

Community Bible Church

2001 Jodeco Road
Stockbridge, Ga 30281

Local Out-Team Project Ideas

Introduction:

Ignore the following list! Use your group's own imagination to come up with suitable projects. Think of needs within the community. Take an afternoon and ride around. Ask yourself: "If I could do whatever I wanted to do to help this community, what would it be?" Think outside the box and let your imagination run wild. **IT IS OK TO HAVE FUN!**

If you still need some help with ideas, review this list. It may help.

Do not let your group size or talents limit you. If you come up with a workable idea but need more people, let us know. If you need some talent, let us know. We can send out a call for help. The same holds true if you have a project but need to collect contact information of those who might benefit by it. Let us know.

Regardless of what you do, it would be great if someone in your group could take pictures of their team members working on your project and provide them to us along with a written description of the project. Your description should answer the Six W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why? What was the outcome? (Videos would be nice too.)

Do not feel the need to rely solely on church resources. If you are a member of a garden club, arts group, civic club, society, business association, homeowners association or almost any other organization, get them involved with your project! Doing so will increase your Christian influence within the community and often give your group the ability to accomplish much more. Ask for help from local businesses. You will be surprised how many will contribute services, supplies, or money.

Remember that **if it works once it will work again!** If your project was a success then do it again, trade it off with another group, or create a permanent ministry.

Fundraising: Your fundraising efforts should be directed out to the community rather than solely relying on those within the church. Coming up with unique ways to raise funds for your group is part of challenge. Think outside the box. The crazier the fundraiser the more attention it will get and the higher your chances are of meeting your goal.

Glorify God first! Everything else is icing on the cake!

Suggested Projects:

Yard/Home Spruce-Up Projects: Contact your local government and ask for their code enforcement office. When you have a Code Enforcement Officer on the phone ask them if they know of anyone who needs home repairs or lawn maintenance who because of financial difficulties or health issues just can not get it done. Code Enforcement Officers are often faced with citing those who they know simply can not fix up their properties due to health or financial concerns. Specifically inquire about the elderly, widowed and disabled. Or, you might already know someone who needs help. You can also contact one of the Georgia Family Connection offices listed in the last section of this document.

Helping Displaced Families - Fire: Fires are tragic events. Often, families lose everything they own. The Red Cross and other agencies often offer assistance, but this is not always enough. Develop a plan to help displaced families. This can be as simple as a hot meal, or helping them go through their home to recover goods worth salvaging. Contact your local fire department, let them know what you want to do, and ask to be notified of fires in your area. You may want to ask for their suggestions on how you can help. Call the main phone number to your local government and ask for the non-emergency number to your local fire department. DO NOT DIAL 911.

Volunteer at Your Favorite Organization: There are many organizations throughout our community that need help. Some need help loading, sorting, or moving. Others need help with office tasks. Still others need help cooking or cleaning. Some need help with daycare/nightcare for their charges. Others could use a little sprucing up. In the last section of this document is a list of some local charitable organizations which may need volunteers. Call and ask what their specific needs are.

Recognize the Widows: Timothy 5:3 (NIV) *"Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need."* The apostle Paul goes on to establish certain criteria, but the point is that we are called upon by the bible to care for widows in need.

Homebound Sitting: Within our church and throughout our community many families are burdened with a sick or disabled family member who requires continuous care. Volunteer to sit with the stricken family member for a day to give the family some relief to go out and enjoy their lives or to take care of other business. If the family is also in need, raise a few dollars and provide a gift certificate for a meal out and a movie as to take their mind off their troubles. Be sure to expose them to the Good Word. You may be aware of someone in your local community with such a need. While we are aware of such needs within our church, for privacy sake, the names are not listed here. Ask your pastor for some names and contact information.

Host a Parent's Night Out In Your Neighborhood: Offer to babysit the neighborhood children, giving the parents a night out to enjoy themselves. Be sure to expose the children to Christ in a way appropriate for the age group. Send them home with something which will reinforce the message. You can promote this to your neighborhood in your neighborhood newsletter, on its web site, or simply by passing out circulars. Better yet, do some door knocking.

