

Some Mission Ideas

Collections

Remember when giving: If you would not give your donation to Jesus Christ, then do not give it to the needy. They deserve dignity and respect.

- * *Gently used luggage* for local foster care programs or domestic violence programs.
- * *Hotel toiletries* for homeless shelters.
- * *Used prescription glasses* and give them to the Lion's Club for distribution.
- * *Campbell Soup labels* and give them to the Redbird Conference to buy needed materials for their mission.
- * *Food* for local food pantries. Emphasize the need for the meals in a can (like ravioli, thick stew, etc.)
- * *Laundry detergent* for homeless agencies and shelters for the abused (clean the sheets and towels used by the patrons).
- * *Scarves, gloves, undies, socks* of all sizes for homeless agencies, abuse shelters and foster care programs.
- * *Newborn items* for hospitals for disbursement to the needy.
- * *Diapers.*
- * *Blankets* for the homeless. "Blanket the Homeless with Love"
- * *Box Tops for Education* for your local schools.
- * *Aluminum tabs* off soda pop cans and give toward Ronald MacDonald House. Often the Ronald MacDonald's House or Restaurant in your town will collect the tabs if you don't have another way to turn them in.
- * *Teddy bears* for foster kids, victims of natural disasters or violence.
- * *Toys* for children in hospitals.

Fund-raising ideas

- * *Ready to Go Fundraisers: 75 ways to Fund Your Ministry* (Abingdon Press: Nashville, 2007). Great resource!
- * www.egadideas.com/ideas.asp. This website has fundraising ideas for people of all ages, although the site itself is geared toward youth.

- * Instead of traditional gifts to loved ones or friends, give to an Advance project of The United Methodist Church that is reflective of the recipient's particular interest. Cards are available from the GBGM for some of the advances (<http://www.advancinghope.org>).
- * Birthday Party: having a yearlong birthday party for an Advance ministry. Do one special Advance-related activity each month to celebrate second-mile giving. In honor of new life, support a project that serves infants.
- * Mission Mileage: How many miles separate your church and your missionary? Find out and then, using the IRS mileage rate, invite persons to give for each mile. In case where the distance is vast, adjust the rate or divide the mileage into smaller increments. Post a map on the mission bulletin board to show where your missionary is located.
- * Pocket-change Day: For a designated period of time, encourage church families to save their pocket change. Then, on a named date, ask them to bring their pocket change to church, place the money in a large container, and dedicate the funds.
- * Altar arrangements: Instead of flowers, have a center piece that represents a mission of your church and place it on the altar. The person who would ordinarily pay for the flowers pays an amount (say \$50) for the mission represented.
- * Have cards in the narthex representing different missions available for giving. Instead of giving someone a gift, give money in their name to a mission indicated.
- * Neon plastic cups - "Let His Light Shine": Every time turn on a light, put .25 in cup and give to mission.
- * Bus tickets: Purchase a packet of 11, one-way bus tickets for \$9.00. (CAT office, . . .
- * Collect aluminum cans and take to Wise Recycling for cash. Their address is 1617 Capital Boulevard in Raleigh.
- * Contests for cutest baby. Put baby pictures of clergy, staff, lay leaders (or any other group) with containers in front of each. People "vote" for their favorite by putting money in the containers.
- * Get undecorated piggy banks, have them commissioned in a church service, then sent home with members. Members decorate them and bring them back filled with money for a specific mission project. You could collect more money by having a contest wherein you display the pigs with an empty bowl in front and ask people to drop coins in front of their favorite pig.
- * Give money to the missions committee in honor of or memory of a loved one. Name a special ministry to receive the donation.
- *

Service Ideas

Youth Service America, can be a starting point for teens to create lists relevant to their own community's needs. The list below contains *some* of YSA's suggestions, with additions and deletions.

Ways to Make a Difference in Your Community

- * Set up a recycling system for your home, church or school.
- * Help teach a younger child to read ([Reading Is Fundamental \(RIF\)](#)).
- * Help cook and/or serve a meal at a homeless shelter.
- * Gather clothing and donate it to a local shelter.
- * Make "I Care" kits with combs, toothbrushes, shampoo, etc. for the homeless.
- * Pack and hand out food at a local food bank.
- * Adopt a "grandfriend" and write them letters and visit them.
- * Visit senior citizens at a nursing home. Play games with them, sing, read books, or just talk.
- * Rake leaves, shovel snow, clean gutters, or wash windows for a senior citizen for free.
- * Go for a walk with a senior citizen in your community.
- * Clean up a vacant lot or park.
- * Organize a campaign to raise money to purchase and install playground equipment.
- * Volunteer to help at a [Special Olympics](#) event.
- * Raise money for Braille books for visually impaired people.
- * Take toys to children in the cancer ward of a hospital.
- * Plant a garden or tree where the whole neighborhood can enjoy it.
- * Help build a home with [Habitat for Humanity](#).
- * Mentor younger people.

- * Buy holiday presents for a family at a shelter.
- * Make a care package for an elderly or shut-in person.
- * Make quilts or baby clothes for low-income families.
- * Bake cookies and bring them to your local fire hall or police station.
- * Do gleaning with Society of St. Andrew.
- * Knit sweaters for needy children around the world (The Guideposts Sweater Project)
- * Learn about "going green" and help your church, family and school go green.
- * Check out the "wish lists" for organizations in your area.

Additional Sources

<http://nationalservicerresources.org/>

<http://www.pr-inside.com/north-carolina-s-top-youth-volunteers-selected-r433995.htm> This tells about eight ways youth reached out to their neighbors.

<http://new.gbqm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/childreyouth/>

See also the book resources listed on the Raleigh District website.