

MITZVAH PROJECT IDEAS

Local organizations (New Rochelle)

Adult Learning Center

572-B Main Street

New Rochelle, NY 10805

633-7298

Contact: Sister Eileen Fane

Mission: The Center has been in existence for 10 years and services New Rochelle residents and those from nearby communities. It offers courses in English as a second language, preparation for citizenship exams, and computer and word processing skills. It provides an onsite daycare for parents while they attend classes.

Project Ideas: The Center is always in need of money to provide its services. Hold a creative fundraiser to collect funds.

Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle

79 Seventh Street

New Rochelle, NY 10801

235-3736

Contact: Lynne Bielecki, Executive Director

Mission: Provides afterschool, holiday and summer programs in a safe constructive environment for children, with adults and young adults on hand to provide instruction and assistance. They offer homework help, a new computer learning lab, drama and karate classes, and a dance group, among others with the goal of providing children with the opportunity to learn and explore their interests and develop positive relationships.

Project Ideas: Come to one of their locations after school and help younger children with their homework or teach them computer skills; hold a fundraiser to buy new computers; consult with Lynne regarding many other ideas.

Challenger League (Local Sports League for Disabled Children)

Contact: Shelley Klein @ 632-4916

Website: www.littleleague.org/divisions/challenger.asp

Mission: Provides an alternative sports league for developmentally or physically disabled children in New Rochelle.

Project Ideas: Children volunteer to assist disabled children who participate in the League. They help the children with all the basics, including running, throwing, catching and generally learning about and enjoying the sports.

Child Development Center

95 Lincoln Avenue
New Rochelle, NY 10801
632-0180

Contact: Anita Heyward

Mission: Provides daycare and Head Start classes to children ages 2.9 years through 5 years old who are at or below the poverty level, including homeless children living in shelters in New Rochelle and Westchester county; services their mental health, educational and therapeutic needs, including speech and language.

Project Ideas: Hold a drive to collect gently used and new children's clothing. They need all types of clothing, particularly sweatpants and including underwear and undershirts, for both boys and girls; collect diapers and wipes, particularly in larger sizes; volunteer opportunities may be available, consult with Anita.

Hope Community Services

50 Washington Avenue
New Rochelle, NY 10801
(914) 636-4010

Contact: Anne Carey-Colorado, Director

Mission: Provides wide array of community services to those in need, including a soup kitchen, emergency pantry, annual holiday toy drive, etc...

Project Ideas: Diaper drives; help with on-site for soup kitchen (T, W, Fri); food drive; holiday toy drive; collect used clothing.

Meals on Wheels

50 Pintard Avenue
New Rochelle, NY 10805
(914) 576-3865

Contact: Patricia Showers, Executive Director

Project Ideas: Fundraising; deliver meals to local homebound elderly together with a grown-up (minimum time commitment is 1 ? hours per week).

New Rochelle Community Action Program

95 Lincoln Avenue
New Rochelle, NY 10801
636-3050

Contact: Norvell Brandon

Mission: Non-profit agency that provides social services to residents of New Rochelle, Larchmont and Pelham. Services include heat and energy assistance, FEMA assistance and an emergency food pantry, among others.

Project Ideas: Hold a food drive to collect non-perishables such as canned goods, pasta, cereal and other dry goods to stock the emergency food pantry.

New Rochelle Public Library

One Library Plaza

New Rochelle, NY 10801

632-7878

Website: www.nrpl.org

Contact: Barbara Davis, Community Liaison

Project Ideas: Fundraising, used book drive, read to children, assist with craft projects during special programs.

New Rochelle Humane Society

Contact: Diane Helm or Carol Springer @ 632-2925

Website: www.nrochelleanimalshelter.org

Project Ideas: The Humane Society is always in need of supplies for the lost and stray animals that it takes in from 14 communities in lower Westchester. They need things such as canned dog and cat food, cat litter, litter pans, dog and cat food, collars, leashes, scratching posts, dog and cat toys.

New Rochelle YMCA

50 Weyman Avenue

New Rochelle, NY 10805

632-1818

Contact: Jeff Krause, x.18 or Ebony Guinyard

Mission: Nonprofit organization that runs sports clinics, summer camp, afterschool program and special events for the community, including a Healthy Kids Day and African American Cultural Festival. Fifteen percent of population served is at or below the poverty line and they provide scholarships for some of these children to attend the summer camp.