Tenderize Some Knuckles: The more reclusive or bashful you are the more important it is for you to do this project. By doing this not only will you spread the word of Christ but you will also be blessed. Go bang on some doors and hand out materials promoting Christianity, Community Bible Church or Celebrate Recovery. Instead of religious tracts, hand out testimonials praising God for the changes He has made in the lives of many. Don't have any testimonials on hand? We will trade you many for your one.

Host a Community Surprise Party! Load up some candy, school supplies, little toys and trinkets.. and let's not forget about some Christian materials suitable for children and go hit a low-income apartment community! Pull up and pop open your trunk and give them all a huge surprise! If you want to give the kids a real treat, you can have your group dress up like clowns.

Host a Neighborhood Block Party: Invite the neighborhood over and fire-up the grill. You do not have to preach to them or try to save them. Just let them know that you are holding the function as part of your church activities. They will get the message. It is more important to invite those people in your neighborhood that you do not know than it is to invite those you do know. Let your imagination run wild. If you have a pool, make it a pool party. If you don't have a pool host a "Poor-man's Pool Party" where everyone jumps through a lawn sprinkler in their bathing suits. It may sound silly, but everyone will love it and will talk about it for years to come. Get crazy, use your imagination and have some fun! Don't stick with the traditional!

Organize a Church Transportation Service: Many people have transportation issues, especially with gas prices running at all time highs. Organize "drivers" in the various communities served by our church and offer rides to and from church for those with transportation issues. (Note: You will need to establish some firm rules to prevent the drivers from being abused by those who want to be picked up or dropped off at different locations. (For example: Transportation services will be provided from your home to church and back only. No other destinations will be considered.) Check around the church and get the contact information of willing drivers, the number of people they can accommodate, and the area they can serve. Then let folks know that you have a transportation service should they know of anyone in need of a ride to church.

Note: The intent of the transportation service would not be to reduce the number of people driving to church each Sunday. Instead, its intent would be to fill the empty seats in those cars already being driven to church with people who could not otherwise attend church.

Make Special Deliveries: Everyone loves to feel appreciated or remembered. Flowers, meals, cookies, cakes... all of these are great gifts which can be prepared or purchased and delivered to someone to make them feel special. Be sure and include something stating that the delivery was made as part of your church or ministry activities and/or something promoting Christianity. Deliver them personally so you can deliver the message personally. Here are a sample list of people that might benefit from such a special delivery. Note:

Nursing Home Occupants	Hospital Waiting Room Occupants
Hospice Occupants	The Homebound
Women's Shelter Occupants	Police Departments
Children's Shelter Occupants	Fire Departments
Hospital Patients	The Elderly

Organize an Ethnic Ministry: More and more, America is becoming a diverse community comprised of individuals from all ethnic backgrounds. If you can speak a foreign language your group can spearhead our efforts to reach these groups. Use your knowledge to form a permanent ministry to spread the love of Christ throughout communities we would otherwise be unable to reach.

Watch a Movie: But take some needy children with you. Visit a very low income community and offer to take a group of the children to a movie. Pick an appropriate G-Rated movie (preferably one promoting Christianity) and go enjoy yourselves. Be sure and have plenty of Christian adult supervision. Be sure to send the children home with something promoting or symbolizing Christianity. Want to really have some fun? Take them to the drive-in! Load up a bar-b-que grill, folding chairs, some hot-dogs, chips and soft drinks... arrive an hour early and have a cook-out before the movie. Be sure and take a Frisbee, football or other toys for the children to play with before the movie starts. Also take an outdoor-radio and some blankets. Even the hottest days can have cool nights. (Note: Often theaters will offer discounts for such groups, but sometimes with time or date restrictions. So call and check when you first start planning.)

Offer a Free Class Or Seminar: Are you an expert at something? Are you a doctor, lawyer, financial planner, estate planner, accountant, advertising consultant or other expert? Do you know how to arrange flowers, make gift baskets, or plant a garden? Do you know HTML, Perl, or CSS? Do you know what an f-stop is or how to peddle a potter's wheel? Can you make a mind travel 1,000 miles with a dab of oil paint and a painter's brush? Do you know how to save gas or how to manage unruly children?

