



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

101 COMMUNITY IDEAS

So you want to change your community but you're not sure where to start? We know there are endless ways to do this, and that each community is different, but if you need a bit of inspiration we hope this helps. As with any community work, we'd encourage you to start by finding out what's already happening in your area and seeing how you can support and complement existing good work. Then see what's missing and ask yourself if you can fill the gap. Your local police officer is well worth talking to in researching the need in your local community.

YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

1. Battle of the bands
2. Run outdoor activities for youth in a local park over the summer
3. Toy exchange
4. Run a dad & kid's club
5. Hold a pre-school breakfast club
6. Organise an after-school homework club
7. Set up a mums and tots group
8. Host a parenting course
9. Set up training schemes for young people e.g. life skills, IT, CV writing
10. Offer practical help to lone parents
11. Collect baby equipment/toys to donate to new parents with limited resources
12. Hold an autism-friendly youth club with opportunity for 'carer coffee time'
13. Organise a free child tutor service
14. Set up an art class for children with special needs
15. Set up a detached youth team
16. Set up a help-out scheme for children and young adults with disabilities
17. Set up a volunteering service for local young people

ELDERLY

18. Organise a tea dance for elderly members of the community
19. Coffee and cake morning for the elderly
20. Sing at a local nursing home
21. Read letters & newspapers to residents at a local nursing home
22. Make phone visits with the elderly
23. Nursing home nail & beauty bar
24. Deliver meals to elderly residents
25. Become a dementia-friendly community
26. Organise a free transport service for those unable to drive
27. Support a hospital visiting team
28. Ironing service
29. Ask a local school to write letters for elderly residents
30. Offer computer servicing and assistance
31. Offer help with social media

ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURE

32. Clear up overgrown gardens
33. Clean up graffiti
34. Litter pick at your local park
35. Tree planting
36. Tidy up local allotments
37. Tidy up your local park
38. Paint local fences/gates
39. Clear up alleys or stairwells
40. Paint a mural
41. Set up a recycling unit
42. Set up a community vegetable garden
43. Clear up a fly-tipping location
44. Repair damage caused by vandalism
45. Start a 'friends of' for your local park
46. Offer transport and hands in moving large items to recycling centres

HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

47. Hand out care packages to homeless people
48. Open a soup kitchen

49. Make sandwiches for a local homeless shelter
50. Deliver essential food parcels
51. Offer breakfast, shower and laundry for homeless people
52. Speak to your local foodbank and see how you can help
53. Run a CV writing workshop to help people return to work
54. Host a Christmas dinner for the homeless

COMMUNITY BUILDING

55. Organise a day of kindness e.g. help out in shops, busking, giving out flowers
56. Gather local community groups to exhibit at a community fair
57. Free car wash
58. Hold a summer festival – hog roast, bouncy castle, market stall, crafts and music
59. Host a marriage course
60. Set up a 'time-bank' where people can offer services in exchange for hours back
61. Host a community BBQ
62. Hold a street party
63. Put on a street theatre production
64. Open a community shop e.g. second hand children's clothes
65. Produce a community newsletter
66. Set up a community radio
67. Offer to collect groceries for those unable to in the community
68. Regular community quiz night
69. Set up a book-exchange
70. Knit & natter group
71. Arrange to meet in a coffee shop and get to know your neighbours
72. Create a welcome pack for new residents to the community
73. Set up a 'Random Acts of Kindness' group
74. Organise a community treasure hunt
75. Organise a 'thank you' event for local volunteers
76. Plan a community cultural awareness day
77. Organise a community choir
78. Create a community website or Facebook page
79. Start a neighbourhood crime watch program
80. Turn a local café into a community games room for an afternoon each week
81. Carry out a survey in your area to see where the need is
82. Create a short film about what's already going on in your community
83. Set up a temporary 'street café' offering free food
84. Provide hot drinks to morning commuters
85. Set up a free cinema club
86. Organise a local photography exhibition of your community
87. Organise a basic car maintenance workshop

HEALTH & WELLBEING

88. Arrange a weekly ramble
89. Offer a healthy eating course
90. Health awareness campaign in partnership with a local GP surgery
91. Set up a transportation service to a local doctor's surgery
92. Provide soft or hot drinks outside nightclubs
93. Organise basic reading & writing classes for adults
94. Provide work placement or internship opportunities

SEASONAL

95. Wrap Christmas presents in the local shopping centre
96. Set up a collection point for a Christmas toy appeal
97. Host an Easter egg hunt for local disadvantaged children
98. Adopt a family at Christmas and buy gifts & toys for them
99. Organise a bonfire party
100. Hold a community carol concert
101. Decorate a community Christmas tree

We hope this list will inspire you to find small ways to make a big difference. However, once you've started small you'll be amazed how quickly you'll be encouraged to go even bigger.

These websites may also help stimulate your thinking ...

<http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/256566/Ideas.aspx>

<http://www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/resources/neighbours-book/>

http://www.ukyouth.org/change_squad.html

<http://www.ukyouth.org/programmes.html>

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/youth/index.aspx>

<http://www.40acts.org.uk/>

<http://www.sharethemiracle.org/>

http://www.energize.uk.net/pages/go_mad