Project Ideas: Volunteer at one of the special events, participate in their Fall clothing and food drive, or raise money to provide a camp scholarship. Other ideas available, just consult with Jeff or Ebony.

Children and Families

Children's Village

Echo Hills

Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

(914) 693-0600

Contact: Mona Swanson (x.1383) or Candida Fitts (x.1586)

Website: www.childreenvillage.org

Mission: To provide safety and care to society's most vulnerable children. Operates treatment centers for emotionally scarred children who are victims of abuse, chronic neglect, or whose conduct is either self-destructive or dangerous and beyond the control of loving parents. Serves more than 1,000 children in residential programs, and provides programs and services in the community to approximately 10,000 children and 2,500 family members each year.

Project Ideas: Donate gifts to their annual "Santa's Store"; Assist with their annual Children's Circus; help organize an event and raise money to benefit the children; collect new or gently used books and clothing. Please note that volunteering may be limited due to age.

The City Kids Foundation

57 Leonard Street

New York, NY 10013

(212) 925-3320

Contact: Elizabeth Sak (212) 925-3320 x. 15

Mission: Non-profit multi-cultural organization founded to bring young people (ages 13 and up) together from different racial, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds to develop leadership and artistic skills while working together.

Family Services of Westchester (FSW)

1 Gateway Plaza

Portchester, NY 10573

(914) 937-2320 x.134

Contact: Gerri Goldberg

Project Ideas: Adopt a Grandparent at the White Plains Guest Home, perform plays, music, read to seniors at the Guest Home, hold a clothing, food, school supply or toy drive to benefit one of their programs, such as Head Start, Camp Viva or for seniors, join the Westchester Junior Youth Council

Fresh Air Fund

633 Third Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10017
1-800-367-0003

Website: www.freshair.org

Contact: Nicole Zahour x. 8908

Project ideas: There are various ways for children to volunteer and the Fresh Air Fund has a local adult volunteer who can provide support and ideas. Ideas include: posting signs in local stores and community sites where potential host families might see them; use the Fresh Air fund's form letter and mail it to local synagogues and churches encouraging them to help find host families; attend summer picnics hosted by the Fresh Air Fund and provide entertainment for the children; hold a fundraiser to raise money to pay for some of the Fresh Air Funds activities; and, collect donated supplies for the picnics from local merchants.

Heartsong For Music and Art Therapy

590 Central Avenue
Scarsdale, NY 10583
725-9272

Website: www.heartsong.org

Contact: Ellen Davis

Mission: Heartsong is a music and art therapy program for 40 children with a wide array of physical disabilities held on Saturday mornings in two locations, White Plains and Bronxville.

Project Ideas: B'nai Mitzvah aged children will receive special training to work directly with the disabled children for one, two or three hour sessions in music or art classes. They must commit to a full semester of volunteering and be prepared to work with often severely disabled children. Visit the website for more information.

Jewish Women International

2000 M Street, #720
Washington D.C. 20036
(202) 857-1300

Website: www.jewishwomen.org

Mission: A Jewish organization devoted to ending family violence and providing safe homes for victims of domestic violence. It has programs in both the United States and Israel, including a residential treatment center for children.

My Sister's Place

2 Lyon Place

White Plains, NY 10601

Contact: (914) 683-1333

Project Ideas: My Sister's Place is a private, non-profit agency that provides shelter and support services to battered women and their children. B'nai Mitzvah aged children could hold a fundraiser or, in consultation with My Sister's Place, collect items such as toys, art supplies and clothing.

Locks of Love

1640 S. Congress Avenue, Suite 104

Palm Springs, FL 33461

(561) 963-1677

Website: www.locksoflove.org

Project Ideas: Donate hair (10 inches or longer). Hair will be used to make wigs for children who have lost their hair to cancer; coordinate a donation day together with a local hair salon.

Scarsdale Alternative Sports League (for Special Needs Kids)

c/o Karen Millman, coordinator

4 Barry Road

Scarsdale, NY 10583

Contact: Karen Millman @ 472-3677 or karenfrombu@yahoo.com

Mission: A sports league in Scarsdale that provides seasonal sports instruction and play for children aged 7 to 13. This program is open only to Scarsdale youth but volunteers may come from anywhere.

Project Ideas: Volunteers would participate in the sports with special needs children and provide guidance and instruction. B'nai Mitzvah age children may volunteer depending on the age of the special needs children that season.

Special Olympics

1133 19th Street, N.W.