Share your knowledge by offering a free seminar to the public. Announce at the class that the event is part of your church or ministry activities. If you are brave at heart, share your testimonial at the end of the class. Be sure and provide your class something promoting either CBC or Christianity. It is ok to promote your business at the event. Your class should be held at a location off the CBC campus, promoted to the public, and should NOT be promoted in advance as a Christian or church sponsored event. You want to attract the non-churched and the non-Christians. Others in your group can handle registrations, set-up, take-down, promotion, material distribution and testimonials.

Do the Buggy Push: Load up your group and go Krogering! Or go to your local Wal-Mart, Publix, Ingles or any high-traffic store with buggies. Watch for folks so old they are scared to buy green bananas to come out of the store. Follow them to their car and while pointing at the buggy with one hand and holding some Christian/CBC/CR literature in the other say "I will trade you this for that." Give them the literature and push the buggy back to the rack for them. This works for a parent with a bunch of kids too. Suggestion: Go to the flea market and get enough t-shirts made up for your group that reads "Community Bible Church Kindness Team".

Host a Game Night: This works great for kids only, adults only, or both! Dig that stack of old games out of your closet and invite the neighborhood over. Serve chips and soft-drinks and make a night of it. If you are hosting an adults only night, be sure and provide child care for those who need it. Make sure that your guests know that you are holding the function as part of your church or ministry activities. It is more important to invite those people in your neighborhood that you do not know than it is to invite those you do know.

Clean House! But, Not Yours: Pick a needy family or elderly person in your neighborhood and go in and clean house! Clean their floors, their bathrooms, their pots and pans. Clean their kitchen, their walls, and closets. If need be, do a little painting or fix or broken window. Do what you can to make their lives a little better. Be sure and let them know this is being done as part of your church or ministry activities. Leave them something promoting Christianity, CBC or CR. If you need help with finding such a family call your local Georgia Family Connection representative.

Let a Soldier's Family Know You Care: Send thank you notes to the families of local military personal serving overseas. Be sure and include appropriate Christian literature, information about CBC or CR. If you do not know any families of local military personal serving overseas, contact your local military recruiting office for instructions on how to obtain this information.

Let's Not Forget the Newest Recruits! Dozens of new local recruits pass through MEPS each month. Each of these are off to an uncertain future. Let them know you care. Deliver a going away gift of bibles, testimonials, baked goods and personal care items. Contact your local military recruiting station to determine how to get these to the recruits.

Collect Winter Coats: The church supports a number of ministries which needs new or like new winter coats. Sponsor a coat collection and donate the coats to these ministries. For a list of ministries which need winter coats, ask your pastor.

Host a Community Clean-Up Day: Pick a local neighborhood which needs a little bit of TLC and clean it up. Walk the streets picking up trash and litter. Cut the vacant lots and haul off any debris. Be sure and wear your church or ministry t-shirts and tell those who ask what you are doing. It would be a great idea to see if you could mobilize some of the residents to help.

Comfort a Child: Collect teddy bears and deliver them to the local sheriff, police department, paramedics, or fire department. These organizations can use these teddy bears to comfort children during trying times. Fireman can distribute them to kids who have just lost everything due to a fire, paramedics can comfort injured children, police and sheriff deputies can hand them out to children during family violence calls or children who have been in an automobile accident. Attach a note explaining where the teddy bear came from and why. To contact your local emergency service organizations, call the main number to your local government and ask for the non-emergency phone number for those services. DO NOT DIAL 911.

Burn Some Shoe Leather: This is strongly recommended for those who are not people people. Step outside your comfort zone and hand out Christian testimonials in public places such as shopping centers, flea markets and shopping malls. Simply walk up to strangers, shake their hands, introduce yourself and hand them the information. It is just that simple and easy! You will be surprised at the number of people who really appreciate you noticing them. If the manager of the establishment asks you to leave, politely comply with the request and move on to the next one. If you do not have any testimonials we will gladly trade you many for your one.

