

THE HAPPY HELPERS

**STAY-IN-PLACE
MISSION TRIP
2020**

Name: _____ Date: _____



FALL 2020:

A STAY-IN-PLACE MISSION TRIP

Dear Children, Youth, & Families,

I have missed a great deal of things during this time of “staying in place,” but one of the things that I have missed the most, is serving alongside of many of you. Over the past several months, the words of our Baptismal Covenant have continued to fill my mind: “Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?” “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?” And as Episcopalians, our response should always be: “I will, with God’s help.” During these times of uncertainty, it would be very reasonable and very easy to call a “time out” on these words (and no one would blame you). To put them on hold for just a bit longer. But I believe, that now, more than ever, we need to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our homes, our neighborhoods, our city, our state, our country and our world.

Will you join me?

What is a “Stay-In Place Mission Trip?” It is an opportunity to continue our service to God and to our neighbor, in many cases, without ever leaving our homes. To “live into” the Prayers of the People, by working to meet the needs of:

- the Universal church, its members, and its mission
- the nation and all in authority
- the welfare of the world
- the concerns of the local community
- those who suffer and those in any trouble
- the departed

Our “Stay-In Place Mission Trip” is a 6 week experience, that focuses on a different geographical area of service each week. In this booklet, you will be given suggestions for service projects, and in some cases, supplies will even be provided, along with websites. In addition, every week, a link to a YouTube video will be sent out. In this video, you will hear a thoughtful children’s story, that coordinates with that week’s service. These videos will also provide tips for your family about the projects and even completed examples of the projects themselves. Feel free to choose one or more of the suggested projects or you may even “create” your own!

Use this “Stay-In Place Mission Trip” booklet to keep track of your service work! We ask that you take pictures all along the way and send them to Jennifer. Pictures will be used for a “Stay-In Place Mission Trip” slideshow that will be shared with our congregation on Sunday, October 25. Once completed, please turn your “Stay-In Place Mission Trip” booklet in to Jennifer, so that A Happy Helper Certificate can be awarded! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. It is a privilege to “travel” alongside of you on this journey!!

With a grateful heart,
Jennifer Murphy

WEEK 1: September 7-13 2020

SERVICE IN MY HOME

Rosie Saves the World by Debbie Herman

Choose one or more service projects to complete. Don't forget to take pictures!

Heart Vandals:

- Using construction paper included in your bag, cut out hearts. Decorate the hearts with colorful pictures or designs. You might also like to add sweet messages or words of encouragement! Text Jennifer when you are finished, and she will pick the hearts up from your porch! These hearts will be put into care packages that will be mailed to our church family!!

"Goofy" Heart Ornaments:

- Using the pre-packaged bag of supplies included in your bag, follow the directions to create the "Goofy Heart Ornament." Text Jennifer when you are finished, and she will pick the heart ornament up from your porch! These heart ornaments will be put into care packages that will be mailed to our church family!!

Jesus Loves Me Heart Magnets:

- Using the pre-packaged bag of supplies included in your bag, follow the directions to create the "Jesus Loves Me" heart magnets. Text Jennifer when you are finished, and she will pick the heart magnets up from your porch! These heart magnets will be put into care packages that will be mailed to our church family!!

Household Chores:

- Choose a "chore" around the house that would not be a "normal" chore for you! Maybe wash the dog or prepare a meal or fill bathroom soap dispensers?!? Your family will appreciate any project you complete!!

Or, create your own service project!

How did you choose to serve? Draw or write about it here!

WEEK 2: September 14-20, 2020

SERVICE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD

The House on Dirty-Third Street by Jo S. Kittinger

Choose one or more service projects to complete. Don't forget to take pictures!

Little Food Pantry at Rec:

· In the Rec parking lot, we now have a Little Food Pantry. Donate canned foods and other non perishable items. You can drop your donations off directly into the Little Food Pantry in the parking lot by the mailbox or text Jennifer and she will pick up the food from your porch!

Cursillo Gifts: Cursillo is a weekend retreat that allows adults to grow in their relationship with Jesus. During this time, those who attend the retreat, are surprised with small gifts.

· Using the metal washers, super glue, and ribbon included in your bag, create cross ornaments. (You may want to wear gloves, while working with super glue.) Lay out your metal washers in a cross pattern (I did 7 down and 5 across. I laid the metal washers in an over/under pattern.) Place a dab of super glue on each washer and press down gently. Allow your cross ornament to dry for several hours. Add a ribbon to the top of the cross ornament. Text Jennifer when you are finished, and she will pick the cross ornaments up from your porch and send them off to the next Cursillo retreat!

