

Confirmation Service Ideas/Examples

The following service projects were done by Confirmandi in the previous years and can be adapted for the restrictions we have due to the pandemic:

- mentoring younger children at the local school, religious education class, library, Special Olympics (**can be done at home with a sibling or family member over Facetime**)
- visiting elderly in hospitals or retirement communities (The Evergreens or Virtua Rehabilitation Center) or helping an elderly neighbor or family member (**make cards or inspiring posters for patients in retirement communities or rehabilitation care or help rake leaves for an elderly neighbor or grandparent or Facetime family members who are shut in**)
- organizing a clothing drive or food drive (**use texts, phone calls or Facebook**) for items to be collected and then donated to an organization (Good Counsel Homes, St. Vincent de Paul, Christine's Hope for Kids, Burlington County Animal Shelter, First Way, Code Blue Shelter)
- preparing food and dropping the meal off to the Ronald McDonald House, TASK (Trenton Area Soup Kitchen) or a neighbor going through a difficult time due to an illness or death in the family
- working on projects at home to help organizations like Cozies 4 Chemo, Hug Wraps, Newborns in Need or Samaritan Hospice

Rewarding experiences have been shared with us and we hope you are inspired, too:

"The best parts of my service was to serve the elderly and listen to them....I learned that comforting is very important. I comforted elderly just like how Jesus comfort others." LC

"My favorite part of my activity was cheering the athletes with disabilities. I say that because I really enjoyed seeing the athletes with disabilities laugh and look happy. I enjoyed that because of giving them my time, they had a smile on their face." GM

"Jesus always thought about others before himself. As an American teenager, sometimes I am selfish, self-centered, and don't think about others as often as I should. These volunteer experiences helped me to think and do for others." IH

"Seeing their faces so happy and thankful, made me happy. The most difficult part was seeing how much people needed help. " NS

"Jesus made sure that everybody had faith and trusted in him. By giving all these supplies for the children, I am hoping that they will have hope in Jesus and that their mothers may believe as well. Jesus also supplied others with what they needed , whether it be spiritually or physically. I hope that by giving these children what they needed, the mothers would understand that people still care for them and pray for them every day." CC

"During our visit to TASK, I witnessed many people in need and who are struggling. Many of them have no job, family or home. It makes me realize how grateful I am for my family and home." CF

Finding Ways to Serve

Here are just a few organizations that offer ideas and opportunities for service.

****Please note: Contact with any organization should be done by a parent**:**

- † Good Counsel Homes – Mary’s Missionaries - commit to a form of prayer for the babies and moms at the Good Counsel Homes
<https://www.goodcounselhomes.org/how-to-help/marys-missionaries>
- † Friends of the Burlington County Animal Shelter – ideas to be able to help the animals in the shelter <http://friendsofbcas.org/ways-help/how-kids-can-help>
- † Newborns in Need – craft at home and make something for the babies or organize a drive to collect for their wish list <http://www.newbornsinneed.org/volunteer/>
- † Alex's Lemonade Stand - #3 hold a virtual Birthday party
<https://www.alexslimonade.org/campaign/kids-corner/how-kids-are-helping>
- † Cozies 4 Chemo – make and donate a blanket for a cancer patient (check to see if they are now accepting) <http://cozies4chemo.org/get-involved.html>
- † Samaritan Hospice – make clay hearts to bring comfort to families losing a loved one – note that Samaritan offices has moved to 3906 Church Road, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
Phone: (855) 337-2808
https://volunteer.unitedforimpact.org/need/detail/?need_id=323227
- † Ronald McDonald House of South Jersey – they still need help feeding families
<https://ronaldhouse-snj.org/get-involved/volunteer/meals-activities/>
- † Volunteer Center of Burlington County (Opportunities for Youth) – find volunteer opportunities here: <http://bcopportunities.wordpress.com/tag/teens/>

If you know of any organizations not listed here which offer opportunities for youth volunteering, please contact us in the office at 609-267-6319 - we would love to add to this list!

** Please see the reverse for important notes on service **

Important Notes Regarding Service

Volunteering with the St. Vincent de Paul Society -

Each year we have many families inquiring about children serving with the SVDP Society for Confirmation service. Please note that, due to the needs of the SVDP Society, volunteers must be committed to regular, ongoing service; as such, unless a family is committed to this (children must have an adult present in order to volunteer in the pantry), it is best for a child to offer his or her service in another way.

Other ways to contribute -

If there is an organization with which your child would like to volunteer but cannot due to age restrictions, encourage him or her to be creative and find other ways to support the work of that organization. For example, even if you are unable to make the necessary commitment to be a St. Vincent de Paul volunteer, you could hold a bake sale or canned food drive to raise money for the SVDP food pantry.