Host a Booth: Spend a day shaking hands, handing out testimonials, Christian literature, or promotional materials for CBC or CR and meeting the wonderful people in your community by hosting a booth at a flea market or local event. For upcoming local events check with your local Georgia Family Connection representative, Chamber of Commerce, or newspaper. You already know where your nearest flea market is. Some stores will allow you to set a booth up in their parking lot. Don't rule out any store. Those entering a liquor store are better prospects than those entering a Christian bookstore! How do you get permission to set up a booth in a store parking lot? A couple of weeks in advance... walk in and ask the manager. If they say "no", invite them to church then go find another store and ask. You WILL eventually find a suitable location.

Go Fishing! There are plenty of pay-to fish lakes around. You can also fish at any state park with a lake (High Falls) for a parking fee of \$3.00 per car. Load up a few cars with needy children who may seldom or ever have had the opportunity to fish and go fishing! Be sure to have plenty of adult supervision (with swimming abilities). This also works with elderly adults! Hint 1: For the smallest children leave a fish on the hook and let each child take turns reeling it in. They will think they really caught it! Hint 2: Large jumbo shrimp shelled, and cut into pieces is usually better bait, cleaner, cheaper, and lasts longer than worms.

Organize a Parade Team: Many communities have parades each year. Organize a permanent team to build and enter a float into all of the local parades. Your group's job does not have to include actually building and entering the float, but it can. Your primary job would be to organize the people who can get it done. Call upon and collaborate with other groups to help you with ideas, building the float, fundraising, etc. Remember, glorify Christ or God first, then promote CBC, and/or CR.

Host a First Class Party: Each person in your group should make a list of ten people (couples count as one) that they know but who are not Christians or who are un-churched. Then get your group together over coffee or soft-drinks and mail each one of them Christian materials and a personal invitation to CBC. Have a cook-out afterwards to celebrate your success! If you really want to make a connection, make it a tele-phon! You will have great laughs (at each other's expense) between calls!

Bless Yourself: Spend a day with some special needs children. Take them to a public park or just spend a few hours with them in their homes. Sit with them, talk to them, hold their hands even if you are not certain they are aware of your actions. While their eyes may not be able to see, and their ears may not be able to hear, and their mouth may not be able to speak, their heart can still feel and their soul can still be touched. Check with your local Georgia Family Connection office for contact information for agencies supporting such children or with your local school system. Most school systems have classes for these children. Food for thought: Special needs adults receive much less attention than special needs children.

Organize a Community Newsletter: This is a very easy task and simple to do. It can be published on paper (mailed or hand distributed), sent out as an e-mail, and/or posted on a web site. Your newsletter should report community news and events as well as include at least one Christian message (article, testimonial, etc..). It would also be nice if you could provide a link back to one of the church related web sites. Don't try to publish a monthly newsletter, you will find it too difficult to obtain enough information. Publish quarterly. There is no need to buy expensive software. Open Office can do everything Microsoft Word or Word Perfect can and it is absolutely free. Visit OpenOffice.org to download it. Don't have any testimonials on hand? We will trade you many for your one.

Host a Mystery Booth: This is great fun! Rent a booth at a flea market or local event. Enclose it in a solid curtain and set up 10 chairs or so. Offer a give-away every 30 minutes or on each hour (restaurants are great at giving free gift cards to give away). Solicit registrations for the drawings from those at the event – must be present to win. Registrations should include name, address and phone number. When the drawing is to be held, have those which have preregistered take a seat. Pull the curtains shut, and have someone give a two minute testimonial. Hold the drawing, and as they leave hand them information about Christianity/CBC/CR. This works great in store parking lots too! Don't have any testimonials on hand? We will trade you many for your one. A week or so later your group can touch base with the registrants. Be sure and forward the registrations up-line when you are done with them.

