

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Blessing Bags for the Homeless: Plastic bags filled with bottled water, hand warmers, lip balm, hand sanitizers, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, gum, band-aids, hand wipes, socks and other small items to give to people living on the streets.

Birthday Kits: Donate birthday kits to food pantries. Put a paper tablecloth, matching napkins and plates, candles, a box of cake mix and canned frosting inside a disposable 9x13 baking pan, which then goes into an extra-large ziptop bag. Choose an all-ages theme so it can be given to anyone.

DuPage PADS Inc: Immaculate Conception hosts a PADS site on the third Saturday of each month beginning in October through April. Hundreds of volunteers are needed to help pick up and deliver food (from the Rectory to the PADS site at Medinah Baptist 900 Foster, Medinah or Roselle, for GPS), purchase and/or prepare food, serve our guests, be present for the overnight hours, prepare breakfast and lunches and clean up. You do not need to help each and every month. Please contact Marybeth Lawshe at lawshe5@aol.com or George Loss at docloss@aol.com if you can help in some way.

Feed My Starving Children: <http://www.fmssc.org/volunteer>

There are two locations in Aurora and Schaumburg.

People's Resource Center: <http://peoplesrc.org/volunteer>

Locations in Westmont and Wheaton 630-682-5402

Collect travel size shampoo, conditioner, soap and lotion for women in Cook County Jail: Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer organized 25 collection sites set up at various chambers of commerce and ward offices in Chicago (for a location near you, email info@BridgetGainer.com or call 312-603-4210). Women make up 10 percent of the population of Cook County Jail and 85 percent of them are nonviolent offenders. At intake the women are given a bar of soap and sent to a cell. The toiletry collection means many of them will also receive a little something more. It is a small act of kindness. It remind them of their humanity and reminds them they are people out there who they're connected to. This falls under a Corporal Work of Mercy.

Capes for Kids: You can make dress up capes for kids. Empower kids living in shelters and hospitals with decorative capes. Though they don't wield actual power, they will bring joy to the children who receive them. You can drop off the capes at a shelter of your choice or send them to Enchanted Makeovers (www.enchantedmakeovers.org) which will deliver the capes for you. The Peyton Manning Children's Hospital also accepts capes for their patients. See www.peytonmanning-stvincent.org and search for Capes for Kids or <https://give.stvincent.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=451>. I like to work with the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital.

Scarves with a Purpose: Make no-sew fleece scarves for families in need at the homeless shelters. Look online for patterns and ideas. Donate to your local shelter or PADS.

Shoes for the Homeless: You can donate your old shoes or organize a used shoe drive with your family and friends. Visit www.jollyoldsoles.com. I believe this started in Naperville.

First Aid Kits for Homeless Shelters: Make simple first aid kits. You can donate them to PADS or any shelter of your choice. Hessed House in Aurora is a good option.

Food Collection for the Elmhurst/ Yorkfield Food Pantry: The EYFP is located (1083 S. York Rd in Elmhurst) on the south side of Elmhurst, at the corner of York and Lexington Streets between Yorkfield Presbyterian Church and the Jimmy Johns. They serve residents of Elmhurst, Bensenville, Addison, Lombard, Villa Park, Hillside, Berekely and Oakbrook. To volunteer, contact Janet Cox by cell 630-975-1149 or email janet@eyfp.org. They accept donations of food, coupons and grocery bags 24/7. Go on the website to see what they currently need for donations or volunteer to stock shelves and assist clients with groceries. Spend your own money or organize a food drive among your family, friends and neighbors.

Food Collection for Immaculate Conception Emergency Food Pantry: The food pantry is located in the Rectory at IC. They look for donations of soup, pasta and pasta sauce, pancake mix and syrup, canned tuna and chicken, oatmeal, canned vegetables and fruit, skillet dinners, peanut butter and jelly, coffee, toilet paper, dish soap, shampoo, shower gel, personal hygiene products and shaving cream.

Homeless Shelters and PADS: Homeless shelters and PADS are always looking for donations for new and used scarves, hats, gloves, blankets, sheets, towels, backpacks, socks and blessing bags.

Nursing Homes: Nursing homes look for donations of x-large fleece blankets and x-large bibs for seniors. The bibs need to be x- large and have front Velcro closures. They are fun to make. Patterns are available on Pinterest. Contact local Nursing homes to see what they make need.

Clothes and Africa: Anyone interested in a simple sewing project may like this. Nancy's Notions have a simple pattern for dresses and pants for needy children in Africa. Go to <http://dressagirlaroundtheworld.com/> or <http://thecottagemama.com/2016/06/sewing-dresses-africa/>. They have patterns to make a dress from a pillow case. I make these and have fun picking out fabrics and making simple cute dresses. Middle schoolers that have been in FFP sewing would be able to make these.

Gift Cards for the Homeless: You can purchase (using your own money or course) \$5 gift cards to McDonalds, Burger King etc. to hand out. Giving money isn't always the best idea but a gift card to a convenient fast food restaurant insures they can get a meal.

Elmhurst Park District: Volunteer for the Park District. Go online and check out the many volunteer opportunities the Park District has for students. You can contact Pat O'Neill, Community Events and Development Manager at 630-993-8924 or poneill@edp.org

The Saturday Meals Program: Serve food, cook, wash dishes and greet guests. Located on South LaGrange Road at Cossitt in LaGrange. Contact volunteer coordinator Beth Colby at beth7827@sbcglobal.net.

Ronald McDonald House at Central: Located at DuPage Hospital 0N150 Winfield Road, Winfield (630) 517-8678 www.rmhccni.org.

You can volunteer for the Meals from the Heart program and prepare lunch for about 20 people that stay at the house. Meals from the Heart volunteers work as a group to plan the menu; purchase the ingredients (You provide the cost of the meal/activity); prepare the meal in the full service kitchens, allowing families to find nourishment and comfort in a

shared meal. Any age is allowed to volunteer so long as a parent is present.

Other opportunities include Family Ambassadors, Green Thumb Volunteers, House Refreshers, Home Improvement Volunteers, Meals from the Heart, Special Event Volunteers, and Family Program Volunteers.

The Family Program Volunteers provide special activities at the House such as baking, arts and crafts, yoga, massage, and much more.

Some ideas for fun activities to plan are baking cookies, plan a hot chocolate bar, drive-in movie theater with card-board boxes; etc.

The Ronald McDonald House provides a 'home away from home' to keep families together while their child is in the hospital. They allow families to eat, sleep and find the emotional support they need-just blocks from where their child is being treated.

