

Our Community

What is community involvement? Community involvement takes many forms. Donating to charity, helping at a food bank, and volunteering to clean up the environment are all examples of things anyone can do to help their community. In addition, an adult can be a civic responsible citizen by voting and by attending school board and city council meetings.

By donating to charity you help people less fortunate than you. By donating clothes or household items to organizations like The Salvation Army, you can help to provide goods to people. By donating money to the homeless shelters, you help to provide a meal and a place to sleep to the homeless. If someone has no job or place to live they may turn to crime to provide for themselves. If they have somewhere to go to get help, this will not only help the individual but will improve the community as a whole by decreasing the crime rate.

Helping at a food bank either by assisting to sort food items at the food bank or by running a food drive, helps to provide food to people who can not afford to feed their families. If children go to school hungry, they may have trouble concentrating which can lead to poor behavior and failure in school. If children fail in school then this will lead to them not being able to get good jobs as adults which will perpetuate the need for food banks. If children are properly nourished and do well in school they can better themselves, break free of poverty and give back to their community.

In addition to helping people directly you can contribute to society by cleaning up the environment. This can be as simple as picking up trash you see on your way to school. If everyone picked up one piece of trash every day the community would be much cleaner. There are also opportunities to clean your environment on a larger scale. There are agencies like the Sierra Club that organize cleanup drives of nature areas like state parks, forests and lakes. A clean environment is more pleasant to be in, increases the value of your property and preserves nature areas for future generations; all are good reasons to clean up your environment.

There are many reasons to be involved in your community. By being involved with community service, voting and participating with decisions being made by school boards and city councils, you can help to make your community a "better place to live". What does the saying a "better place to live" really mean? It can mean that the community's appearance is better, that there is less crime, or people have better living conditions. By helping your community you help individuals less fortunate than yourself. Lastly, helping your community also benefits you. By being involved in improving your community you develop a sense of pride in your community and increase your self esteem because you feel like you can make a difference.