Washington D.C. 20036

(202) 628-3630

Contact: Ron Vederman, Director, Athlete Recruitment, Schools & Youth Outreach, (202) 628-3630 or sogetintoit@specialolympics.org

Mission: Provides year round sports training and athletic competition to more than 1.7 million people with intellectual disabilities in more than 150 countries.

Project Ideas: Has a special children's program. Contact directly for information.

UNICEF

Website: www.unicef.org

Mission: United Nations based humanitarian organization. UNICEF's mission is to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. Provide education and funding in areas such as girls education and equality, childhood immunizations, HIV/AIDS prevention, youth and child development programs and nutrition.

Project Ideas: UNICEF has a "Voices of Youth Program," described on the website, which gives children ideas either for an educational or fundraising program.

Women in Need

115 West 31st Street

New York, NY 10001

(212) 695-4758

Website: www.women-in-need.org

Contact: Beverly Brewster x. 709

Mission: Provides support services for over 7,500 homeless and disadvantaged women and children in areas such as temporary and permanent housing, job training, domestic violence services, substance abuse, child care, HIV/AIDS education, afterschool programs and a summer day camp.

Project Ideas: Fundraise, food drive, clothing drive, toy drive, book drive. Other creative ideas include bringing together a group of friends and make valentines for homeless children, Easter baskets, or toys for Christmas.

Food/Hunger/Clothing

Family-to-Family

P.O. Box 255

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

Website: www.family-to-family.com

Contact: Pam Koner @ famtofamily@aol.com

Mission: A not-for-profit hunger relief program for profoundly poor and hungry families in the US. The program, which is community based, connects families with more with families who have less. Each month the "sponsoring" family prepares a box of food for shipment to their own "adopted" family. The organization also has a child-to-child component.

Project Ideas: Children, in consultation with Pam Koner, can collect things for needy children such as food, gently used clothing and books.

Lord's Pantry

St. Bernard's Kitchen

Prospect and Bryant Avenue

White Plains, NY

Contact: Joan McGovern @ 287-6445

Mission: Provides prepared meals for homebound AIDS patients.

Project Ideas: Children can either hold a food drive and collect food items in consultation with Joan or raise funds for the organization.

Midnight Run

97 Main Street

Dobbs Ferry, NY

(914) 693-7817

Website: www.midnightrun.org

Contact: Dale Williams @ dwmidnt@aol.com

Mission: Distributes food, supplies and clothing to homeless people. Westchester office based in Dobbs Ferry where volunteers collect, sort and store clothing, prepare food and coordinate donations which are then distributed directly to needy individuals.

Project Ideas: Children can collect clothing, toiletries, food, blankets or raise money. See the website for instructions.

Mazon – A Jewish Response to Hunger

1990 South Bundy Drive, Suite 260

Los Angeles, CA 90025

Phone: (310) 442-0020

Fax: (310) 442-0030

Website: www.mazon.org

Mission: Reform Jewish organization founded to address the issue of hunger in the United States and abroad. Mazon awards over \$3 million dollars annually to more than 300 organizations, mostly in the United States with some grants in Israel and impoverished countries.

Project Ideas: Mazon can connect you with their grantees to volunteer directly but they are primarily seeking monetary donations to fund their semi-annual grants.

Westchester Coalition For the Hungry and Homeless

Website: www.foodclothingshelter.org

Contact: Rosa Boone @ 682-2737

Mission: Serves as an umbrella organization for the 38 soup kitchens, 72 food pantries and 33 shelters in 24 towns, villages and cities in Westchester. They empower the shelters, soup kitchens and food pantries by providing grants to purchase food; Eviction prevention program to help families in crisis by paying one month's rent.

Project Ideas: Rosa will help your child create the perfect project for their needs, ranging from collecting food, working in a soup kitchen or food pantry to raising money for a certain location.

Health

Alzheimer's Association

Local Chapter:

785 Mamaroneck Avenue

White Plains, NY 10605

(800) 272-3900

Website: www.alzhusonvalley.org

Alzheimer's Foundation

Website: www.alzfdn.org

Mission: Founded in 2002 to unite organizations nationwide to meet the plethora of needs of those with Alzheimer's. Has a AFA Teens component to raise awareness among teens and the general public. Operates a tollfree hotline for counseling and referrals.

