

# *Encouraging Those In Need*



## **Local Service Opportunities**

New Hope Church  
Small Group Ministry  
281-997-1900  
[smallgroups@mynewhope.org](mailto:smallgroups@mynewhope.org)

## *How To Choose The Right Project*

As you look over the local service opportunities it would be easy to get overwhelmed and say, "Where do I start?" Rather than throw a dart at the sheet to determine your choice, start by "**looking up, looking out** and **looking in.**"

**1) Look up** at how God has uniquely designed you and the members of your group. Some of us are made for outreach with kids, some with adults. God designed some of us as hammer and nail folks and others as lap top and cell phone folks.

*"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10*

When we consider our God-given design the Lord helps us see the plans of His intention for our lives.

**2) Look out** at the human need all around you. Your group won't have to look far. There are neighbors in your block who need a touch of kindness, there are co-workers who could use a hand, and there are folks throughout the city who need help in some way. Who are the people around you that can be served?

*"When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord to send workers into his harvest field.'"*  
Matthew 9:36-37

When we consider the human needs that are all around us, God brings focus to our efforts.

**3) Look in** at your own willingness to answer God's call. It's one thing to find a service opportunity, it's another thing to follow through and serve. Don't let fear, indifference, procrastination, your busy schedule, or anything keep you from reaching beyond yourself.

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord say, 'Whom shall I send and who shall go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I send me.'" Isaiah 6:8-9*

Saying "yes" to God may involve saying "no" to a few things that presently dominate our time and energy. But that's where "knowing Christ and making Him known" begins.

John Davis

Pastor of Spiritual Formation

### *Service project ideas:*

Service projects can range from low skill with minimum time commitments to high skill with major time commitments.

#### Low Skills / Minimum Time

- Send encouragement letters or thank you cards
- Spend one Saturday morning sorting food at the Houston Food Bank
- Sponsor a missionary, college student, or child

#### Moderate Skills / Moderate Time

- Provide child-care to couples living in your area on a Friday night
- Plan a clothing / school supply / food drive for Star of Hope
- Visit an assisted living center (plan a craft or organize a game)

#### High Skills / Major Time

- Do home repairs with PSI Home Savers
- Drive a route for Meals on Wheels
- Tutor children / answer a crisis hotline / provide employment counseling

### *Service tips:*

When on site of a service location, it is important to remember the following tips. You may be in a situation that is unfamiliar and uncomfortable so keep the following tips in mind.

- Be humble: Service is about putting other's ahead of myself
- Be sensitive: Not everyone's life situation is the same
- Be respectful: Treat others the way you would want to be treated
- Be courteous: Serve with gentleness, compassion, and kindness
- Be yourself: God uses each of us just as we are
- Be discreet: Many may be embarrassed to receive help from others
- Be gracious: Accept gifts with a thankful heart

### *11 steps to plan a successful service project:*

To ensure success, follow the steps below for your next service project.

1. Start with prayer
2. Discuss the importance of serving others as a group or family
3. Begin planning 6 - 8 weeks in advance
4. Narrow your focus to 2 or 3 projects from which to choose
5. Stay within the abilities and schedule of yourself, group, or family
6. Select a lead person to research and organize the details of the project
7. Set a date (one that works for the majority of the group)
8. Carve out time during dinner or group meetings for project updates
9. Get family or group members involved with different pieces of the project
10. Have fun and take lots of pictures the day of the project
11. Debrief the project with your family or group at the next gathering

# Habitat for Humanity of the Bay Area

Habitat Bay Area helps people in need to build and renovate decent, affordable housing. The houses are sold to those in need at no profit and with no interest charged.

## Opportunities to serve:

- Volunteer on building sites, help construct homes for families in need
- Help with the selection process of partner families
- Nurturing of selected partner families
- Public Relations
- Church Relations

To volunteer for construction projects call: 281.337.3590

For more information visit: [www.bahbh.org](http://www.bahbh.org)

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# Bay Area Turning Point

Bay Area Turning Point empowers survivors of family violence, sexual assault and displacement by providing crisis intervention, shelter, and promoting education and awareness within the community.

## Opportunities to serve:

- Provide childcare, housework, landscaping
- Host a shelter shower
- Answer the hotline
- Provide limited transportation
- Assist in advocacy for residents
- Help with children's services

To volunteer call: 281.286.2525

For more information visit: [www.bayareaturningpoint.org](http://www.bayareaturningpoint.org)

## **Boys and Girls Harbor**

Licensed by the state of Texas Department of Human Services, Boys and Girls Harbor is a charitable, long-term care facility for abused, abandoned, and neglected children ages five through eighteen.