Start an Viral E-Mail Campaign: Get together with your group and write the best tear-jerking or inspirational story you can promoting Christianity. (Do not copy someone else's.) If it sounds like a true story be certain that it is based on a true event. (In other words, be honest.) Be sure to include a statement at the bottom encouraging whoever receives it forward it on to their friends. (Don't threaten something bad if they don't do it, but it is ok to promise something good like it may bless others or themselves.) Include a link to one or more of the CBC related web sites. Do you need a testimonial to base your e-mail on? We will trade you many for your one.

Publish a Video On You-Tube: The video should be something that would attract a secular audience, preferably those in south metro Atlanta. If a Christian message can not be included as part of the video, tie in a Ch Hint: Make those in your group actors in the video.

Go Waiting Room Hopping: You already know where your local hospital is. Have your group meet there and visit waiting rooms. Do not walk in and announce. "Hi, I am here to pray for you." Instead, walk in, sit down and strike up conversations with those sitting near you. Ask why they are there. Show concern for their loved one. Hold a real discussion as you would with a friend. After spending a few minutes tell them who you are, and ask if they would like themselves or their loved one to be placed on your prayer list. If so, get as much information as possible. You should forward this information up-line, and your group should pray for those who ask for prayers at your next few meetings. When you leave, leave them with a bible passage about how Jesus healed the sick, a testimonial, or information about CBC or CR. If someone asks you to pray with them on the spot, do it! Your skill at public prayer is not important. God understands your thoughts and your heart, and those you are praying with will appreciate your effort. If you are able to get their mailing address or phone number, check in with them in about a week to show your support. Remember, some hospitals have many waiting rooms. So plan to spend some time searching around. Food for thought: This would make a great permanent ministry.

Hold a Fundraiser for Your Favorite Local Charity: This can be great fun and a great relationship builder too! While you can use many of the usual tactics, try something inventive and a little crazy. Some charities raise money by getting paid for each mile they walk. You might want to try getting paid for the number of days you can wear a temporary tattoo in the middle of your forehead. (Maybe, "Ask me about Christ"). Men or teenage boys can collect money for each hair they pluck off their chest in one hour. (One at a time, please, and in public. You could probably get on the 11:00 news with that one.). Women and teenage girls, collect for every night crawler they eat in 10 minutes. (Another heartburning news story.) Make it something notable and have fun!

Spend a Weekend Under a Bridge: Bring attention to the plight of the homeless. Pick a bridge under an interstate and camp out for the weekend. Make it tough on yourself. Bring no blankets, no heat source, no rain gear, not tents, no change of clothes, no personal care items, no money, and no food (water is ok). Arrive on a Friday night with nothing but the clothes on your back and survive until Sunday at dusk. If you want to eat, go beg. If you want to go to the bathroom, walk to the nearest one. Notify the press a couple of weeks in advance. You might also want to notify the local police and the state patrol. (Otherwise, make prior arrangements with a bail-bonding company.) Not only will you bring attention to the plight of the homeless, you will have a new appreciation for what you do have.

Organize a Welcome Team: Your project would be to organize a permanent team and to solicit folks to run it. This team would welcome new homeowners to the area as well as new apartment dwellers. The welcome could be a knock on a door, a gift, a letter or a post card. Whatever works for you. Addresses of house sales in south metro Atlanta are available. Ask any real estate agent. Apartment dwellers are a little more difficult and would

require you asking apartment managers to feed you the information. Some will, some won't. But you will never know which will until you ask. For materials to distribute as part of the welcome service, ask your pastor.. or come up with something unique. Hint: Need a way to fund this ministry? Charge local businesses to include their information in the package.

Offer Real Help to Those Who Need It: This is not an actual project, but just something to keep in the back of your head as you are meeting people. CBC offers Celebrate Recovery, a program designed to help anyone with a hurt, habit or hang-up. Should the issue be grief, divorce, anger, chemical dependency, low self-esteem, sexual abuse, spousal battery, loneliness or almost any type of emotional distress Celebrate Recovery is the place to come to terms with those emotions and to learn to live a rewarding life. As you meet individuals who are in need of the compassion of others, let them know about the Celebrate Recovery program. This is an extremely worthwhile and rewarding endeavor. Hint: The best way to get someone to attend CR is to bring them with you.

