



**Looking for a project to do with your family, group of friends, or neighbors? Here is a list of fun projects for you to do depending on your area of interest!**

### **If you're an animal lover...**

- Hold a bake sale or car wash in your neighborhood to raise money for a local animal shelter.
- Visit an animal shelter or zoo to clean and play with the animals.
- Create your own [cat toys](#) from old tshirts or sweaters and donate them to a local shelter.
- Donate items that local animal shelters frequently use and need. Suggested items include: blankets and old towels; cleaning supplies: bleach, powder dishwasher detergent, anti-bacterial hand soap, spray bottles; pet food; newspapers.
- Create a [pet disaster safety kit](#) with your family

### **If you enjoy the outdoors...**

- Plant a tree in your backyard.
- Coordinate a group to perform a clean-up of your local road, park, or stream.
- Organize a group of fellow classmates to pick up trash and clean on your school grounds.
- Decorate an old plastic bin for [composting](#) and discuss the benefits of composting for the environment.
- Get together with a few families in your neighborhood and start a community garden.
- Go to an elderly person's home and help them with their yard work.

### **If you love to read and write...**

- Host a "hot potato reading night." Parents and children come together with their favorite book. Each parent reads their book with their child and when the time is up, passes their book to the next person. By the end of the night, each family should read each book!
- Create a reading space for children's books at a local prison. Prisoners can read to their children when they visit them, strengthening the parent-child relationship.
- Start a "Book Buddy" program or mentoring program for younger students.
- Donate gently used books to a local shelter, school, or doctor's office.
- Help a food bank include books in their weekly deliveries. Deliver books to food banks. Help the bank distribute books to families

### **If you like to organize...**

- Create [good night bags](#) with your friends for kids who are put in foster care, shelters or other emergency placement.
- Create craft bags for a local children's hospital and deliver them.
- Clean out a closet as a family and donate gently used items to a local homeless shelter. Suggested gently used items include: clothing, coats, furniture, sports equipment, suitcases, blankets
- Go through your pantry and find non-perishable items (that are not expired) that would be appreciated by a food pantry, such as canned goods.
- Take a trip as a family to the grocery store to purchase items greatly appreciated by shelters.
- Put together a New Home Kit for someone moving from a shelter to their new home. Kits should include

**Tell us about your project! Register at [www.familydayofservice.org](http://www.familydayofservice.org).**

For more ideas, visit the Volunteer Center of South Jersey's Pinterest page at: <https://www.pinterest.com/sjvolunteers/>

Website: [sjvolunteers.org](http://sjvolunteers.org) Office: 856-415-9084



## Do-It-Yourself Project Checklist

Keeping track of your project will help you stay organized and allow to enjoy your project, here some simple steps you can follow!

### Project Details:

Project Name	Date	Location	Start Time	End Time

### Team Members (who will participate with you):

Name	Email	Phone Number

### What do you need to complete your project?

Supplies/Donations	Contact Name	Contact Number	Contact Email

### Reflection:

Why did you choose this project?

Did you enjoy coordinating the project?

Did you team member enjoy the project?

Will you do it again?

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## Family Project Coordinator Guide

Keeping track of your project will help you stay organized and allow you to enjoy your project. Here are some simple steps you can follow thanks to GenerationOn!

### Think about your school, neighborhood or community, is there some need calling out to you?

- Do kids have warm boots for the winter?
- Do river banks and beaches need cleaning?
- Does your school have enough books and computers?

Together, as a family, consider all the things that matter most to you, make a list and see if one or two ideas interest all of you!

### Now take your favorite idea and write down all the ways you could help the situation. For example:

- Check with local shelters and community centers – how many children in their care need winter boots?
- Could you do a kids' boot drive at your school, or all the town's schools? At the police station, library or grocery store?
- What about kids in nearby town shelters, do they need boots too?
- Should you collect new boots or gently worn boots?
- Would area shoe stores and department stores donate boots?

Once you've **chosen your project**, find out if other organizations or groups are serving this need. Maybe your family could join their volunteer team to help.

- Check your phonebook, go the library or search on online for organizations that might serve a similar need and purpose.
- Contact the organization, introduce yourself and explain your project. Ask if they could use your support or ask if they could provide helpful contacts and ideas for your project.
- Think about other contacts and friends that might have helpful ideas; talk with them to refine your project idea.
- Before you commit to your idea, be sure there's a need for it. It must be relevant to the audience you wish to serve.

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## **Great! You've got a topic and completed some research, now define your objectives:**

**Be specific**, for example:

- To serve children at our local community center, we need to collect 50 pairs of winter boots by December 1 (5 pair size 3T, 3 pair size 7, 4 pair size 11, etc.)

**Be sure your objectives are attainable:**

- Give yourself sufficient time to complete each objective and set deadlines to keep you on track.

**Create a task list.** Think of everything you need to accomplish your objectives, for example:

- Promote and assemble fundraising event
- Purchase supplies
- Find collection space
- Attain permission
- Contact volunteers and potential donors

## **Who can help you?**

- Ask friends, family, neighbors & anyone you know to help. Assign tasks and set realistic deadlines to get important jobs done.
- Ask organized clubs, faith-based groups, businesses, community centers and other organizations to volunteer time, space, materials and/or give monetary donations.

## **Figure out costs.**

- Create a project budget.
- How much money can you raise to cover costs?
- Can you get donations or grants to cover costs?

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## **Tell everybody! Get attention, raise awareness and announce fundraisers and activities:**

- Use flyers, posters and banners to promote your cause
- Contact newspapers and radio stations
- Use email blasts and social media

## **Check your objectives and progress.**

- Stay in touch with your helpers. Are they on schedule? Do they need help?
- Track your income and expenses; make sure you don't overspend!
- Anything else you need to accomplish your goals?

## **More great ideas!**

- Keep a journal of your family's experiences and observations.
- Take photos or make a video of special activities or events.
- Thank your volunteers and donors! Send thank you notes to show your appreciation.

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