Surprise a Neighbor:

· No matter where we live, we all have neighbors! Wouldn't it be fun to surprise them! It would be "easy" to surprise the neighbors that you know, but what about trying to surprise those that you don't!! Some ideas might be to: pull trashcans in/out for them, leave a surprise note or small gift at their door, rake their leaves, or mow their lawn. The ideas are endless!!

RMI Friends: Our RMI friends have had to stay quarantined in their group homes. This has been very difficult for them. Wouldn't it be fun to send them a care package??

· There are several group homes. Some ideas might be to: make cards, donate board games, donate DVD movies, donate bubbles or even crayons and coloring books, bake cookies, etc. The ideas are endless!! Text Jennifer and she will pick up your care package items and deliver them to our RMI Friends group homes.

Or, create your own service project!

How did you choose to serve? Draw or write about it here!

WEEK 3: September 21-27, 2020

SERVICE IN MY CITY

A Hat for Mrs. Goldman by Michelle Edwards

Choose one or more service projects to complete. Don't forget to take pictures!

Christian Assistance Ministry: (CAM) seeks to share the love of Christ by providing immediate assistance and encouragement to people in crisis. There are many ways to help serve:

- **Make sandwiches for homeless clients:** make sandwiches using bread, meat and cheese. No peanut butter and jelly. No mayo and mustard. Put each sandwich in a Ziploc bag. Call/text Jennifer to make arrangements for her to pick up and drop off your sandwiches to the CAM location downtown. **Make homeless hygiene kits:** In a Ziploc bag, please include travel-sized items of deodorant, comb/brush, soap, shampoo, razor, toothpaste and toothbrush. **Make homeless food kits:** In a lunch bag, please include a granola bar, a "pop-top" food item (ex: stew or ravioli), apple sauce cup, a juice box, and Cheez-its or chips (individual size). **Make a clothing kit:** In a plastic shopping bag, include one clean t-shirt, one clean pair of stretchy or elastic-banded pants, one pair of new socks and one pair of new underwear. Once the bag is complete, tie the bag and label the bag with gender and size. (ex: Women's Medium). Text Jennifer and she will pick up your kit and deliver it to CAM.

Assisted Living Centers: Many of our older adults have been quarantined and unable to have visitors at their assisted living centers. Let's encourage our older adults in San Antonio!!

- Create a "Color a Heart Magnet" or a "Sequin Heart Ornament" (or both) using the supplies included in your bag. Text Jennifer when you are finished, and she will pick up the heart magnet or ornament from your porch! These heart magnets or ornaments will be put into care packages that will be mailed to a variety of assisted living facilities in San Antonio!!

The Children's Shelter of San Antonio: Puts children first by providing a safe, trauma-focused place for children in crisis whether the need is for immediate shelter, residential treatment or foster and adoptive homes.

- The Children's Shelter is always in need of diapers (size 4, 5, 6) and wipes. Will you donate? A new stuffed animal could be a comfort to a child in crisis. Maybe our Rec Children and Youth could use their allowance to purchase a stuffed animal and then donate? Text Jennifer and she will pick up your donations and deliver them to the Children's Shelter.

**** Turn the page to see more ways that you can serve in your city!**

WEEK 3: September 21-27, 2020

SERVICE IN MY CITY, CONT.

San Antonio Humane Society: Our Mission is to protect and improve the lives of dogs and cats by providing shelter, care, adoption, rescue, spay/neuter programs, and community education.

- Collect newspapers! Once your family is done reading the paper, will you set it aside so it can be donated. You might even ask neighbors who read the paper if you can have theirs too! (Make sure you ask them first!!) Text Jennifer and she will pick up your newspaper donations and deliver them to the San Antonio Humane Society.

Painted Rocks and Prayer Stations:

- Take a walk around your backyard or your neighborhood and collect 5 average sized flat rocks. Take your rocks home, clean them well and let them dry. Using acrylic paint or paint markers, decorate your rocks with words of encouragement. There are plenty of ideas on Google. When you are done, if you can spray a sealant on your rock, the decorations will last a lot longer. Using the "Driving Prayer Stations" handout included in your bag, take a family car trip and pray for each location on the list and leave one of your rocks at each location. What an encouragement it will be to the person who finds it!!

Or, create your own service project!

How did you choose to serve? Draw or write about it here!

WEEK 4: September 28–October 4, 2020

SERVICE IN MY STATE

Maddie's Fridge by Lois Brandt

Choose one or more service projects to complete. Don't forget to take pictures!

Don't Mess with Texas: is a slogan for a campaign aimed at reducing littering on Texas roadways by the Texas Department of Transportation.

