

Serving Back Home: Getting Started

At YouthWorks, we spend a lot of time getting to know community members as we set up meaningful service opportunities. We encourage you to find places in your own community to serve and to spend time building similar partnerships. Sometimes it can be hard to find these places to serve or know where to start. Here are some ideas about how you can serve and some things to keep in mind as you set up partnerships in your own community.

Ideas of Ways to Serve:

- Volunteer at a food or clothing bank
- Do manual labor or hands-on projects
- Visit senior centers
- Serve with Boys and Girls Club
- Partner with community beautification projects
- Volunteer at church
- Volunteer at an after-school program

Once you find a place to serve keep these things in mind:

- Get to know the staff of the organization.
- Understand their mission and vision. Take time to hear the story and history of their organization. Ask questions to help you understand their role in the community. Know and respect any rules, policies or procedures.
- Ask what you will be doing so you can set yourself up well for what to wear, bring, expect, etc.
- Clarify expectations/details. When will you be serving? Who will be your contact person?