American Cancer Society

Westchester Regional Office

2 Lyon Place

White Plains, NY 10601

(914) 949-4800

Website: www.cancer.org

Contact: Blaine Bereket, Manager of Community Health Initiatives @ (914) 397-8837

American Diabetes Association (Westchester Office)

70 West Red Oak Lane, 4th floor

White Plains, NY 10604

(914) 697-4987

Contact: Mary Reed, market manager

American Heart Association

Westchester/Putnam Region

3020 Westchester Avenue

Purchase, NY 10577

(914) 694-6464

Website: www.americanheart.org

Contact: Jacque Kraszewski, Director of Youth Market @640-3268

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

245 Main Street, Suite 520

White Plains, NY 10601

(914) 428-7100

Project Ideas: Participate in annual "Great Strides Walk;" fundraiser, raise awareness.

Gift of Life – Bone Marrow Foundation

7700 Congress Avenue, Suite 2201
Boca Raton, FL 33487
1-800-9MARROW

Gilda's Club of Westchester

80 Maple Avenue

White Plains, NY 10601

Contact: Barbara Golby @ (914) 644-8844 or bgolby@gildasclubwestchester.org

Mission: Gilda's Club provides support for people with cancer, their families and friends.

Project Ideas: B'nai Mitzvah age children can hold their own fundraiser to raise money for this organization. They may also, in consultation with Barbara, collect much needed items for the Club's wish list, such as toys, dolls, art supplies and soft pillows. There are no direct assistance volunteer positions for 12 and 13 year olds.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind

611 Granite Springs Road

Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

(800) 942-0149 or (914) 245-4024

Website: www.guiding-eyes.org

International Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva Association

P.O. Box 196217

Winter Springs, FL 32719

(407) 365-4194

Website: www.ifopa.org

Mission: IFOPA is a support group for families dealing with a rare genetic condition called Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP). FOP causes muscles and other connective tissue to turn to bone causes immobility.

Local contact person: Jeri Licht (parent of Daniel Licht) @ 725-2196

Project Ideas: FOP would greatly appreciate fundraising, particularly fundraising that increases awareness for this condition. Ideas include 1) Letter drive; 2) garage sale, bake sale, book sale; 3) "make a wish upon a star" fundraiser by making stars and then asking people to buy them for \$1.00 a piece (or whatever amount of your choice); 4) donations in lieu of gifts at the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Multiple Sclerosis Association of America

705 Haddonfield Road

Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

(800) 532-7667

Contact: Malcolm Friend

Website: www.msaa.com

National Gaucher Foundation

61 General Early Drive
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
(800) 925-8885
Fax (304) 725-6429

Website: www.gaucherdisease.org

Mission: The National Gaucher Foundation (NGF) was established in 1984 as a non-profit, tax exempt organization dedicated to supporting and promoting research into the causes of, and a cure for Gaucher Disease. The mission of the NGF is to find a cure by funding vital research programs, to meet the ever- increasing needs of patients and families, as well as to promote community/physician awareness and educational programs. The NGF offers a variety of services and programs including regional chapter meetings, patient support groups, international conferences, as well as the CARE Program and the Care+Plus Program which provide critical financial assistance to individuals with Gaucher Disease.

Project Ideas: Organize a program to raise awareness about Gaucher disease and money for research; buy bracelets or pins from the Foundation and use them as your party favor. Proceeds from your purchase benefit the Foundation.

Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic

4 Skyline Drive
Hawthorne, NY
(914) 467-7300

Website: www.pphp.org

Contact: Judy Factor (New Rochelle resident)

Swim Across America

860 Canal Street, 3rd Floor
Stamford, CT 06902
(203) 353-7690

Website: www.swimacrossamerica.org

Children's Health

Blythedale Children's Hospital

Bradhurst Avenue
Valhalla, NY 10595
(914) 592-7555

Website: www.blythdale.org

Contact: Debbie Sicari, therapeutic recreation department 592-7138 (x 475 or x 871/ voicemail only).

Israel/Jewish

Children's Holocaust Memorial and Paper Clip Project

Whitwell Middle School
1130 Main St.
Whitwell, TN 37397
(423) 658-5631

Website: www.marionschools.org/holocaust

Contact: Linda M. Hooper, Principal at hooper1@k12n.net

Project Ideas: Do a fundraiser showing the documentary titled "Paper Clips," or raise Funds for the Children's Holocaust Memorial. To find out more about the film, visit www.paperclipsmovie.com.