Adopt a Senior: Do you know of a senior citizen who is alone, with no family and no transportation? Adopt them! You and your group can become their family. Help care for them, take them to parks and movies, bring them to church and touch their lives. Adopt more than one and multiply the blessings you will receive. Share the love of Christ.

Organize a Street Music Ministry: Like with some of the other projects, this would make a great permanent ministry. Solicit help from Christian musicians who will volunteer their time and arrange for places for them to perform. It may be in the parking lot of a store, at a community event, or in a public park on a weekend. Spread the love of Christ as music to the ears. Hint 1: Take the street music ministry indoors and entertain some nursing home residents. Hint 2: Make sure to have some Christian, CBC and/or Celebrate Recovery materials on-hand at each event. Hint 3: There are probably a lot of homebound people who would love a musician to come in and give them a short private concert.

Give Dead Cells New Life: A number of our supported ministries will accept old cell phones as donations as they can trade them in for much needed cash. Collect old cell phones and turn them in. The food pantry in Stockbridge is one such ministry.

More Movies! Offer a movie night once a month or every other month for neighborhood kids. You can have light snacks, a bible verse time and then watch a movie (Preferably one promoting Christianity). Its a great way to connect with the kids, and give the parents a chance to spend a couple of hours relaxing or whatever. Be sure to send the children home with something promoting or representing Christianity.

Sew What? Organize a sewing team to make the teddy bears mentioned earlier or to crochet blankets for newborns (to be given out at local hospitals). If you don't know a hook from a loop it does not matter, your job is to organize and promote. Need seamstresses? Ask around the church. Be sure to attach something stating who made the blanket and why (To demonstrate Christ's love in the community... or something similar.).

Christ & Ribs – Is there anything better? Pick a distressed neighborhood and hold a bar-b-que on a vacant lot. Load up some burgers, hot dogs, ribs and corn on the cob to roast and spread the word while you are filling tummies! Be sure to take along some materials promoting Christianity, CBC or Celebrate Recovery.

Organize Neighborhood Safehouses: A neighborhood safe house is a place where anyone in that specific neighborhood could take refuge during a crisis. It could be a child avoiding abuse, someone avoiding a drunk or abusive spouse or just a safe place for people to go during any type of emergency or crisis. Hint 1: Like with some of the other projects mentioned, this would be a great on-going ministry. Hint 2: It might be nice to raise a little money and get small signs made (like alarm company signs) that reads "Community Bible Church Neighborhood Safe House".. and some cute little logo on it.

Tute Your Own Horn: Form a tutor team to offer free tutoring to under-privileged children. This would also make a great on-going ministry. To promote this project you will need to contact counselors at your neighborhood schools. Always leave the children with something promoting Christianity.

Organize a Prayer Line: This is easy and simple to set-up. All you need is one good voice, one good writer, about \$30 per month for the phone number and whatever you want to spend to promote it. Again, your job will be to organize it and get it running as a permanent ministry. The idea is simple. People who feel they are in need of prayer call the number, hear a pre-recorded faith-based message and leave their prayer request after the beep. (Or a request to receive a live call.) Your group then prays for these people's needs. You can ask for contact information, but it should not be a requirement. Inexpensive voice mail systems are available on-line.

Dance in the Rain: Or rather, walk. You and your group load up on a rainy day with a bunch of umbrellas (and rain hats for yourselves.). Go to your nearest high-traffic store and as people leave the store walk them to their car holding the umbrella over them to keep them dry. Hand them some Christian/CBC/CR literature when you drop them off and bring their buggy back. Suggestion: Go to the flea market and get enough t-shirts made up for your group that reads "Community Bible Church Kindness Team".

