



## SERVICE LEARNING TIP SHEET

# Examples of Service Experiences

Compiled by Mark J. Jackson

There are hundreds of service project and mission trip ideas your group can participate in. Examples are provided below in four areas to help you think about the variety of options available.

Remember that the best service projects and mission trips emerge from paying attention to the expressed priorities, needs, concerns, and opportunities that you learn from an individual, an organization, or a local community.

### Direct Service

These are service activities that respond to expressed needs of individuals or communities and directed at symptoms of issues.

- Serve a meal at a local shelter
- Lead worship services at a local nursing home
- Offer a free evening of babysitting to parents of young children
- Sponsor a refugee family
- Plan a summer program for the children in your neighborhood
- Build houses for working families in Mexico
- Shovel snow or rake leaves for persons with limited physical mobility
- Provide a “shuttle service” for elderly members to attend church events
- Install fresh-water wells in Namibia

### Support Service

These service activities provide some level of indirect support to individuals, communities, or organizations. While participants might have limited interaction with persons affected, the lasting impact on individuals and communities can be significant.

- Plant a community garden
- Build a skate park for local teenagers
- Create a recycling program for your church or neighborhood
- Collect school supplies for low-income families
- Pray for the world
- Collect socks or gloves for the homeless
- Make school kits or health kits for an international relief agency
- Collect clothing for a local clothing bank
- Clean up a littered sea shore or waterway
- Sort food at a food bank distribution warehouse

## Education

Education-related service activities include researching an issue and/or educating others about local, regional, national, or global issues.

- Present a workshop on the AIDS epidemic in Africa
- Hold an educational event on hunger and poverty
- Organize a workshop on racism or cultural competency
- Participate in an educational/immersion trip to El Salvador
- Hold a forum to raise awareness around a specific local, regional, national, or global issue

## Advocacy

These projects involve service on behalf of others or empowering others to have a voice. Advocacy efforts are often directed at root causes and attempt to address long-term, complex issues.

- Write letters to state and/or federal legislators concerning a social issue
- Organize a peace march or rally
- Attend a city council meeting and speak on behalf of citizens in your community
- Write a “letter to the editor” of a local news publication
- Organize a meeting of community leaders and residents to address recycling, public transportation, or low-income housing