Mission: Started in a middle school in a small Protestant rural community of in Tennessee, the students decided they wanted to honor the memory of every Jew murdered by the Nazis by collecting 6 million paper clips. They collected approximately 30 million paper clips and used them to create a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. The memorial is now open to the public to teach them about the importance of diversity and tolerance.

Hadassah Hospital

Website (English): www.hadassah.org.il/english

The Hiddur Mitzvah Project

c/o The Gary Rosenthal Collection
4210 Howard Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895

Website: www.hiddurmitzvah.org

Contact: Jessy Gross @ (301) 493-5577

Mission: The Gary Rosenthal Collection Foundation supports arts enrichment activities for the children of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. It also provides grants to nonprofits for arts programming, in which children create a product or performance for presentation to local seniors. The purpose of the grants is not only to create arts enrichment activities for children, but also to foster art-based community building intergenerational contacts between children and seniors. The Foundation has also funded: Purim in Uganda, Sabbath dinner in Argentina, and a special convoy to the Ukraine.

Projects: Children purchase special project kits from the Gary Rosenthal Judaica Collection. They can then use these kits to do an array of projects including: make a menorah, mezuzah or other Judaica as a project in a home for senior citizens or as gifts for senior citizens; host an educational craft party and teach others about Judaism; purchase the kits and make mezuzahs as gifts for high school graduates to use at college, etc... You can make mezuzot, dreidels, menorot, Sabbath candlesticks, spice boxes, or tzedakah boxes.

Israel Guide Dog Center

(U.S. Office)

732 South Settler Circle
Warrington, PA 18976
(267) 927-0205

Website: www.israelguidedog.org

Mission: To provide guide dogs for the blind in Israel.

Jewish National Fund

JNF National Headquarters (United States)
42 East 69th Street
New York, NY 10021
(800) 563-0099

Website: www.jnf.org

Mission: Founded to preserve and develop the land of Israel. JNF, among other things, plants trees, works to improve Israel's water resources, builds infrastructure such as towns and roads, provides Zionist education to children worldwide, funds research into improving water conservation in arid climates.

Project Ideas: Send Jewish National Fund personalized tree and water certificates as invitations, or use them as favors, table signs, or acknowledgements. Certificates help beautify Israel and connect your child with the country.

Magan David Adom

Magen David Adom USA

8930 Gross Point Road, Suite 800

Skokie, IL 60077

(847) 583-0664 or (866)583-8539

Website: www.magendavidadom.org

Mission: Provides auxiliary service to Israel's Army Medical Corps in wartime, including providing emergency medical care for the wounded and war refugees; Provides civilian emergency, medical, and first-aid services and temporary shelter in emergency situations; Maintains a blood bank for civilian use. Plays a major role in providing vital, lifesaving services during each of Israel's wars, skirmishes, and terrorist attacks; as well as in times of peace.

Temple Israel of New Rochelle's Sister Temple in Israel, Mevasseret Zion

C/o Arza/World Union North America

633 Third Avenue

New York, New York 10017-6778

(212) 650-4280

Or

Mevasseret Zion Congregation

Rehov Dar 4, PO Box 40148

Mevasseret Zion ISRAEL 90805

Website: www.kamatz.org

Contact: e-mail: kamaz@zahav.net.il, maya@kamatz.org or rokem@cc.huji.ac.il

Project Ideas: Do a fundraiser for our Sister Temple's building fund or for their community activism project where our sister Temple collects food packages, school equipment and other necessities for poor individuals in Israel.

UJA- Federation, Family Mitzvah Experience, held every February

Contact: Arthur Jacobs at (914) 761-4100, ext. 134.

Project Ideas: Children create Purim packages for distribution to isolated and home-bound neighborhood seniors. The children will help design cards and assemble baskets of treats. This year, on February 12, 2006, it will be held at the JCC of Mid-Westchester in Scarsdale.

Westchester Holocaust Education Center

2900 Purchase Street

Purchase, New York 10577

Contact: Susan Rothschild at (914) 696-0738

Website: www.holocausteducationctr.org

Mission: An interfaith, not-for-profit organization, serving Westchester, Fairfield, Rockland, and Putnam counties founded to encourage and enhance teaching and learning about the Holocaust and its human rights lessons for today.

Project Ideas: The Center can match the B'nai Mitzvah student and/or family with a Holocaust survivor who lives in Westchester. The Center sponsors a program called "Adopt a Survivor" where a family can be matched with a local Holocaust survivor for a long term commitment. Students can also do fundraising for this non-profit Center.