Beautify a Community: Fall is the time for planting and young trees are cheap. Pick a neighborhood and buy some saplings to plant along the right-of-way. You will need to get the property owner's permission before you start digging holes in their front yard. (Actually, they usually own only up to the back side of their water meter, but many do not know this.) You may also want to get the permission of the local government because they actually own the right-of-way. You should also dial 811 on your phone a week or two prior to digging. You would not want to cut through a fiber-optic cable or gas line by mistake. (Visit 811.com)

Hand Paint Christmas Ornaments for Needy Children: Get a few boxes of solid color Christmas ornaments and hand paint them as Christmas gifts for needy children. You can paint Christmas images, short Bible verses and even the child's names! Need a list of needy children? Call your local Connect Georgia agency. Food for Thought: Can you think of others who would appreciate such a gift? Seniors? Shut-Ins? Children in hospital wards?

Hold a Children's March for Christ: This would be a really great project. Take a bunch of elementary school age children and have them paint signs proclaiming their love for Jesus and God. Let them draw little designs and maybe put their hand prints on the signs.. then load them up and tote them to Southlake Mall, Wal-Mart, Tanger Outlet, Kroger, the McDonough Square, Downtown Jonesboro, High Falls Park or anywhere there are a bunch of people on a Saturday. When you get there, pile out of the cars, line up and walk! Walk around the parking lot two or three times, load up and then go hit another location. If you are asked to leave, do so politely and move on to the next location.

Children would have an absolutely wonderful time making the signs and marching. If you are uncomfortable making surprise raids on shopping centers, just march through a few neighborhoods. If you don't have or know any children, ask your pastor. There are plenty of parents who will loan you theirs for the afternoon. Take plenty of photographs! Hint 1: Be sure and let the children be children. This is as much for them as it is for the public. Hint 2: Want to really have some fun? SING as you march! Hint 3: If you want to really impress your friends and neighbors, get a bunch of adults to do this without the kids! (But they have to sing!)

Adopt a Single Parent Household: Single parents have a tough time of it. They have to play the roles of both mom and dad without having the other to discuss their plans, concerns and ideas with. Should you accept this challenge your project would be to identify needy single parent households within your community and play the role of the missing parent. Be there to discuss the concerns and ideas of the parent and offer good Bible based guidance. Help them manage their finances. Help them make wise decisions. Serve as a Christian role model to the children by sharing your faith and serving them as you would your own family. Be there for support during times of crisis. Make sure the entire family knows how to contact at least one of your group members at all times and visit them regularly. Invite the parent into your group, offering child care for their children. Treat them as you would your own family.

GO DAWGS! Or at least go help the dogs, cats and other abandoned pets and touch the lives of pet lovers! Contact your local pet shelter and ask what you can do to help. Maybe offer to hold a pet-adoption fair at a local shopping center. Share the love of Christ with all that attend. Food For Thought: Take photos of the pets up for adoption, write cute stories about them and start a viral e-mail campaign (see this project listed above). Be sure to include links to one of the CBC related web sites as well as the pet shelter.

Hold a Candle Lighting Ceremony: Hold a candle lighting ceremony in honor of our community's fallen heroes (police/fire/military). Grab some candlestick holders, some candles and a few matches and hold a public lighting in a public park or other similar location. Pick a symbolic number of candles to light, line up and light them. Invite the press and tell them why you are doing it. Send circulars to the police/fire/EMS departments as well as to local recruiting offices and local governments a couple of weeks in advance. To make a real impact, ask members of the honored force(s) to participate by lighting candles. You might want to drag a guitar player along with you or play some background music on a boom-box. Be sure to have some Christianity/CBC/CR materials on-hand. For best results, do this at night. Food For Thought: Somebody has got to do a little public speaking at this. Be sure and include a couple of Biblical references.

Host a Public CPR Training Class: Everyone needs to know CPR. Call the Red Cross and make arrangements to host a class. Hold the class off-campus. (Your community clubhouse would be one great location.) Announce the class to the public. At the end of the class, make the statement "Now, if you were the one laying on the floor and CPR did not work, where would you be spending eternity?" or something of similar effect. Make sure they receive Christian/CBC/CR materials when they leave.

Clone Yourself! Go to a community where the residents may have transportation issues and start a weekly or bi-weekly Bible study or worship group. Attend their meetings for a while and help them get their group off the ground. Then visit their meetings regularly to offer encouragement and guidance.

