

Lynn Bankard
2606 Tiara Strip
Peoria, IL 61607
P: 309-370-0797
E: lynnbankard@gmail.com

What Is Auxiliary Community Outreach?

SERVICE

It is all about SERVICE. Service work is **done by an Auxiliary member or Auxiliary as a group of people that benefits others.** It is often done near the area where you live, so your own community reaps the benefits of your work. You are not paid to perform community service but volunteer your time.

Community Outreach can help many different groups of people: children, senior citizens and people with disabilities, and even animals and the environment. **Community service is often organized through a local group**, such as a place of worship, school, or non-profit organization, but you can also start your own community service projects.

Many people participate in community service because **they enjoy helping others and improving their community.** Some students are required to do community service in order to graduate high school or to receive certain honors. Some adults are also ordered by a judge to complete a certain number of community service hours.

Also, remember, you **must** wear VFW Auxiliary attire when volunteering in the Outreach Program!

Let's remember...it is all about SERVICE. Volunteering yourself as a member or the Auxiliary as a group. Reporting the number of member participation and total number of hours. **NO monetary donations!**

Why Should We Participate in Community Outreach?

There are numerous benefits to participating in community service, both for the member and Auxiliary. Below are some benefits of volunteering:

- Gives you a way to help others
- Helps improve your community
- Can be a way to meet new friends
- Often results in personal growth
- Gives you a way to gain work experience and learn more about certain jobs



Community Outreach Examples

Refer to ideas below to get started with planning or participating in events, projects or programs within the community.

General Ideas

- Read books or letters to a person who is visually impaired
- Volunteer to help at a charity auction
- Contact a tree farm about donating Christmas trees to nursing homes, hospitals, or to families who can't afford to buy their own
- Collect unused makeup, perfume and personal care items to donate to a domestic violence shelter
- Help deliver meals and gifts to patients at a local hospital

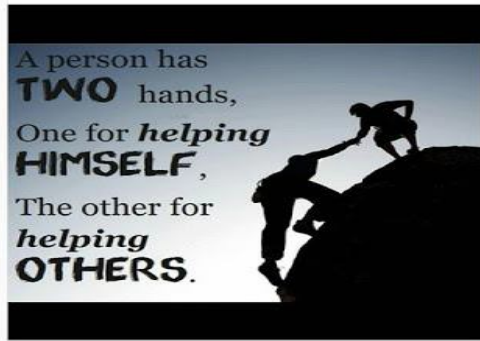
Helping Senior Citizens

- Read to residents at a nursing home
- Deliver groceries and meals to elderly neighbors
- Teach computer skills to the elderly
- Drive seniors to doctor appointments
- Mow an elderly neighbor's lawn
- Make birthday cards for the elderly
- Pick up medicine for an elderly neighbor
- Help elderly neighbors clean their homes and organize their belongings
- Rake leaves, shovel snow or wash windows for a senior citizen

Helping Animals and the Environment

- Take care of cats and dogs at an animal shelter
- Plant a tree for Arbor Day
- Grow flowers in your backyard; give bouquets to hospital patients or people who are homebound
- Participate in the cleanup of a local river, pond or lake
- Foster an animal





Helping the Hungry and/or Homeless

- Donate your old clothes
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen
- Donate old eyeglasses to an organization that collects and distributes them to people in need
- Donate blankets to a homeless shelter
- Make "care kits" with shampoo, toothbrushes, combs, etc. to donate to homeless shelters
- Prepare a home-cooked meal for the residents of a nearby homeless shelter
- Collect grocery coupons to give to a local food bank
- Help repair or paint a local homeless shelter
- Help organize and sort donations at a homeless shelter
- Bake a batch of cookies or loaf of bread and deliver it to a soup kitchen
- Make first aid kits for homeless shelters