Yad Sarah House

124 Herzl Boulevard

Jerusalem, Israel

(972-2) 644-4444

Website: www.yadsarah.org.il

Mission: Yad Sarah, the largest voluntary organization in Israel, provides a spectrum of free or nominal cost services designed to make life easier for sick, disabled and elderly people and their families. Yad Sarah's mission is to keep the ill and the elderly in their homes and out of institutions as long as possible.

Nature/Environment/Animals

The American Littoral Society, Northeast Chapter

1478 Point Breeze Place

Far Rockaway, New York 11691

Website: www.alsnyc.org

Contact: Barbara Cohen @ (718) 471-2166

Mission: Non-profit environmental organization that is concerned about issues that affect the littoral zone (the area on the beach between low and high tide).

Project Ideas: Children can participate in and/or organize a beach cleanup in Westchester. Beach cleanup sites for 2006 include Manor Beach and Park in Larchmont, Larchmont Reservoir in Mamaroneck, and Edith Read Sanctuary in Rye, New York.

Clearwater

112 Little Market Street

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

(845) 454-7673

Website: www.clearwater.org

Mission: Conducts environmental, educational and advocacy programs with a particular focus on the Hudson River, its tributaries and related waters. The centerpiece of the organization is a 106 foot wooden sailing sloop that is used for onboard education programs about the Hudson.

Project Ideas: Raise money and awareness through an environmental project.

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL)

443 Park Avenue, South

New York, NY 10016

(212) 684-6950, x.210

Website: www.coejl.org

Mission: Founded to deepen the Jewish community's commitment to protecting the environment using Jewish teaching as a motivation and a guide.

Delta Society

875 124th Ave NE, Ste 101

Bellevue, WA 98005

(425) 687-2345

Contact: Carla Bramble @ CarlaB@deltasociety.org

Website: www.deltasociety.org

Mission: Founded in 1977, Delta Society is an international, non-profit organization that brings together people with mental and physical disabilities and patients in healthcare facilities with professionally trained animals to help improve their health.

Environmental Defense Fund

National Headquarters
257 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010
(212) 505-2100
Website: www.edf.org

Greenburgh Nature Center

99 Dromore Road
Edgemont, NY 10583
Contact: Penny Berman, Deputy Director @ 813-1834

Project Ideas: Generally requires volunteers to be 14 but exceptions are made. Children would be interviewed and parental supervision is required. Children may also fundraise or hold a drive to collect needed supplies.

National Audubon Society

700 Broadway
New York, NY 10003
(212) 979-3000
Website: www.audubon.org

Sierra Club

New York City Office
116 John Street, Suite 3100
New York, NY 10038
(212) 791-3600

Sierra Club National Headquarters

85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415-977-5500
Fax: 415-977-5799
Website: www.sierraclub.org

Westchester County Government Adopt-a-Park Program

148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York
(914) 995-TELE
Website: www.westchestergov.com/parks

Project Ideas: Promotes public involvement in the maintenance, improvement and support of Westchester County parks. Children can help plant trees and flowers, rake, clear trails and may even paint structures. Participants must be at least 12 years old.

Elderly

Dorot

171 West 85th Street

New York, New York 10024

Contact: Lisa Horowitz at (212) 769-2850

Website: www.dorotusa.org

Project Ideas: Fundraise or volunteer.

Mission: Enhance the lives of the elderly; to foster mutually beneficial interaction between the generations; and to provide education, guidance and leadership in developing volunteer-based programs for the elderly nationally and internationally.

Esplanade Senior Residence

95 South Broadway

White Plains, NY 10601

Contact: Joy Ann Grune @ 761-8100

Project Ideas: The Esplanade is an independent residential facility for 135 residents, with an average age of 83. Most residents are Jewish, from educated, upper income backgrounds. Visiting and talking with the residents during the afternoon social hour or reading to seniors with sight issues are two possible projects. Consult with Joy for more ideas.

The Guild for Aged Blind

75 Stratton Street, South

Yonkers, NY 10701-5998

Contact: Caroline @ (914) 963-4661; (914) 963-2351

Osborn Retirement Community

101 Theall Road

Rye, NY 10580

Project Ideas: Evening recreation coordinator (2 hours per week); read to seniors.

