

# November 2020

## Department of Georgia

### **VFW Auxiliary Community Outreach: 7 Ways to Participate**

It's time to "use your mind, hands, and feet" during this unprecedented time we are living in. Let's not use this time as an excuse because if we put our heads together, we can come up with a plan. Utilize the creative talents of your Auxiliary members to plan and present to the local Chamber of Commerce or other local organizations a project to be hosted jointly for community exposure and benefits.

There are numerous benefits to participating in a Community Outreach project, both for your members and/or your Auxiliary. **Below are some of the most important 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

Community Outreach is exactly what it sounds like: services that you do to benefit your community. Community Outreach can take a lot of different forms and working together we can do so much to help out our communities.

You might be wondering where to start,

- **Collect Things for Your Community:** If you look around your community, you'll probably find at least a few places that accept donations — like food pantries, family shelters, and schools, just to name a few. Certain shelters, fire departments, and foster parent organizations, welcome new or slightly used toys and stuffed animals. Whether you have a horde of Beanie Babies collecting dust in your closet, or you have some spare time to pick a bundle up, this is a quick and easy way to spread a little joy.
- **Do Things for Your Community:** Some of these take a few minutes, and others a bit longer, but they all help out in some way. Especially try pitching in to do tasks for neighbors who can't do them themselves, like folks who are ill,

elderly, or busy with work or childcare. **You may be able to host a coffee bar for teachers at school.**

- **Teach Things to Your Community:** We've all got things that we're good at, so why not share those skills with others? **You may be able to host lessons via a virtual platform.**
- **Fix Things in Your Community:** If you see a problem in your community, consider doing something about it! Sometimes the best service we can do to the places we love is to take care of them. **You may be able to organize a clean up campaign for your school, park, or your neighborhood.**
- **Host Things in Your Community:** Here's your chance to flex your event-planning muscles and put on something that will bring folks together. After all, the only thing better than community service is doing it with friends.
- **Make Things For Your Community:** There's something special about receiving a handmade gift, and we're sure there are plenty of people and places that would really appreciate it. **Make and send items to folks at elderly care facilities, family shelters, or hospitals to make their days a little brighter.**
- **Volunteer For Things in Your Community:** The cool thing about volunteering is that you can do it just about anywhere, so hopefully this gets you thinking.

I'm looking forward to hearing about what you're doing in your community and will share your ideas with all the Auxiliaries. Thank you for all you do to enhance the lives of our veterans, their families, and our communities. May your efforts bless all you serve.

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