

Virtual Volunteer Engagement Opportunities

A. Encouragement Cards/Bookmarks- Create cards with positive phrases like "Keep it Up", "You Rock", and more to show that a caring adult knows they will succeed. Bookmarks with words and designs can also help encourage young readers.

https://vsuw.org/get-involved/volunteer/encouragement-bookmarks

- B. Sanitation Kits- Kits of materials designed for specific populations are easy to assemble at home or at the office. First aid kits could include hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, antibacterial wipes, as well as other cleaning materials. These can be customized to fit a corporate partner's budget.
- C. **Backpacks for Back to School-** Whether students are returning to the classroom or continuing to utilize remote learning, school supplies play an important role in children's educational development. Kits can include backpacks, notebooks, folders, glue sticks, markers, pencils, sharpeners, and a pencil pouch. These could be customized based upon corporate partner's budget.
- D. *Family Food Box-* Gather non-perishable ingredients for one of your favorite recipes and put them in a box with the recipe and an encouraging note to go to a family in need.

https://assest-vsuw-webite.s3-uswest2.amazonaws.com/files/Share_the_Love_Flyer.pdf

E. *Write a Note-* Seniors living alone. Struggling students. Teachers. Healthcare workers and first responders on the frontline of the Covid-19 pandemic. Small business owners. So many people need a friendly boost, recognition of their value, or two simple words, "thank you". United Way can facilitate note writing projects where individuals of any age hand write or type a note, United Way prints or forwards the notes to organizations that can get them in the hands of people in need of love and support.

https://www.volunteermtc.org/need/detail/?need _id=510992

F. **Read Aloud-** Volunteers can help children develop literacy skills and a love of reading by participating in a virtual Read Aloud. Volunteers make their own videos to share with local United Ways, who will pass them on to elementary schools and youth serving organizations.



- G. *Education Support-* (United Way of Hampshire County) Volunteers can assist with virtual education by supporting curriculum development, online learning instruction, remote mentorship and tutoring of students.
- H. Decorating the Community- (United Way of Roanoke Valley) Volunteers can decorate windows of nursing homes, long-term care facilities and retirement communities. Windows will be decorated from the outside using acrylic paint. This activity allows the volunteer to interact with the residents through the glass while they paint. This could also be done at schools or other places across the community (possibly without the interaction through windows).
- I. **Community Clean-Up-** (United Way of Greater St. Louis) Volunteers can participate in a neighborhood clean-up, in which they pick up litter and trash while safely distancing from others. Feasibility will depend upon regional relationships.
- J. **Donation Drive-By-** (United Way of Lake County and United Way of Greater Houston) Volunteers can participate in a donation drive-by or host a drive, in which volunteers are asked to donate non-perishable food, personal hygiene items, PPE, school supplies, children's books, gas cards, and baby items, among other essential items.
- K. *Expert Webinars-* Volunteers can hold Expert Virtual Webinars, in which skillsbased volunteers share best practices, thoughts on a subject, and then participate in a Q & A with the attendees. This could be anything from a dance or cooking class to a Google Ads or IT course. Feasibility will depend upon regional relationships.
- L. Animal Shelter Blankets- Volunteers can create no-sew blankets to provide comfort to animals in shelter. <u>https://uwsl.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/#E0000000aafq/a/0L000000CvPP/UVSvkX</u> <u>9o5FvNnRADljE.zJQQBvDpwtShxK10ZhPdTaA</u>
- M. **Rock It With Kindness-** Children and adults alike can paint rocks with positive messages and leave them along walking trails, in parks, etc. for others to find <u>https://modpodgerocksblog.com/rock-painting-ideas/</u>