Sarah Neuman Nursing Home

845 Palmer Avenue

Mamaroneck, NY

(914) 777-6000

Contact: Amy Lionheart

Project Ideas: Sarah Neuman offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities. Bernie Wasko, a member of Temple Israel, volunteers in the administrative offices and is available to answer any questions you may have.

Miscellaneous

American Red Cross – Westchester County Chapter

106 North Broadway

White Plains, NY 10603

Contact: Andrea Grimaldi, 946-6500, x.450 or 452. or Grimaldia@usa.redcross.org

Mission/Project ideas: The Red Cross has a Youth Council volunteer program open to children aged 10-21 which allows children to be trained and to then assist with many of the Red Cross' activities, including blood drives, health and safety education, disaster preparedness or clerical work in their office.

Dress for Success

32 East 31st Street, #602

New York, NY

(212) 545-3769

Website: www.dressforsuccess.org

Email contact: newyork@dressforsuccess.org

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, Inc.

299 Greenwich Avenue

Greenwich, Connecticut 06840

(203) 622-7420 or (203) 542-0652 or toll free: 1-800-526-2908

Contact: Patrick Sciarrata, Executive Director (psglobal@faf.org)

Website: www.faf.org

Project Ideas: Fundraise for this non-profit organization that provides meaningful group travel opportunities and concert performance tours promoting peace through cultural exchange.

Habitat for Humanity of Westchester (HFH of Westchester)

527 Main Street

New Rochelle, New York 10801

(914) 636-8335

Website: www.habitatwc.org

Contact: Jim Killoran, Executive Director

E-mail: volunteerhfhw@hotmail.com

Project Ideas: Collect materials and money to help build a Habitat home for this organization that seeks to eliminate poverty, housing and homelessness throughout Westchester County and to make decent, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and public action. Children under age 14 may not volunteer on site.

Hope Line

Website: www.westchestergov.com/hopeline

Contact: Westchester County's Recycling Office @ (914) 813-5441

Mission: Westchester County and Verizon Wireless teamed up to protect the environment and help victims of domestic violence by collecting used cell phones for domestic violence victims. Telephones that are collected will either be refurbished and sent to assist domestic violence victims, or, if the telephones cannot be refurbished, they will be disposed of in an environmentally friendly way. There are many drop off sites, including 6 drop off locations in New Rochelle.

Save Darfur Coalition

Post Office Box 18176

Washington DC 20036

Website: www.savedarfur.org

Contact: info@SaveDarfur.org

Project Ideas: Raise awareness and fundraise to help end the atrocities and reduce the suffering in Darfur and nearby refugee camps.

Sound Shore Medical Center

16 Guion Place

New Rochelle, New York 10801

(914) 637-1114

Contact: Gwyn Grant Brandstetter

Project Ideas: Collect gently used coats or blankets to deliver to the hospital or another collection drive, in consultation with Gwyn Grant Brandstetter. Children under age 14 may not volunteer at the hospital.

Additional Resources

If you didn't find something you like above, you may consult one of the organizations below which may have additional listings and/or project ideas.

American Jewish World Service

989 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10018
(800) 889-7146
Website: www.ajws.org

Areyvut

Website: www.areyvut.org

Mission: Jewish organization founded in 2002 which works with Jewish Day schools and bar/bat mitzvah-aged children. Provides information, for a fee, about ongoing Mitzvah projects the organization has initiated that students may join and gives suggestions as to how to put ideas into action. There are also links to other resources and volunteer opportunities, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

The Volunteer Center (A project of the United Way)

280 North Central Avenue, Suite 310
Hartsdale, NY 10530
(914) 948-4452
Contact: Azra Asaduddin

Website: www.volunteer-center.org

Mission: A program that helps connect children with age appropriate volunteer opportunities throughout Westchester.

Union for Reform Judaism

633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017
(212) 650-4000
Website: www.urj.org

Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS), Operation Mitzvah

141 N Central Ave
Hartsdale, NY 10530

Contact: Susan Kronish at (914) 949-7699 for an application and more information.

Project Ideas: Bnai mitzvah students are eligible to submit a written application for an internship with WJCS and work a certain number of hours a week doing community services in various places identified by WJCS. Please note that there are deadlines to submit applications for Fall and Spring internships.

www.dogreatstuff.com

Mission: An online posting of volunteer projects, locally and nationwide. Simply type in your zip code and the website will provide you with age appropriate volunteer opportunities within a specified radius.

This packet was compiled by Deborah Blatt & Beth Ecker Levy.
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