

Mrs. Swetkowski's Counselor Corner

Parents have opportunities to engage their children in a variety of service projects within our own community! Quality, community-based service-learning is likely to benefit children in a number of ways.

- Providing short or long term service to others helps children develop empathy.
- It assists children in growing up healthy, caring, and responsible.
- Young people learn that they can impact real social challenges, problems, and needs.
- Service-learning enhances problem-solving skills, ability to work in teams, and planning abilities.

Here are some suggestions for ways you can involve your child in service projects outside of school:

Scouts: Boy and Girl scouts regularly engage in service projects. No open troop at your school? Consider volunteering as a scout leader. By participating in service themselves, parents model that they value working with others in a meaningful way.

Local Churches and Synagogues: Many of these provide service directly to the local community through projects similar to meals on wheels, food and clothes closets and visits to the elderly or homebound citizen. Contact one to see how you and your child may serve.

Donate gently used clothing, toys and books to community organizations: Encourage child to donate clothing, toys or books they are no longer using to local community organizations.

Young people are more likely to stay engaged with service-learning when they feel their participation is meaningful and that they can make useful contributions through their service.