- Choose a location (a park, your street, a parking lot, roadway, etc.) where you have seen a lot of trash. Grab a trash bag and maybe even some gloves and get to work picking up the trash. If possible, you may want to recycle whatever you can, and throw away the rest! Don't forget to wash your hands when you are finished!!

The Children's Hospital:

- Let's create busy bags for children in the hospital! Think of the busy bags that we have in the Rec sanctuary. The sky is the limit as to what you can include. (No food please.) You will need a small cloth bag, preferably with a handle, that you can fill with fun items for a child to play or create with. Some ideas might be: books, crayons, paper, easy arts and crafts projects (with all the supplies), playdough, etc. The internet has fabulous ideas of things to include. You might even create your bag based on a "theme," with all the supplies matching that theme. Text Jennifer when you are finished with your busy bag and she will pick it up and deliver it to a Texas Children's Hospital.

Project Linus: Our volunteers, known as "blanketeers," provide new, handmade, washable blankets to be given as gifts to seriously ill and traumatized children, ages 0–18. All blanket styles are welcome, including quilts, tied comforters, fleece blankets, crocheted or knitted afghans, and receiving blankets in child-friendly colors. Always remember that blankets must be homemade, washable, free of pins, and come from smoke-free environments due to allergy reasons.

- One of the easiest blankets that I have found to make is a fleece "tie blanket." Directions can be found online OR "no sew fleece kits" are available to order online from Amazon. These are a fun family project and are very quick and easy to make!! Text Jennifer when you are finished with your blanket and she will pick it up from your front porch and deliver it to our Project Linus coordinator.

Or, create your own service project!

How did you choose to serve? Draw or write about it here!

WEEK 5: October 5-11, 2020

SERVICE IN MY COUNTRY

Who Is My Neighbor? By Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

Choose one or more service projects to complete. Don't forget to take pictures!

Creative Ways to Raise Donation Funds:

- Create a product or have a garage sale, lemonade stand, bake sale, art sale, etc. Sell your product and donate the sales of your product to a cause that's important to you! Need some ideas of places to donate? You could always search Google and find an organization that supports a cause that your family is passionate about. An organization to consider might be Camp Dreamcatcher, which offers year-round programs for children whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS. They are looking for small monetary donations for camp supplies. Their website is: www.campdreamcatcher.org

Operation Gratitude: Works to forge strong bonds between Americans and their Military and First Responder Heroes through volunteer service projects, acts of gratitude, and meaningful engagements in communities nationwide.

- Using the blank postcards included in your bag, spend time decorating the "picture" side. Use any art medium that you would like to use (crayons, colored pencils, pastels, paints, etc.) On the other side of the postcard, write a positive and encouraging message to our Military or a First Responder. Two letter writing guides are included in your bag, with specific details. Please take a second to read them! Text Jennifer when you are finished with your postcards and she will pick them up from your front porch and mail to Operation Gratitude.

Navajoland:

- Be sure to check out this week's YouTube video for all the ways that you can help serve with Navajoland.

Or, create your own service project!

How did you choose to serve? Draw or write about it here!

WEEK 6: October 12-18, 2020

SERVICE IN MY WORLD

Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed by Emily Pearson

Choose one or more service projects to complete. Don't forget take pictures!

Sole Hope: Thousands of vulnerable people in Uganda suffer from a crippling parasite called jiggers. Sole Hope aids Ugandan people to become jigger-free restoring health and hope for the future.

- Using the pattern included in your bag and an old pair of denim blue jeans, trace and cut the patterns for the shoes. Text Jennifer when your shoe patterns have been traced and cut, and she will pick them up from your porch and send them to Sole Hope (where they will complete the shoes).

Kid Knits: Founded by a nine-year old knitter, KidKnits is over 50 families around the world that benefit from your purchase of the yarn which they hand-spin. These families are from Chile, Rwanda, and Kenya. (The yarn that Rec purchased is from Chile)

- Purchase 70 yards of hand spun wool yarn (Jennifer already purchased 9 different colors, so please speak to her if you are interested. Each ball of yarn was \$11 and a check to Church of Reconciliation can be written). You will need to purchase a 9.5 inch loom, a knitting hook tool and a plastic needle (These items can be found on Amazon for about \$13.99. Directions and videos can be found on www.kidknits.org for how to make knitted hats. Jennifer will also be including printed directions. These hats would make amazing gifts and/or can be sold in order to purchase more hand-spun yarn from KidKnits. Another idea might be to donate your hats to someone in need (especially when the weather gets cold!)

Walk Alongside our Friends at El Buen Pastor in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico:

- Be sure to check out this week's YouTube for all the ways you can help serve with El Buen Pastor.

Or, create your own service project!

How did you choose to serve? Draw or write about it here!