Evangelism at \$4 Per Gallon: So, organizing a parade team is a little too big of task for your group? Don't worry, you still have the opportunity to parade around town. Paint up some signs and tape them on the side and back of your group's cars. If anyone has a pick-up truck, put a big sign in back. Proclaim the glory of God. Maybe take some white shoe polish and paint up your car windows like you do for your favorite sports team. Group up on a Saturday morning and ride around densely populated places in south metro Atlanta, honking horns and waving. Hint 1: Be sure and drive at normal speeds and do not obstruct traffic. You do not have a parade permit. Hint 2: Make sure whatever you attach to your vehicles is firmly attached. You don't want it blowing off in the road and possibly causing an accident. Hint 3: Take some children with you. They will love doing this!

Wash Away Those Sins: During the temperate months you see charitable car washes almost everywhere. Everyone is using them as fundraisers. Turn the tables and give free car washes for a day. Be sure and promote it as being FREE and NO TIPPING ALLOWED. When the customer goes to step into their nice shiny vehicle, hand them some Christian/CBC/CR information and say "We brightened up your car, maybe these will help you brighten up your life." How do you find a great place to hold a free car wash? Watch for charitable car washes in your neighborhood and go ask the business which is hosting it to let you do one too.

Testy... Testy... Testy...: Make your project one which may outlast your lifetime and the lifetimes of those in your group. Write your individual testimonials, send them up-line and share them with others. Tell others how God has touched your life. It does not have to be about a huge event. It could be something as seemingly small as how God placed a person around to help you overcome loneliness, or how God gave you the courage to act and the wisdom to know how to act. You don't even have to sign your name unless you want to, just put your initials and city of county. Look hard at your life and try to recognize the ways God has gently caressed your life into what it is today, or report how God used otherwise life shattering events for good. Your testimonials will be used to glorify God and help lead others to Christ. What may seem like a small event to you may seem like an unsurmountable problem to others. Let God use you to help others.

Contact Information:

Georgia Family Connection:

The Georgia Family Connection are the ears to the ground for support activities within your community. They should be one of your first sources of information on where you can help in your community.

Butts County Life Enrichment Team

Sandra T. Haisten
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Clayton Collaborative Authority

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Fayette Alliance Coordinating Teamwork, Outreach and Resources

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Atlanta Fulton Family Connection

Kaffie McCullough
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Connecting Henry, Inc.

Denese Rodgers
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connectinghenry@co.henry.ga.us

Newton County Community Partnership

Stuart Taber
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Nina Powers
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Rockdale Coalition for Children and Families, Inc.

F. William Hughey
(770) 761-9244
rccfxd@bellsouth.net

Spalding County Collaborative Authority for Families and Children, Inc

Tina Grubbs
770-228-9330
spaldingcollaborative@gmail.com

Suggested Organizations to Benefit or Volunteer With:

A Friend's House (Children's Shelter)

111 Henry Parkway
McDonough, Ga 30253
678-432-1518

Crosswalk Ministries USA, Inc. (Music Ministry)

PO Box 1613
McDonough, Georgia 30253
404-386-2105

Hands of Hope Clinic, Inc. (Medical)

PO Box 1738
1010 Hospital Drive
Stockbridge, Ga 30281
770-914-7400

Haven House (Battered Women & Children)

PO Box 1150
McDonough, Ga 30253
770-954-1008

Helping in His Name Ministries, Inc. (Food Bank)

85 Bellamy Place
Stockbridge, Ga 30281
678-565-6135

Pregnancy Resource Center

3834 Jodeco Road
McDonough, Ga 30253
770-957-8288

Samaritans Together (Financial Assistance)

85 Bellamy Place
Stockbridge, Ga 30281
678-565-6526

Seven Bridges to Recovery (Homeless Ministry)

2875 Browns Mill Road
Atlanta, Ga 30354
404-361-2250

Shining Light Ministries, Inc. (Women's Half-Way House)

315 New Hope Road
McDonough, Ga 30252
678-325-9025