



Colleen DeLisle's Making a Difference Newsletter

In this issue:

- Getting Involved
- Finding a Place to Start
- Opportunities in Your Community
- Steps to Completing a Project
- How to Start a Club

Getting Involved

It's easy to get involved. You can do it with your school by helping with a book fair or pancake breakfast or joining scouts or the student council. You can do it with your family by adopting a highway, doing a food drive through church or community, reading to little kids through a RIF site, working at a feeding site, or doing things at your church. You can do it with your friends by thinking of an idea & making posters or flyers. My newsletter will give you ideas on how to get started.

Finding a place to start

Q: What do you like?

A: Ask yourself this question. The answer could be little kids, animals, seniors, homeless people, outdoors, etc.

Q: How do I find a place to volunteer with what I like?

A: Go online & search for your topic & non profits or organizations in your community. Go to their website or call to see if there are places to volunteer. This will give you a list. You can also check with your school office, the phone book, or your local volunteer center.

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

— *Ralph Waldo Emerson*



Opportunities in Your Community

- ◇ Your Church or Community Center
- ◇ The Humane Society
- ◇ Volunteer Center
- ◇ Local Food Pantry or Food Bank
- ◇ Homeless or Domestic Violence Shelters
- ◇ Local Nursing Homes or Assisted Living Facilities

Call & Ask if they need for anything



RIF Reading is Fundamental:

Even small hands can help smaller ones.



Steps to Completing a Project

Find a topic that makes you feel like you want to help.

Identify a Need

Ask yourself "What can I do to meet the need?"

Talk to people who work on your topic for ideas

Gather friends & family who might like to help

You can advertise your project with Facebook or posters

Find people in the community who might donate items to your project

Present your idea to those people

Set a time to get together & make it happen

In 2011, I gathered a group of people from my community to work on a project. It started with an idea I had when my mom came back from Haiti after the earthquake.

My mom told me about the little girls in an orphanage who didn't have anything and it made me want to do something for them. I talked to my mom and came up with an idea for dresses.

I shared the idea with the director of a smaller kids' camp at my church and did a presentation for about 60 kids. I got everyone from camp to bring in pillow cases that we tie dyed the next day. We had over 100 pillow cases.

Then, I shared the idea with my grandma because she has a sewing club of about 20 senior ladies. Some friends came with me and the ladies helped us sew the pillow cases into dresses for the orphanage and a few pairs of shorts for the boys there.

After we made over 130 dresses, we shipped them to Haiti through Mercy Missions & Haiti's Children for the orphans. They looked pretty in the dresses.



Interact

How to Start a Club

When I started 6th grade, I wanted to do fun things with my friends. My school did not have a service club and I wanted a way to volunteer with friends. Here's what I did. You can do it, too.



- ◇ *DECIDE* what kind of club to start: service, robotics, sports, etc.
- ◇ *RESEARCH* to see if there are similar clubs at other schools or in the community; get info online or from the other schools
- ◇ *MEET* with the principal and present the idea; ask him/her to support it
- ◇ *FIND* a teacher interested in being an advisor for the club; it may take asking more than one teacher
- ◇ *RECRUIT* friends
- ◇ *PLAN* a date and agenda for the first meeting; snacks are always a good idea
- ◇ *ADVERTISE* by poster, school letter or announcement inviting others to join; make sure you explain what your club is all about

Have Fun!