

Stewardship

For Catholics, Stewardship is a way of life. We are called to live out our Baptismal promises, as disciples of Jesus! We reach out to those in need and offer a helping hand in our neighborhoods, schools, the church, hospitals, shelters, charitable organizations and the United States Military. Call or send an email to the places you have selected and ask them what they need. This will help you make the most of your Stewardship project. Remember to fill out Stewardship pages and send them to the Religious Education office as soon as they are completed. Here are some ideas to help you get started.

In our Neighborhoods:

- √ Participating in the town clean up or town flower planting
- √ Having a bake sale for the animal shelter
- √ Caring for the needs of the elderly:
 - Raking Leaves and helping with yard clean up
 - Shoveling snow on their walkway, sidewalk, driveway
 - Walking their dog
 - Caring for their pets while they are away
 - Running errands for them
 - Taking out their garbage and bringing the cans back in from the curb each week
 - Inviting them to your family meals or holiday events so they won't be lonely
 - Making meals for them once a week
 - Taking them to the grocery store and helping them shop

In our Schools:

- √ Participating as a volunteer for a fund raiser
- √ Being on safety patrol
- √ Helping the younger students during the lunch break or recess
- √ Volunteering to be a helper for a special event
- √ Home work help or study buddy for a younger student in the latchkey program

In our Church: www.churchofthesacredheart.net

- √ Participating as a volunteer during a fund raiser, concert or other special events
- √ Volunteering to be part of a serving or clean up committee on the Monthly International Dinners
- √ Volunteering to be part of a serving or clean up committee on the Lent Friday Fish Dinners
- √ Volunteering as a teacher's aide for Religious Education for the younger students
- √ Walking in the Crop Walk
- √ Volunteering to help with the Social Concerns Committee to organize food baskets,
- √ Food collection for the food pantry
- √ Participating in the clothing drive collection
- √ Cleaning the church or helping to distribute materials at Mass or at an event
- √ Helping to set up chairs for a program either in the church or in the school
- √ Helping with the Advent Giving Tree

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In Shelters or Organizations

- √ Volunteer at a food kitchen
- √ Participate or arrange a collection drive:
 - toiletries, toothpaste, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, new shoes, used clothing, new or gently used paperback books, coats, diapers for babies, baby clothing, snowsuits, mittens, hats, scarves, new toys, backpacks filled with school supplies
- √ Organize a fund raiser

Here is a list of places that might need and want your help. You can go to their website for contact information.

- ❖ The New Jersey Food Bank
- ❖ South Plainfield Food Pantry
- ❖ Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen
- ❖ The Center for Great Expectations
- ❖ Ozanam Family Shelter
- ❖ Ozanam Men's Shelter
- ❖ Plainfield Animal Shelter
- ❖ South Plainfield Senior Center
- ❖ Cedar Oaks Care Center
- ❖ Make-a-Wish Foundation of NJ
- ❖ Life Choices Resource Center in Metuchen

In Hospitals:

- √ Christmas activity stockings for children (no candy or food items)
- √ Hanukkah activity bags (no candy or food items)
- √ Write and send Get Well or Thinking of You cards to each child with a personal note or letter
- √ Games & Activity Collection:
 - ❖ board games, checkers, chess, mahjong, playing cards, trading cards, coloring book, crayons, DVD's, CD's, electronic games, arts & crafts supplies, paint or drawing pads.

In the United States Military:

The Wish List

WE ACCEPT DELIVERY OF ITEMS DURING THE FOLLOWING TIMES ONLY:
MARCH 1-MAY 5 for the Patriotic Drive
SEPTEMBER 13-DECEMBER 4 for the Holiday Drive

Provide items from the Wish List. Please provide new items only; shipping address below.

Knit Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Neck Gators, Beanie Babies, Webkinz or other Small Plush Toys, White Socks, Computer Flash Drives, DVDs and CDs, Video Games, Headsets (earpiece and microphone), WebCams,

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Energy Bars, Beef Jerky, commercially sealed Lip Balm, toothpaste, toothbrushes, roll-on deodorant, Prepaid Phone Cards, Travel-Size Board Games, Handheld electronic games, Bandana Coolers/Cool-Ties*, Mini-Battery-operated Fans, Hand and Foot Warmers, Single Serving Boxes of Cold Cereal, Individual Packets of Hot Cereal, Commercially wrapped individual packets of Trail Mix, Nuts, Energy Bars, Sunflower Seeds, Candy, Ready To Eat Tuna or Chicken Salad kits, Boxes of Girl Scout Cookies, Packets of Powdered Hot or Cold Beverages, Individual packets of moist towelettes, Travel Size containers of Foot Powder, Screen Printed T-Shirts, Baseball Style Caps, Gloves, Disposable Cameras, Holiday Greeting Cards (blank), Unsealed personal cards and letters, Used Cell Phones, Video Games and Systems, IPODs, PDAs, Ink-jet Cartridges

PLEASE NOTE: EXCEPT AS STATED IN THE ABOVE LIST, WE ONLY ACCEPT TOILETRIES FROM MANUFACTURERS. All items and letters can be shipped or delivered between September 8--December 5 and from March 1--May 5 to:

**Operation Gratitude/California Army National Guard
17330 Victory Boulevard
Van Nuys, California 91406
ATTN: Charlie Othold: 818.437.6201**

Your only shipping cost is in sending the items to Operation Gratitude. However, any contributions toward the cost of shipping the packages overseas would be greatly appreciated.

* Here's a great craft project for school, scout, social and community groups:

Knit/Crochet Scarves!! Feel free to use your own pattern or

contact us at: OpGrat@gmail.com or find details here: [Handmade Scarves and Hats](#)

We want to include a Knit/Crochet scarf in every Holiday Care Package (at least **60,000!**)--Please spread the word about this project. Encourage knitting groups, blogs and websites to support us!

Make Bandana Cool-Ties for our troops!

Follow this link for patterns and directions.

http://www.watersorb.com/polymer_cool_neck_bands.htm

Follow this link to buy the water-absorbing polymer granules needed for your Cool Ties:

<http://www.watersorb.com/mainstore.html>

Neck Warmers/"Gators" Directions:

Please see: <http://www.uberpest.com/gaiter.html>

Please use tan, brown, desert camouflage or other neutral colored cotton or material.