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Get Involved in Your Community and Elsewhere Using This Guide

How can you serve your community best? HelpGuide notes that getting involved, even in a seemingly small way, [can help boost your self-esteem](#) while creating lasting friendships with your neighbors, and there are so many options to choose from no matter how much free time you have to give. Whether you want to help members of your community who are living with food scarcity or give your time to a local charity, there are lots of ways you can make a difference. [Southern Oregon PBS](#) outlines just a few ways you can lead the way and help your friends and neighbors build a better life.

Start a nonprofit

[Nonprofit organizations help a variety of people](#) through a number of causes, including building housing for homeless individuals, creating safe spaces for women and children, and raising money for cancer research. How you choose to run your nonprofit is up to you, but it's a good idea to do some research in your neighborhood in order to find out what the community needs most. You can also take steps to protect your organization by forming an LLC, but you'll want to ensure that your state allows nonprofits to form limited liability companies first. [Read up on the](#)

[steps](#) involved and whether your organization can benefit from everything an LLC has to offer, and be sure to [read the reviews](#) of the best formation services available.

Go back to school

If you're not quite ready to start your own business but still want to contribute to your community in a big way, consider going back to school to earn a degree in a medical or law field. Happier Human points out that this is [a great way to serve people](#) who live in your area, and you can do it on your own time with an online degree that allows you to work from home. Eventually, you might decide to move to a new city or even abroad, and having an advanced degree will allow you to make a difference no matter where you choose to live.

Donate

Looking for a smaller-but-still-impactful way to make a difference? Look online for [organizations that need your help](#). You can donate your time, your energy, or your money to those places that dedicate their resources to helping others. Help provide clean water or food to those in need, [volunteer to assist with cleanup efforts](#) after a natural disaster, gather donations of cash to build a local rec center, or simply take clothing, furniture, and other items that you no longer want to your local Goodwill or Salvation Army location. Do a little reading on the best places to give to; legitimate organizations will provide detailed information on their websites regarding how and when donations will be utilized.

Serve seniors

Aging members of our communities often need help with things like lawn care, grocery shopping, or shoveling snow; sometimes, all they need is a sympathetic ear. These are [services you can provide](#) all throughout the year rather than once in a while, and they will always be appreciated. If there are no seniors in your neighborhood, look up information about a local senior care facility and find out if they need donations of things like personal care items. You can also send a handwritten card to a random resident and make their day a little brighter.

Serving others is a wonderful way to make a difference, and there are so many ways to get involved that you can easily choose activities that work with your schedule. Do some research before joining or supporting any organizations, and check into what it takes to form an LLC and start a nonprofit. This will help to prevent issues down the road.

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