

# FAMILY RESOURCE

C O N N E C T I O N

A publication created by and for New Horizon Academy • [www.NewHorizonAcademy.net](http://www.NewHorizonAcademy.net) • Phone: 763-557-1111



“Taking stock of what I have and what I haven't, what do I find? The things I have will keep me satisfied... Got no diamond, got no pearl, still I think I'm a lucky girl, I got the sun in the morning and the moon at night!”

~sang Annie Oakley in Irving Berlin's musical "Annie Get Your Gun".

## Making a Difference As a Family

The economy our country is facing these days has many of us taking stock in what's important in our lives. Certainly our children and our families are at the top of that list. The economy also has many of us taking a look at what we have and perhaps what we could share with others as well. The holidays are a time of giving, but how can we keep that giving spirit throughout the year?

There are a variety of ways to continue to give throughout the year. These are also wonderful ways in which to involve your children and instill the lifelong gift of sharing and giving to them. However, not every volunteer idea or opportunity may be right for you and your family. Consider these points before you choose a volunteer activity for your family:

- Make it fun. If your child doesn't enjoy the activity, learning opportunities may be lost.
- Keep in mind your child's physical ability and attention span. Helping build a community playground is a terrific undertaking—but not for a three-year-old.
- Involve your children in the decision. Consider their strengths and interests as much as possible.
- Inform any volunteer organization you contact that you want to include your children.
- Seek out direct, hands-on ways of giving. For instance, joining a fund-raising "walk for hunger" will mean more to a child (and to you) than simply being persuaded to crack open her piggy bank and send some money to a soup kitchen.
- Don't over commit or set unrealistic goals at the beginning. If a particular activity doesn't seem to be the right fit for you after trying it once or twice, try something else.

### Mission

To open "New Horizons" of self-esteem and potential for the little people entrusted to our care, their families, and our employees by providing and continuously improving the best child development on the planet!



## January

Clothing Drive! Clean out your closets to make room and then share with organizations that will make sure the clothing gets to those in need. Help cook and/or serve a meal at a homeless shelter. Make a care package with mittens, socks, T-shirts, etc. for a child at a homeless shelter.

## February



Happy Valentine's Day! Make handmade valentines and placemats to give to a senior center or nursing home. Adopt a "grandfriend". Visit a nursing home. Shovel snow, clean gutters, or wash windows for senior citizens. Offer to pickup groceries or medicine with/for a senior citizen or deliver him or her a home-cooked meal.

## March

Help families with special needs. Volunteer to help at a Special Olympics event. Set up a buddy system for kids with special needs at your school. Raise money for Braille or large print books for the visually impaired. Volunteer at an agency that works with emotionally disturbed children. Bring toys to children in the cancer ward of a hospital.

## April

Prepare Easter or spring baskets for children in need. For Earth Day, plant a garden or tree where the entire neighborhood can enjoy it. Clean up trash along a river or park.

## May



Get to know your neighbor. Volunteer as a family to help your neighbors paint and repair their homes. Clean up a vacant lot. Plant flowers in public areas that could use some color.

## June

Summertime! Create activity kits for different aged children with your children. Create show-and-tell bags or dramatic play costumes and donate to local early childhood programs.

## July



Happy Birthday America! Prepare birthday baskets for needy children by collecting pinātas, tablecloths, party favors, utensils, paper products, and hats.

## August

Back to school days. Collect and fill backpacks with school supplies such as notebooks, highlighters, markers, pens, pencils, paper, glue, scissors, and rulers.

## September

Traveling? Collect your hotel-size shampoos, conditioners, razors, shaving creams, mouthwashes, and place them in new pairs of socks. Tie them up with ribbons to distribute as hygiene kits to a homeless shelter.

## October

Trick or treat. Collect candy and nutritious snacks and make decorated goody bags to distribute throughout the month. Collect items to make baby bags for new underprivileged mothers.



## November

Happy Thanksgiving. Give thanks by holding a canned food drive to supplement Thanksgiving meals for those in need. You can also donate directly to area food shelves. Read with children at a local hospital or wellness center. Teach children a special skill or recipe. Teach music lessons to children in need.

## December



Adopt a family! Collect and distribute food, toys, and gifts for an entire family. Make, buy, or donate toys for children in orphanages or shelters. Donate your hair for children with cancer or other medical conditions. Organize a teddy bear drive. Donate and sort books, clothes, and party supplies for disadvantaged children.

### Mission

To open "New Horizons" of self-esteem and potential for the little people entrusted to our care, their families, and our employees by providing and continuously improving the best child development on the planet!