



## Action Planning a Community Service Project

### Materials:

- Completed Worksheet (from previous lesson)
- Worksheet (2 pages)

### Brainstorm

In the previous lesson, we talked about thinking outside the box and identified some ideas in the school or community that need to be solved. Who wants to share a problem they identified?

### Discuss

As student volunteers share their responses, write ideas on the board while asking clarifying questions as needed. Continue to facilitate the class discussion as long as ideas are being generated. Once you have a list of ideas, ask students to rate the most important ones, coming up with a top 5 list.

### Dive in!

An important part of being a member of a community is being aware of what the community needs and how you can help support those needs. We all have ways that we can help to support our communities. Community service projects are a great way to do this. Community service projects are organized events in which a group of people get together to help others. Today you are going to spend some time reflecting on the needs of your community and the ways in which you can help by participating in a community service project. This could mean helping out with organizing an important event, such as a food or clothing drive, or it could mean writing letters to help spread information. There are many creative ways for you to get involved and help in your community. Habitat for Humanity is one example of an organization that uses volunteers from community service projects to help build affordable housing. Since 1972, homes for over 22 million people have been built as a result of the efforts of groups of people from schools, workplaces, and other clubs and organizations who have volunteered for a day.



## High School

### Activity

Depending on the number of students in the class, and the type of projects identified, you may want to have the whole class work on one project together or small groups of students work together on different projects. Distribute copies of the worksheet. Ask students to select a project and begin action planning the steps to solve the issue. Encourage students to think about the obstacles they may overcome as well as the resources they will need to accomplish their project. As students work together, circulate around the room, providing assistance as needed.

### Reflect

Have students respond to the questions at the bottom of the worksheet: As you think about implementing your community service project, who do you think will benefit most? Why did you choose this project?

### Extend and Enrich

It may take more than one class period for students to complete their community service projects. Once students have had the chance to implement their projects, have students assess and evaluate the results of their project.

### For Further Study

- Teen Life, *50 Community Service Ideas for Teen Volunteers*:  
[www.teenlife.com/blog/50-community-service-ideas-teen-volunteers/](http://www.teenlife.com/blog/50-community-service-ideas-teen-volunteers/)
- To learn more about Habitat for Humanity or to see about the possibility of scheduling a group build project, visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).
- The nonprofit organization [www.DoSomething.org](http://www.DoSomething.org) helps match volunteers to community service projects in their community.

**Optional Home Connection** → Provide students with a copy of the Home Connection letter or email a copy to students' families.

### Professional Development

Many high schools have community service requirements that students must fulfill in order to graduate. Is this something your school does? If not, should it? Is this a cause you would be interested in getting more involved in or in organizing?