

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

--1 Peter 4:10

One of the most tangible ways for us to live out our faith commitments is to be of service to our communities and the world. From the moment God created human beings, God implored us to care for the world around us. The public ministry of Jesus Christ centers upon caring for a variety of persons with a multitude of needs.

Getting Started

- Know your community. Try drawing a map of the area and filling in as much detail as you can. Speak to community stakeholders (school staff and faculty, social service agency staff, municipal leaders, faith leaders) to find out what the people of your community need and how you can help.
- Figure out the gifts you bring as individuals and community. Do you have quilters? Persons who can do handiwork? Teachers? Match your gifts to community needs for the best long-term fit.
- Decide on a structure for your service. Would a week-long service trip be possible? Is one night a month of serving at a shelter better? Would you prefer to take on projects you can do at home or in small groups, like quilting or assembling care kits?
- Pray. This is a discernment process, and God wants to help you.

Have these conversations before you offer your help to an organization.

➡ Ready, Set, Serve

- Reach out to someplace that can use your help, using the work you've already done to determine the best fit.
- Try a shorter term commitment at first, until you know that it is a good fit. You can always set up a regular commitment.
- Pray before you engage in service, and spend some time in prayerful review afterward.

Be Invitational

- Once you have set up a regular commitment, invite others to join. They don't even have to be members of your church. People like to serve, and it can be a good entry point to your community.
- If you are doing a one-time event, like a service trip or a VBS for another community, invite others to join you—other churches or neighbors. Service is a great connector.

