

Your action can make a difference

May 2015 Newsletter



Want to make an impact or “change the world”? You can start right in your own community.

Are you the next mayor or council member?

Not everyone wants a seat on the board. But most of us can think of some things we’d like to change in our hometowns or cities.

Whether you have a great idea or a gripe, visit your town or city hall and ask about the protocols for change. Find out what departments handle what issues. Learn the names of people in charge. Get more informed about the channels of change where you live.

Attend local council meetings to hear about the needs of your community. You may be surprised to learn that your pet project is already in the works. Or you may find out you can help in other areas.

Why wait for someone else to do it? Take action.

We all have hectic lives these days. Yet it can pay off to set aside some time in your busy schedule to make an impact on your community.

Aside from town or city affairs, you can also ask about volunteer opportunities at places like:

- **Libraries.** Many libraries have learning programs for children and adults of all ages. And you don’t have to be a librarian to help. You may be able to use your reading, organizational or clerical skills to assist at a library near you.

- **Schools.** Schools often rely on volunteers to perform many different functions. From lunchroom aides to crossing guards, help is needed. You may even find training programs so you can participate in reading programs for students, become a mentor or help with afterschool activities.
- **Older adult sites.** Nursing homes and senior citizen centers often look for extra hands. You may be able to assist with serving lunches, delivering meals to the homebound, reading to the elderly, doing errands and other tasks.
- **Parks and recreation.** Go to town recreation meetings. You’ll learn how to help and meet people with similar interests, too. Parks often need volunteers to help with upkeep and cleanliness. You can also help with events like craft or garden shows, concerts, intramural sports and more.
- **Hospitals, animal shelters and emergency squads.** Check out ways to help provide hands-on service to your fellow citizens and our creature citizens, too.

Use your special skills and learn new ones

Think about things that interest you. How might your skills improve your community?

You really can make a difference. Try these websites for more ideas on volunteering:

- **www.dosomething.org** — Lists categories of your favorite causes
- **www.getinvolved.gov** — Suggests ideas geared toward adults of all ages
- **www.volunteermatch.org** — Matches volunteers and recruiters based on interests