### **Opportunities to serve:**

- Tutor children during the school year
- Tutor children during summer reading program
- Organize the library
- Teach computer skills
- General maintenance of building and grounds
- Plant flowers, trim trees, repair fences

To volunteer call: 713.688.6262

For more information visit: [www.boysandgirlsharbor.com](http://www.boysandgirlsharbor.com)

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## **Casa de Esperanza**

Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos – the House of Hope for Children- is a safe place for children in crisis due to abuse, neglect or the effects of the AIDS virus. Casa de Esperanza provides residential, medical and psychological care according to the needs of each child.

### **Opportunities to serve:**

- Yard clean up
- Major or minor landscaping
- Painting or small repairs
- Re-roofing, remodeling, interior or exterior painting of shelters
- Building playgrounds, decks or fences
- Diaper, paper product or food drives

To volunteer call: 713.529.0639

For more information visit: [www.casahope.org](http://www.casahope.org)

# Christian Helping Hands

Christian Helping Hands offers food assistance and minimum financial assistance to needy families in the Pearland, Friendswood, and Manvel area.

## **Opportunities to serve:**

- Light mowing and weed pulling around the facilities
- Donations to food pantry (money donations welcome)
- Organize the food pantry
- Easter basket project
- Christmas gift project

To volunteer call: 281.485.9776

For more information visit: [www.christianhelpinghands.org](http://www.christianhelpinghands.org)

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# The Christian Renewal Center

For 36 years the Christian Renewal Center has maintained a sacred place for individuals and groups to come and reflect on the quality of their life and their relationship with God.

## **Opportunities to serve:**

- Help with maintaining the finished nature trail
- Answering phones, office work and mailings
- Kitchen set-up/clean-up for retreat groups

To volunteer call: 281.377.1312

For more information visit: [www.retreatcentercrc.org](http://www.retreatcentercrc.org)

## **Communities in Schools**

CIS works with the school districts to give selected schools, students and families academic and support services. CIS staff work with the community to provide tutoring, enrichment activities, parental outreach, health and human service referrals, pre-employment or employment skills training, and individual or group supportive guidance.

### **Opportunities to serve:**

Provide homework and study help for kids.  
Help with all above mentioned aspects of the program.

For more information visit: [www.cisnet.org](http://www.cisnet.org)

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## **Bay Area Crisis Hotline**

The Crisis Hotline is a telephone counseling service offered free of charge to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It offers the public an anonymous outlet to voice frustrations with life circumstances and has proven to be a critical first line defense to averting suicide and domestic violence.

### **Opportunities to serve:**

Telephone volunteer  
Help survivors of suicide through their grief  
Motivate, educate, outreach through interacting with the community

To volunteer call: 713.533.4513

For more information visit: [www.crisishotline.org](http://www.crisishotline.org)

## **DePelchin Children's Center**

DePelchin Children's Center provides a broad-based program of services to children and families in the Houston area. Programs are designed primarily to meet the needs of individuals and families in crisis.

### **Opportunities to serve:**

- Organize an outing for the children
- Serve a meal
- Host a Party
- Painting and landscaping
- Help receive and sort gifts during the Holiday season

To volunteer call: 713.730.2335

For more information visit: [www.depelchin.org](http://www.depelchin.org)

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## **Friendship Haven**

Friendship Haven in Friendswood provides a total care and living facility for the elderly.

### **Opportunities to serve:**

- Reading to the residents
- Organizing arts and crafts projects
- Playing games
- Taking the residents on walks
- Giving the residents Manicures and Pedicures

To volunteer call: 281.992.4300

For more information visit: [www.friendshiphaven.com](http://www.friendshiphaven.com)

# Hope Village

Hope Village is a residential and day care facility for children and adults with mental disabilities.

## Opportunities to serve:

Help in the gift shop

Help on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:00am – 2:30pm in the Tea Room Restaurant

Help in the workshop to paint and prepare ceramics

To volunteer call: 281.482.7926

For more information visit: [www.hope-village.net](http://www.hope-village.net)

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# Houston Area Women's Center

The Houston Area Women's Center provides counseling, assistance, and temporary shelter to victims of family violence and sexual assault.

