

Turn your hope into action



Most of us can think of some things we'd like to change in our neighborhoods, towns or cities. Whether you have a great idea or a gripe, you can learn about the channels of change where you live. You might:

- Visit your town or city hall.
- Find out what departments handle what issues.
- Get to know the people in charge.
- Attend local council meetings to hear about the social, economic, environmental and other needs of your community.

You may be surprised to learn your pet project is already in the works. Or you may find out you can help in other areas.

Make change by volunteering

Another way to be a change agent is to volunteer. Willing hands are almost always welcome in places like:

- **Libraries.** You may be able to use your reading, organizational or clerical skills to assist at a library near you.

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- **Schools.** From lunchroom aides to crossing guards, help is needed. You may even be able to participate in reading programs for students, become a mentor or help with afterschool activities.
- **Older adult sites.** You may be able deliver meals to people who are homebound, read to older adults or do errands.
- **Parks.** You can often help with upkeep as well as events like craft or garden shows, concerts, intramural sports and more.

Why wait for someone else to do it?

What hopes do you have for yourself and your community? Which of your interests could you translate into action? How might your skills improve your community? Go for it!