

Suggested Community Service & Philanthropic Events

BBQ/Cookout – Plan a barbecue at a local park and charge a set fee for participation. Outdoor games, a chili cook-off, and raffle prizes can add to the fun.

Black Tie Affair – Plan a formal evening to raise funds for a particular charity. Set a date, decide on a location and determine a per-person or per-table ticket price appropriate to the menu and entertainment that will be provided and justify the premium – remind everyone that the proceeds go to charity and a portion of their ticket will be tax deductible. If possible, include local celebrities to increase interest in the event.

Build a Home/Habitat for Humanity – Contact a building contractor who would be willing to build a home with the help of other contractors and volunteers. Find craftsmen and vendors in the community who would be willing to donate their time and skills in building the home, and organize volunteer efforts for additional labor. Profits from the sale of the home would go to your local charity. If this is too complicated, but you want to give the brothers a great team building and service project, Habitat is a great way to do so. www.habitat.org.

Car Wash – Select a location and time that will offer significant public exposure. To enhance interest, invite mascots from local schools, popular radio DJs, or other identifiable community figures to participate. Be prepared with a rain date just in case.

Casino Night – Set up an adults-only event in which associates or customers pay a fee to play poker, blackjack, roulette, and other games with fake money. Determine prizes beforehand and arrange for refreshments. (Be sure to check local regulations beforehand to ensure compliance with city codes.)

Country Dance – Sponsor a country-style dance to help local kids. Charge an entrance fee and encourage participants to wear country-western attire. This could be a great event after a local fair or rodeo.

Sock Hop – Sponsor a sock hop to benefit your favorite charity. Hold the event at a local dance hall, gym or other large facility. Have competitions among the brothers about who can sell the most tickets. Refreshments, dress-up contests and door prizes can add to the fun.

Sports Tournaments – Tournaments can be a round robin free for all open to everyone in the community, and intramural event, or another format. Set up a traditional-style tournament such as golf, bowling, or basketball complete with an entry fee, teams, and prizes. Or, select a less traditional tournament such as broom hockey, ultimate Frisbee, or fishing.

Walk-a-thon – Have participants obtain pledges for donations based on how far they walk during the event. Walkers will travel along a predetermined route manned by volunteers who verify mileage at certain checkpoints. Walkers then collect donations for each mile walked. For a more unusual event, try a bike-a-thon, a bowl-a-thon, a ski-a-thon, a read-a-thon or a skate-a-thon instead. Many charities organize these events, so rather than start from scratch, the entire can participate as an event sponsor and focus all of their energies in raising funds. Those brothers not walking can volunteer to run the event.

Raffles/Chance Giveaways – Conduct raffles or 50-50 chance giveaways at large social and athletic events. Solicit donations from vendors and local businesses to use as prizes. These can be done in conjunction with other events very easily.

Breakfast with Santa – Sponsor a seasonal community breakfast and photo session where children can spend time with brothers dressed up as Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, etc.

Christmas Tree Festival – Have community groups or other local businesses donate decorated Christmas trees, wreaths and other holiday decorations to sell. Display the trees in a public hall on specified days and support the event with holiday music, food booths and other vendor items to create a festive boutique atmosphere.

Egg Hunt/Cake Walk – Sponsor an Easter egg hunt or cake walk for local children and the community.

Second Harvest - Second Harvest is the Nation’s Food Bank Network and is the nation’s largest charitable hunger-relief organization with a network of more than 200 regional member food banks and food rescue programs. www.secondharvest.org

Additional Community Service Project Ideas

Aside from the aforementioned events, there are literally hundreds of opportunities for service in every community. The list below from Project America provides some suggested service projects:

- Scrub and paint a public school
- Visit a veteran’s home
- Tutor people with mental illnesses
- Work with an adult literacy program
- Take flowers to a senior citizen’s home
- Do yard work for the elderly, disabled, or your neighbors
- Serve lunch at a soup kitchen
- Read to a child
- Volunteer at a clinic for individuals with eating disorders
- Build a playground for people with physical challenges
- Assist in the counseling of substance abusers
- Visit and help terminally ill medical patients
- Plant trees in a local park
- Be a tutor for an English as Second Language (ESL) program
- Be a storyteller for a local library
- Spend time with teens in the local juvenile detention center
- Help those in need prepare their tax returns
- Have a community gardening party for elderly citizens
- Help a person study for and attain his/her GED
- Be a lunch buddy to an elementary age kid
- Coach a youth recreation team
- Be a Big Brother
- Read to the blind
- Build a relationship with an orphaned child
- Mentor a high school/college student
- Help an expecting mother prepare for the new arrival
- Help rehabilitate an injury victim
- Help counsel a delinquent child
- Volunteer for your local neighborhood watch
- Beautify a historic local landmark
- Make and hand out sandwiches to the homeless
- Be a coach for the Special Olympics

- Work at a pediatric ward with newborns
- Visit a homebound individual
- Play cards with the elderly
- Clean up a highway
- Paint a neighborhood playground
- Start a healthy school lunch program
- Help insure that the school zone is drug-free
- Initiate an after-school program providing a safe, drug-free environment for kids
- Be a community mediator for domestic disputes
- Work with a Head Start program
- Design new recreational activities at the local YMCA
- Help screen donors at a blood drive
- Be a transport in an emergency room
- Get involved in a recycling program
- Help sort and tag clothes at the Salvation Army
- Build a playground
- Answer phones at a rape crisis center
- Collect toys for families who lost homes in fires or flood
- Clean up your neighborhood or campus
- Paint over graffiti
- Clean a park or hiking trail
- Make pans of lasagna for a homeless shelter
- Recycle cans and give profits to a community organization
- Develop a community workshop on computer use
- Build and fill shelves at a food bank
- Volunteer at an animal shelter
- Beautify a shelter for battered women
- Plan a prom for youths with disabilities
- Help renovate a local shelter
- Build a wheelchair ramp for an elderly or disabled person
- Fix up a local nursing home, library, or school
- Pick up trash on a beach
- Volunteer at the local United Way/United Fund
- Organize a book, clothing, or food drive
- Serve on a neighborhood board or committee
- Provide transportation for a nursing home
- Work with a crisis hot line
- Answer phones at a non-profit organization
- Be a reader at a library
- Teach art projects at an elementary school
- Be a speaker and advocate for the disabled
- Organize a penny drive
- Environmental avocation and endorsement
- Work for or assist with a literacy campaign
- Serve as a mentor
- Raise money to buy books for a local library