



SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS

Christmas time can be full of so much hustle and bustle that sometimes it's hard to remember the true reason for the season. Jesus is the greatest gift we could have ever been given, and we can take the time to celebrate that gift with others this season through the way we show love to them. That's why this Christmas we are providing you with some Service Project ideas that are a great way to spread some Christmas cheer and remember why we're here – here to shine Jesus' light.

1. No-sew Fleece Blanket

Serving others doesn't have to break the bank, and can make a lasting impact! This is a great project to do with your small group, as a church staff, or with your families, and you only need 3 things!

SUPPLIES: Double layered fleece fabric, ruler, sharp scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Pick two pieces of fabric that you want to use for your blanket. Line them up on top of each other on a flat surface and cut the edges so that each fabric is even. Be sure to keep the fabrics together.
2. Cut out a 5"x 5" square at every corner.
3. Cut 1" wide strips that are 5" long all along the sides of your fabric.
4. Tie your strips together (top and bottom layers) into a knot.
5. Pass out the blankets! Whether you partner with an unhoused shelter or gather families to pass them out together, take some time to spread some Christmas cheer and warmth this season.



2. This Christmas...Fund

Christmas can be a joyous time for a lot of people, but sometimes it can bring many different challenges with it as well. This Christmas let's be on the lookout for what needs we can meet, even those closer to home. Use any of these ideas to meet the needs of neighbors, families, or friends. You can set up a donation bin or pick a date to gather to accomplish the task. You can also set up a funding platform such as Venmo, Cash App, or Go Fund Me in that person's name. However you choose to do it, remember to show love and kindness as you may be meeting them in a vulnerable state.

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Bake your neighbor's favorite treat
2. Do yardwork for your neighbor
3. Help touch up the paint at your local school
4. Clean up trash on the side of the road or in your neighborhood

3. Undeck the Halls

Everyone could use a break, especially around the holidays. Some of the hardest-working people can sometimes go unnoticed or are accidentally taken for granted. This Christmas let's say thank you to our church janitorial staff by giving them a day off! Pick up a broom, pop on the tunes, and help keep the church clean. Whether gearing up for the Christmas services or taking down the decorations – we can do more together, all while putting a smile on the Janitor's face.

4. Oh Holly Jolly There's More!

We always have something to give whether that's our time, our talents and gifts, or our money. Jesus is the ultimate example of Someone who served others well. We too, can follow His example as we serve one another in love. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, but our hope is that there is at least one thing that you can do to help someone in need. There may be some suggestions in this list that require preplanning or connecting with those involved to ensure everything is ready for your arrival, so be sure to check in ahead of time!

- **Feed the unhoused**
 - Host a food drive (gather canned goods)
 - Go to a food pantry (stock shelves)
 - Help at a soup kitchen
 - Make food and sandwiches to pass out
- **Clothing Drive**
 - Gather gently used clothing
- **Visit a nursing home**
 - Christmas caroling
 - Pass out presents
 - Do a skit/play
 - Play games
 - Bake cookies
 - Be pen pals
- **Community Event**
 - Connect with local businesses who can offer discounts or free services such as: free haircuts, free shoes, discounted food, coupons for the movies, etc.
- **Partner with an Organization (locally, nationally, or internationally)**
 - Compassion International
 - Operation Christmas Child
 - Toys for Tots
 - Salvation Army
- **Visit a children's hospital**
 - Read to kids
 - Bring presents
 - Color with the kids
 - Put on or host a talent show
- **Pet services**
 - Adopt a pet
 - Serve at an animal shelter
 - Bring a therapy dog to a nursing home, children's hospital, or special needs home (with permission!)