## Opportunities to serve:

Provide shoe and diaper donations

Transportation

Answer the crisis hotline

Help with Children's programs

Shelter assistance

Sexual assault response member

Maintenance

Work at the resale shop or pick up donations

To volunteer call: 713.528.6798

For more information visit: [www.hawc.org](http://www.hawc.org)

# The Houston Food Bank

Helping feed the hungry. The Houston Food Bank distributes over 27 million pounds of nutritious food each year. Helping 200,000 people in need each month. Serving 400 Hunger relief programs in an 18 county service area. The Houston Food Bank offers food pantry programs, shelters for the homeless, safe havens for the battered an abused and nutrition sites for kids and the elderly.

## Opportunities to serve:

- Product Recovery
- Repack Room
- Order Puller
- Family Boxes

To volunteer call: 713.547.8609

For more information visit: [www.houstonfoodbank.org](http://www.houstonfoodbank.org)

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# Interfaith Caring Ministries

Interfaith Caring Ministries in Clear Lake helps people in crisis and facilitates their path to self-sufficiency through a variety of programs, employment services, food pantry assistance and community technology services. ICM also maintains a resale shop to help fund their community programs.

## Opportunities to serve:

- Help with Client interviews
- Provide employment counseling
- Help in the food pantry
- Sort resale items
- Straighten the shop
- Price merchandise and put items out for display

To volunteer call: 281.332.3881

For more information visit: [www.icmtx.org](http://www.icmtx.org)

## **Bay Area Meals on Wheels**

Bay Area Meals on Wheels delivers meals to the homebound from Christus St. John Hospital, Nassau Bay, Texas Monday through Friday.

### **Opportunities to Serve:**

- Drive a route once or more times per week.
- Substitute as needed for driving or other duties.
- Serve as a program coordinator with routes, scheduling or outreach.
- Help in administrative duties for the organization.

To volunteer call: 281.486.1491

For more information visit [www.ghgcorp.com/beyer/mealsonwheels.htm](http://www.ghgcorp.com/beyer/mealsonwheels.htm)

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## **Project Linus**

Project Linus provides new blankets to comfort children and teens who are hospitalized in Greater Houston.

### **Opportunities to serve:**

- Volunteers are needed to make and donate blankets suitable for boys and girls of all ages. Simply make a blanket and donate it to your local chapter of Project Linus and your blanket will be given to a child in need. Single layer fleece blankets are popular but all blankets are welcome.
- Collect and donate fabric and yarn for others to make blankets

To donate blankets call: Sally @ 281.492.2679

For more information visit: [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org)

## **PSI HomeSavers**

PSI HomeSavers directs the delivery of essential repairs to houses owned and occupied by low-income, elder or disabled Houstonians at no cost to them. These repairs correct life, health, and safety hazards, and restore deteriorating exteriors. Projects are available in April and October.

### **Opportunities to serve:**

- Scraping and Painting
- Siding Replacement
- Window Repairs
- Caulking
- Ramps

To volunteer call: 713.659.2511

For more information visit: [www.psihomesavers.org](http://www.psihomesavers.org)

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## **Ronald McDonald House Galveston**

The Ronald McDonald House of Galveston is a home away from home for the families of children who are hospitalized for the treatment of serious and long-term illnesses. The house is more than a place to stay; as an alternative to an isolated hotel room, the families and children enjoy cheerful surroundings and the support of other families.

### **Opportunities to serve:**

- Prepare a meal for the families
- Play Bingo with the families
- Clean out the storage room
- Paint the business annex
- Help with Spring Cleaning

To volunteer call: 1.409.762.0609

For more information visit: [www.rmhgalveston.org](http://www.rmhgalveston.org)

## **Star of Hope Mission**

A Christ centered organization, the Star of Hope ministers to more than 900 men, women and children every day with food, clothing, shelter, Christian care and structured recovery programs.

### **Opportunities to serve:**

- Movie night volunteers
- Holiday meal volunteers
- Kitchen volunteer groups
- Clothing room volunteers
- Storehouse volunteers
- Christmas Workshop Volunteers

To volunteer call: 713.440.5322

For more information visit: [www.sohmission.org](http://www.sohmission.org)

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## **Pearland Neighborhood Center**

A United Way distributor, the Pearland Neighborhood Center reaches out to serve needy families in the Pearland area. Services include a food pantry, baby pantry, computer access, medical information, and family counseling referrals.

### **Opportunities to serve:**

- Donate items to the baby pantry
- Food pantry donations and shifting stock
- Yard work around the PNC campus
- Santa's Helpers - gift drop off
- Sponsor a Family for the holidays

To volunteer call: 281.485.1987

For more information email: [pnc1987@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pnc1987@sbcglobal.net)