame that is tailor-made for the size. Give them a “Just a Simple Way” Card along with their photo.

33. Hand Cleaning Towelettes

Pretty much everything in downtown shopping areas is a bit dirty, but there's really no place to wash up. Give people these towelettes labeled with your organization's message.

34. Cart Token for Shopping Carts

Some grocery stores in urban areas require a token in order to get a shopping cart. Provide the tokens to shoppers as they enter.

35. Gasoline for Your Neighbor

How many people do you see buying less than a tank of gas when you fill 'er up? We see it happening all the time—they can't afford a full tank of gas at today's prices. Add \$5.00 to their total and blow their minds. Of course, add in a "Just a Simple Way" Card.

36. Steaks and Salmon for Firefighters

Since 9/11, the general public has been made even more aware of the tremendous job that firefighters and police officers do day in and day out. Show them a little kindness by providing some steaks or salmon to grill. Let them know in advance that you are coming, so they can have the grill fired up. Firefighters are a great group to serve—they really appreciate it and talk a lot in the community.

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NEIGHBORHOODS

37. Leaf Raking

Several people in a small group can rake an entire neighborhood on a single Saturday morning. Maybe you don't like raking your own yard; but when you're with a group of friends serving in the name of Christ, a chore becomes a joy. Many yards take only fifteen to twenty minutes to polish off. Note: If possible, go to neighborhoods where the city vacuums leaves left on the curb (some do). If you bag them, make sure to remove the bags and dispose of them yourself instead of leaving them for the homeowners.

38. Lawn Mowing

Look for long grass, knock on the door, and go for it. Several mowers make this short work.

39. Grass Edging

If you don't have time to mow an entire lawn, edge the driveway and sidewalks. Most homeowners don't edge very often, so they are in need of it and are grateful.

40. Rain Gutter Cleaning

This is messy work but very appreciated by homeowners, especially in the fall. You will need some ladders, trash bags, and gloves.

41. Sidewalk Sweeping

In urban areas, this is a huge hit. Residents are sometimes required by neighborhood associations or city codes to sweep the area in front of their homes.

42. Screen Cleaning

Screens will have to be removed. Apply a bit of soapy water and use a soft brush. Hose them off and reinstall. Most homeowners never do this, though it is an easy way to improve the view.

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43. Garbage Can Return from Street

This is a project you could do for an entire street each week. Usually garbage pick up is done early in the morning—be the first one out. Return the cans to a place near each person's garage (but do it quietly!). Scotch tape a "Just a Simple Way" Card to the lid of each can.

44. Door-to-Door Carnation Giveaway

Carnations are affordable, and everyone likes them. This giveaway project can be done anytime, but Mother's Day is a particularly good excuse.

45. Tulip Bulbs

A handful of tulip bulbs is very affordable. When they come up in years to come, that person will reflect on your act of generosity.

46. Potted Plant Giveaways

Marigolds and impatiens can be purchased affordably in numbers. Mums are great in the fall. Small poinsettias are a great touch at Christmas.

47. Flower Seed Packet Giveaways

Give out flower seeds to celebrate spring. Some companies offer the option of printing your church name on the outside of the packet.

48. Weed Spraying

Spray for weeds in cracks in the sidewalk and areas where weeds thrive. Wear rubber gloves.

49. Tree Limb Trimming

Purchase an extending trimmer with a saw and pulley clipper. Beware of electric lines. Before trimming any limbs, get approval from the homeowner.

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50. Fireplace Kindling

Bundle up scrap wood and give it out in the fall. Attach your "Just a Simple Way" Card on the binding.

51. School Supplies

Distribute school supplies house-to-house, especially in needy neighborhoods whose residents include many children.

52. Fruit Giveaway

People really like fresh fruit, and they will readily take it. This one goes over great across the U.S. An orange, an apple, and a banana along with a "Just a Simple Way" Card in a clear plastic bag is enough. This also works well door-to-door.

53. Sunday Morning Paper and Coffee Giveaways

Purchase a number of Sunday papers, brew excellent coffee, and visit your neighbors. Look for the houses that don't have a paper in the driveway, but be sure you don't knock on the door too early!

PETS

54. Doggie Treats

People often love their pets like family members. Either make from scratch a great doggie treat, or buy them from a pet shop (many shops now offer high-end treats for pets). Wrap several with a ribbon and a "Just a Simple Way" Card and give them out at parks or dog runs.

55. Doggie Dirt Cleanup

It's an unsavory job, but someone has to do it. Jesus said, "If you want to be great in God's kingdom, be the servant of all." Actually, it's not that tough with the right equipment—you can find specialized scooper equipment at a local pet store. Give a "Just a Simple Way" Card to pet owners and park officials in the area.

