

COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

The Community Service Group is a recurring group that convenes once or twice a month. The group is run by the residents but there is an activity staff present to assist.

The residents each select a cause or charity that is close to their hearts and they vote on which they are going to support. They create a list of 4-5 different agencies in need and place them on a schedule. This gives everyone advance information on the reason for their meeting in preceding weeks. Some charities may require more than one meeting. For example, sewing dresses for the Orphan Grain Train required one meeting for the dresses to be made and a second meeting to package and attach notes. If the assistance will be a monetary donation, funds raised from various activities can be "banked" until there is a sufficient amount for a meaningful donation. The activity staff member can help with names of local charities of which residents may not be aware. A list for the Jamestown area can be seen below.

Once the cause/charity has been determined, group participants decide how best to assist; money donation or goods. The staff member can look online or call the chosen agency to determine their needs and how the committee can best provide. It's also possible that local businesses will do a matching donation if they are contacted in advance.

Non-profits in the Jamestown Area

Humane Society	8700 36 St. SE, Jamestown
Prairie Paws	320-4553
Community Action Region VI	1417 12 Ave. NE 252-1821 Provides services & programs for low Income people; emergency help, food, home weatherization, etc.
Orphan Grain Train	103 4 th Ave SE 320-3259 PO Box 1546 Donates food, clothing & medical supplies to 71 countries plus the US
Fancy Ferals	Provides shelter & food for feral cats Captures, spays, neuters, and rehomes kittens; website
Brown Barn Beacon	2831 76 Ave SE, Buchanan. Provides animal care, gardening, canning, out- door work for those recovering from mental illness
Great Plains Food Bank	1720 3 Ave N, Fargo 701-232-6214 Mobile pantry travels to small communities to deliver food. Stocks Food banks across the state
Stutsman County Museum	317 3 St SE 252-6741

South Central Homeless Coalition 300 2 Ave NE Suit 200 Undertakes projects to help the homeless. Blessing Bags were constructed to hold hygiene products & first aid kits. Mercy Boxes contained personal care items, socks, and snacks.

Safe Shelter/ Mary's Place

PO Box 1934

Provides emergency shelter and personal needs for abused individuals

Fort Seward Reconstruction Committee 602 10 Ave NW PO Box 1393

Jamestown, 251-1875 teaches lifestyle and history of the 1870s through reconstructions, the interpretive center, and summer programs

Jamestown Art Center

115 2 St SW 251-2496 Provides after school and summer programs and camps for children, teens, & adults, outdoor community entertainment and year-long classes in painting, ceramics, carving, cooking, crocheting, photography, & more

MONEY RAISING ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS

Residents are often willing and able to provide needed items to local charities. Personal involvement in making or purchasing those items results in feelings of self-worth and pride. Below are some money making suggestions. It is also a good idea to hold back a percentage (20%) of the raised funds in order to purchase the necessary supplies for the next money raising function. Making the service group self-sufficient is a worthwhile goal in itself.

1. Towel Folding Marathon

Staff, family, and friends pledge a monetary amount for the number of towels folded; ex. .05 per hundred or .10 per hundred. They might also donate a flat amount. Advertise the local charity that will be helped by the donation. Advertise the event facility wide a week in advance and get the towel folding group excited about the upcoming event. Be sure to recognize the participants before, during, and after the marathon. Keep a dry erase board visible to all during the marathon and update the number of towels folded every 10-15 minutes. This adds to the excitement. More information can be seen under "Facility Wide" on the activity web site.

2. Craft sale

A number of residents are capable of making very nice items, either through craft projects or on their own, with crocheting, beading, or embroidery. They could have a craft

sale in conjunction with a fall fair or harvest festival with the proceeds going to their charity of choice. Visit with residents throughout the year so you are familiar with their skills and encourage participation in the project. Many residents enjoy “creating” but have no recipient for their finished creations. This project will give them a goal.

3. Facility-wide bake sale

Many residents still enjoy being in the kitchen, baking muffins, cookies, bars, and crisps. Everyone loves fresh baked goods. Several times a year the residents can have a bake sale for staff and visitors. This might be a good time to include “Jar Creations”, those wonderful cookies or soups that have all the dry ingredients in a pint jar with a ribbon around the top and printed directions. Residents can assemble the jars as an activity.

4. Soup for the Season

Once or twice a month during the winter especially, the cooking group can prepare a large kettle of soup to be served to staff for a set price or for a free will offering. Often, staff lunch breaks begin at 10:45 so it might be necessary to prepare the soup the day before and reheat the day of the sale. Resident participants can not only make the soup but also help serve the soup and collect the money. Knowing the

charity to receive the benefits often helps increase the income.

5. Card Sales

Many facilities receive new, unused greeting cards as donations. Residents can participate in an activity whereby they sort the cards into groups of ten or twelve. The cards could be all one category, such as all birthday, all get well, etc., or they could be a mix. Once assembled, participants tie a colorful ribbon around the packet, include a thank you tag that might also have the name of the charity receiving the funds. Be sure to include the type of cards included in the packet. Perhaps they could be sold at another event or they could be an item always available in the activity room. If the latter, post notices around the facility so staff will know about the availability.

6. Muffin Mondays

Make home made fresh muffins available Mondays, sale to last until the muffins are gone. Participants mix the muffins, bag or wrap them, and man the sales counter. Single large muffins or bags of 4 mini- muffins of 2-3 varieties will go over great with staff and visitors alike. Again, hold back some money to purchase more mixes or ingredients for the next Monday's baking. Revenue can be held for several

weeks or until there is a large enough amount to make a meaningful donation to the charity of choice.

7. Concert

The resident choir can have an open performance for the community and the facility with a free-will offering. Make the receiving charity public. Serve tea and coffee and treats, made by the choir members or manager, after the program. Be sure to advertise with colorful posters around the facility. Make one notice for the day of the concert, to place near the donation basket explaining the free-will offering and the charity of choice that will receive the funds. Residents who are not actually in the choir might help make the notices and act as choir managers. One or two of these managers can be out front the day of the concert, handing out programs to the attendees and caring for the donation basket.