

# How can you get involved?

Examples of community projects and volunteer opportunities

## General ideas...



- For your next birthday, ask for charitable donations instead of gifts
- Collect new toiletries and feminine hygiene products for women and girls living on the streets
- Make "care kits" with new shampoo, toothbrushes, combs, etc to donate to homeless shelters
- Gather donations and put together packages for "Operation Shoebox"
- Donate toys to local shelters, hospitals, or Santa's Anonymous
- Organize a food drive and put together hampers for the Food Bank
- Mow the lawn or shovel the sidewalk for your elderly neighbours
- Make Christmas cards for the homeless or soldiers serving overseas
- Organize a community clean-up event and beautify local green spaces
- Build dog houses or cat trees for animal shelters/sanctuaries

## Volunteering...



- Help organize and sort donation items at a homeless shelter
- Tutor children during or after school
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen
- Become an in-school mentor with BGCBigs and create lasting relationships with kids in your community
- Join youth councils and advocate for issues that matter to you
- Be a "Science Garage" or "Birthday Party" Assistant at the Telus World of Science
- Be a "Youth Network" volunteer with the Stollery Children's Hospital
- Look for special event listings - these often accommodate groups, so you can volunteer with family and friends. **Bonus:** these positions are short-term and episodic!

# How can you get involved?

Tips for getting started

## Next steps

- **Look over your interests:** which activities are most interesting to you? If they are in one particular category, that is a great place to start a project or contact a related organization for youth-friendly opportunities
- **Figure out how much time you can devote to an organization or a project:** what are your commitments? How much time do you have to share with your community? Knowing how your time is spent can help you decide which community service projects to pursue or choose a volunteer position that's right for you!
- **Do some research to see what projects you can do in your community:** There are a variety of issues impacting Edmonton. What interests you? How can you get involved? We provided some ideas, but there are tons of opportunities out there! Your community and its organizations will always welcome new volunteers and value your contributions.