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56. Doggie Wash

This is a great outreach opportunity for kids. Go through a park or your local neighborhood looking for dogs and their owners. Use a vet-recommended dog shampoo sold in pet stores. Two ten-year-old boys recently touched their entire neighborhood by blanketing all the houses with a homemade flyer explaining their project. They later reported washing sixteen dogs and one reluctant cat. They also provided a flea collar to each clean pet.

EVENTS

57. Car Wash

This is an effective, practical service. We offer a car wash every week in the summer. Have a professionally made banner or sign that says "Totally Free Car Wash!" or "Free—No Kidding—Car Wash!" Have a few extroverted, friendly people cheerfully yell at cars driving by, "Free Car Wash!" (Former cheerleaders are great for this role!) This outreach needs a good project manager to organize volunteers, car flow, and ensure a quality job.

58. Single Moms' Oil Change

This is a great stand-alone project for a Saturday morning in the church parking lot. We provide this service strictly to single moms, though not necessarily just those in our church. This will require a team of folks with knowledge of auto maintenance basics. There are hundreds of sizes of auto filters, so get sign-ups before the event. Note: This will not work at a filling station; the liability to the owner is unreasonable.

59. Bulb Replacement

Set up a station in the corner of a shopping center parking lot. Use a sign that reads, "Free Light Bulb Exam and Replacement." There are only a few common bulb types used in domestic and foreign cars; have an assortment of these available. With just a few basic tools

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(screwdrivers), just about anyone can pull this one off. Don't use powered screwdrivers— they are more likely to break lens covers.

60. Hot Dog Grilling

Like 'em or not, grilled hot dogs bring everyone together. Even when you provide the dogs, buns, and condiments, this is an affordable outreach. We put up a banner that reads, "It's Party Time!" Provide music, and you've got a party that will draw strangers like a magnet.

61. Clowns

Bring a team of clowns to hand out candy or balloons. This adds fun and excitement to the atmosphere of sharing God's love.

62. Memorial Services for the Unchurched

We have begun to do gratis memorial services for the families of the unchurched. As you reach out to the community with this kind of love and support, you will increasingly find that those you serve will consider you their church, even though they are hardly connected with you.

63. Food Delivery to Shut-ins

Find legitimate shut-ins in your neighborhood. Start a system with interested neighbors for a weekly hot food delivery. This is a great outreach opportunity for pre-Christians in your church; they are often interested in helping others even though they don't yet know Christ, and a project like this could easily be an entry point to their hearts.

WINTER & CHRISTMAS

64. Snow Shoveling

Men's groups take on their neighborhoods with snow shovels and snow blowers and go door-to-door explaining the project. The snow blowers aren't necessary but very helpful. Most drives and sidewalks can be finished in a matter of minutes. Be sure to bring coffee and hot chocolate for the workers and neighbors who stop by to watch.

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65. Windshield Ice Scraping at Apartment Complexes

Scrape first, ask questions later. Place a "Just a Simple Way" Card on the clean windshield when finished.

66. Windshield Ice Scrapers

Scrapers last a year or less, so early in the season most drivers need another one. Attach a "Just a Simple Way" Card, and leave them on car windshields.

67. Retrieving Cars Stuck in Snow

On heavy snow days, send out teams with four-wheel drive trucks. Using chains and other safety equipment, pull the cars out. Carry pots of coffee and hot chocolate to warm up those you help. A cell phone is helpful if you need to call for reinforcements.

68. Christmas Gift Wrapping

Wrap Christmas presents for free for mall shoppers. Depending on your mall, you may have to rent the space, purchase the materials, and do it at the hours they ask. On the other hand, some malls give free space, provide the materials and are very accommodating regarding wrapping hours. You aren't in competition with the fancy department stores—they do a classy job, but you can help those in a hurry, those with few or small gifts, or those who just can't afford to spend money on fancy wrapping.

69. Package Check-In

Shoppers are terribly burdened at Christmas. Set up a booth at the mall with a package checking system, and watch over their packages until they're finished shopping. You will be able to talk with them when they drop off their packages and when they return.

70. Child Care During Christmas Shopping

There are some liability issues to take into consideration, but this can be a very helpful project during the holidays. Obviously, you will need

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to get some help with professional child care workers to do this right and wisely.

71. Scotch Tape

Who doesn't need Scotch tape at Christmas? This has been one of our most popular giveaways—it definitely is a practical way to show God's love.

72. Caroling and Candy Canes

Organize a caroling group and go house-to-house in neighborhoods. Take candy canes or a small gift to give, as well. For another spin, go with low-income areas, especially inner-city urban ones, and take hot chocolate and cookies and serve the residents.

73. House-to-House Poinsettias

Take small poinsettia plants as "house-to-house" gifts.

74. Tree Giveaway

A few days before Christmas, lot owners are willing to give the trees away. With pickup trucks, deliver them to financially stretched single-parent families.

