

25 Ways to Give Back With Kids

1. Make a giving box. Collect loose change throughout the year and donate it to a local charity. (See below)
2. Form a family team and participate in the March of Dimes Walk for Babies – www.marchofdimes.com
3. Feed carrots to horses at the Mill Creek Farm Retirement Home for Horses – www.millcreekfarm.org
4. Collect gently used shoes to donate to families in need – www.awimshoes.com
5. Make no-sew blankets for kids in need – www.projectlinus.org
6. Host an exchange student for the summer – www.faces1.com
7. Collect non-perishable food and donate it hungry families www.food4kidsweekendbackpackprogram.com
8. Host a lemonade stand and give the proceeds to charity – www.alexlemonade.org
9. Go on a trash walk and clean up a local park – www.cityofgainesville.org
10. Cook a meal or sweet treats for the Ronald McDonald House – www.rmhgainesville.org
11. Play the Free Rice game at www.freerice.com
12. Pick flowers, put them in jars and take them to a local senior center like [The Atrium](#)
13. Put together a birthday bag for a child living in a shelter – www.cheerfulgivers.org
14. Send a letter to a soldier – www.amillionthanks.org
15. Collect and turn in your box tops to your local school – www.boxtops4education.com
16. Make get well cards for kids in the hospital – www.ufandshands.org/child-life-program/overview
17. Visit a nursing home and play games or talk with the residents www.oakhammock.org
18. Make “I Care” kits with combs, toothbrushes, shampoo etc. for homeless people – www.stfranchishousegmv.org
19. Collect expired grocery coupons to donate to military families – www.operationexpiration.net
20. Donate unwanted stuffed animals to children in emergency situations – www.stuffedanimalsforemergencies.org
21. Donate pencils to kids in third world countries – www.thepencilproject.com
22. Host a garage sale and give the proceeds to a Gainesville charity – www.gnvcf.org
23. Collect used magazines and donate them to troops overseas – www.soldiersangels.org
24. Donate gently used books to the Alachua County library – www.folacld.org
25. In October – donate unwanted candy to the troops - www.facebook.com/HalloweenCandyBuyback



The Giving Jar

“Good Cents” Jar: Over time, kids collect spare change in this jar to donate to a local cause. Kids and parents can discuss ways to earn the money (e.g., chores or part of allowance), setting a donation goal, establishing a timeframe for donating the money, and picking a cause. The kids can take a few minutes to write out ideas for parent approval. Kids can donate part of their allowance or list chores or projects around the house for a suggested price. (Anticipate some humorous dollar figures that will require some negotiating!) Some worthy recipients include your local fire house, rescue squad, or homeless shelter. Kids can also consider using the money to buy a grocery store gift card to donate. Finally, have the kids decide if they want to donate the money and keep the jar for future efforts, or donate both. Either option is fine!

“Kind Acts” Jar: Provide kids (or have them cut out) strips of white or different colored construction paper (about one-half inch in width). On each strip, have the kids write out a different kind act. Here are some examples:

- Read to my little brother or sister.
- Set aside outgrown clothes.
- Walk the dog for my parents.
- Bring the newspaper to my neighbor’s front door.
- Take my dishes to the sink.
- Bake cookies and deliver them to my grandparents.
- Pick up trash in the park.
- Turn off the lights around the house before bedtime.
- Write a letter to a relative or friend who lives far away.
- Go out of my way to be nice to someone shy at school.

The kind acts can be simple. They should give the kids an opportunity to take responsibility for something. Once each item is written on its own strip, have the kids fold the paper into a tight square and place it in the jar. The idea is that once a week or month your kid pulls out a piece of paper and commits to doing the good deed listed. Once your kid has picked out the kind act, he/she can set aside the paper until the jar’s good deeds are completed. Then your kids can place all the folded squares back in the jar.

“Pick-Me-Up” Jar: Similar to the Kind Acts Jar, provide kids with (or have them cut out) strips of white or different colored construction paper (about one-half inch in width). On each strip, have the kids write out a different nice thought or wish. Here are some examples if the kids need some assistance:

- Have a nice day.
- Let the sun shine down on you.
- Wishing you a happy week.
- Hope this puts a smile on your face.
- May all your wishes come true.
- Be strong.
- Someone loves you

Find this and more community service projects with kids at www.yeskidzcan.com