

Ten Ways to Make a Difference

- Take part in the national Make a Difference Day on Oct. 24. Organize a day of fun for needy kids, make care packages for wounded soldiers, create a garden, and more.
- Hold a food drive. Set up a drop box at your workplace, church or community center, post flyers and donate the collected items to a local food pantry or soup kitchen.
- Collect clothes, toys or food for a battered women's shelter. Buy back-to-school supplies for families who can't afford them.
- Not into long-term commitments? Pick up the litter in your neighborhood, in a nearby park or along the side of a road. Clean out your closet and give unneeded clothes to an agency that helps the homeless.
- Do chores, yard work or home repairs for an elderly or disabled neighbor. Offer to run an errand or drive them to the store.
- Contact a local agency that deals with issues important to you – helping the homeless, mentoring youth, delivering meals, etc. – and ask how you can get involved.
- Walk dogs or help socialize cats at your local animal shelter. Ask what supplies they need and solicit donations in front of a local pet store.
- Use your personal or professional skills to help someone else. Show someone how to write a business letter, fix their car, throw a ball, do a construction project, improve their computer skills, organize a closet, etc.
- Looking for something you can do from home? Make a friendly "visit" via phone to a homebound senior, make edits to a nonprofit's website, or create a video using your home computer to get the word out about a cause.
- Do something simple and unexpected. Say hello or hold the door for a stranger, invite a friend for a home-cooked meal, write a letter to someone who has suffered a loss, pay someone a compliment, listen to someone talk about a problem.

Not sure where to start?

Call The Volunteer Center of United Way at (914) 948-4452 or visit www.volunteer-center.org.



Andrew J. Spano, Westchester County Executive
County Board of Legislators