OTHER HOLIDAYS

75. Candy Giveaway

Give out chocolate hearts for Valentine's Day in busy downtown areas or in front of stores. This is an excellent way to do a "giveaway." Rather than ask "Would you like..." say, "Happy Valentine's Day!" and give them a heart and a "Just a Simple Way" Card. You will get very few rejections. Purchase high-quality chocolate for a greater effect.

76. Roses

Hand out roses or carnations in busy downtown areas or in front of busy stores. Even men find this appealing, because they can give them away! Hand a flower and a "Just a Simple Way" Card.

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77. Easter: Butterfly Cocoons

From the beginning of church history, the butterfly has been a symbol of the resurrection of Christ. Death, change, and life are all found in the cocoon. You can actually buy butterfly cocoons online; it's even possible to purchase cocoons that can be timed to hatch on a given day—within a day or so, anyway.

78. Independence Day Giveaways

Blow-pops and gum balls are a big hit for the Fourth of July. Small American flags are also popular. After dark, glow-in-the-dark necklaces, bracelets, or sticks are really effective.

79. Flower Seeds

Give out flower seeds to celebrate spring or Easter. The give away works great in downtown areas, in front of stores, or Spring Festivals. Staple a “Just a Simple Way” card to the seeds and give them away!

COLLEGE CAMPUS OUTREACH

80. Trash Pick-up for Students near Campuses

Start visiting local apartment complexes where students live, asking residents if you can take their garbage out for them. The first time you may get a not-so-good response, but over time people will recognize you and will trust you more. Consider visiting on Sunday afternoons around two, so you'll catch everybody waking up from their Saturday nights with hangovers and a ton of trash.

81. Bike Fix-up

Many students ride bicycles to class. They often need tune-ups, including tightening brakes, aligning gears, and greasing ball-bearings. Setting up shop can save students money and provide an opportunity to get to know them.

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82. Post Cards and Stamps

College students do actually write home on occasion. Provide postcards complete with postage with a sticker that reads, "It's good to write your mom!" Include your "Just a Simple Way" Card.

83. Photocopying

Purchase photocopying coupons at a reduced rate at a local copy center near the college campus. The price shouldn't be more than about five cents per copy. Give these punch cards out on campus. Place church logo and phone number on the card.

84. Breakfast Pop-Tarts

They may not be all that healthy, but they are popular among students. They are good hot or cold. Students will take them to eat later, even if they've already had breakfast.

85. Test Essay Booklets and Answer Sheets

Many professors require that exams be done on particular testing materials that the students must purchase themselves. These can include testing booklets, scan-friendly answer sheets, and #2 pencils. They aren't expensive, but they are necessary (particularly around midterms and finals) and readily available at campus bookstores. Purchase them in large numbers at a discount and distribute them with an attached "Just a Simple Way" Card.

86. Coffee and Tea During Late-Night Study Sessions

A little TLC goes a long way. Build a cart that can be wheeled around from dorms to libraries to study areas. This one will have to be manned by non- students.

87. Pizza on Move-In Day at the Dorms

If you want to get the attention of an entire dorm, give away pizza. You will hardly need signs—the aroma will do all the marketing you need. Negotiate a discount with the pizza restaurant for large volumes, or the vendor may be willing to give you the pizza in return for an endorsement.

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88. Care Package

Prepare and give away care packages for an entire dorm. Include items like packages of hot chocolate, microwave popcorn, cookies, mints, and gum. The total cost will be much less than a dollar apiece. These can be distributed through student mailboxes or a box in the lobby. Make sure to get permission from the dorm first.

89. Dorm Room Cleaning

Go door to door with the offer, "We would like to clean your room for free to show you God's love." Confine your cleaning to what is quick and simple or you will be overwhelmed quickly. Offer to clean windows, mirrors and vacuum the floor.

RADICAL SERVICE IDEAS

90. Dollar Drop

At local malls where any sort of programmatic evangelism is not allowed, this is a way to get the attention of many people very quickly. We take a dollar bill and attach a "Just a Simple Way" Card explaining our project (use removable adhesive).

91. Purchasing Meals at the Food Court

One small group example I heard meets regularly at the mall and takes a spontaneous offering among themselves. Then they approach one of the managers of a fast-food restaurant or a food court stand and offer, "We'd like to pay the bill for as many customers as this amount of money will pay for." On one recent outreach, this group paid for \$125 worth of food—that was about one hour's worth of sales. The manager became so excited, he was explaining the gospel himself to the customers, even though he was a burned-out church attendee. Go figure!

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92. Buy Down Gas to Bargain Price

Instead of paying the regular price, buy down the price to a remarkable rate for a couple of hours and pay the difference to the station owner. If local prices are \$2.59 per gallon, put up signs advertising a price of \$2.29. When customers come in, give them a "Just a Simple Way" Card that briefly explains your project. This project could be on the pricy side, so do some calculation ahead of time.

