



Giving Back



U.S. Air Force photo by Linda LaBonte Britt

Mini Fact:

These kids planted a community garden at Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts.

Thanksgiving is this week, and other winter holidays are coming up fast. What will you do for the special days? Some people:

- travel to see family and friends.
- exchange gifts with others.
- attend services at a house of worship.
- cook and bake special foods.
- give time, goods or money to people who have less.



Helping others is an important part of many family holiday traditions. People might buy gifts for needy children or serve food at shelters for homeless people.

Young volunteers

Leaders of service groups told The Mini Page that today's kids **volunteer**, or do helpful work without being paid, much more than kids did in earlier generations.

Kids may volunteer through their church, Scouts or other service programs.

What's more, most adults who volunteer regularly started when they were children. Many of the same people who give their time also give money to help others.

Experts say that kids who volunteer get positive effects from their work. They are more likely to stay in school and have better behavior. They are less likely to use alcohol or drugs.

What kids can do

The holiday season often reminds us how important it is to help people who have less than we do. But you may want to help other people during the rest of the year, too.

Start by asking yourself a few questions:

1. What would I like to fix about my community?
2. Whom do I like to work with? Animals? Other kids? Senior citizens?
3. What can I do to make the world more fair?
4. When I see a problem, what kinds of ideas do I have for solving it? The answers to these questions may help you discover a cause you can work toward.

Giving ideas

• Lots of kids get involved in improving the environment. They might clean up rivers and streams, organize recycling centers at home or at school, collect aluminum cans for recycling or start a community garden.



photo courtesy U.S. Department of Agriculture

• A Sunday school group might arrange to visit kids in a local hospital. They can play cards or games, read or just talk with the patients during their treatments.

• A classroom might start a **book or toy drive**. Families at the school could donate books and toys to be delivered to a homeless shelter where kids stay.

More ideas

• Kids can arrange to visit nursing homes or assisted living homes and spend time with seniors. They might play bingo, read or just talk with the older people.

• A Scout troop might offer to volunteer at an animal shelter. The Scouts could help clean the kennels, walk and play with the animals, make signs for pet adoption programs, and collect food and toys for the pets.



photo by Lyn Lomasi

Family fun

Kids can find ways to volunteer by contacting service-oriented groups such as Youth Service America, 4-H, Camp Fire, YMCA or United Way. Families might also set up a regular schedule for volunteer activities. For instance, they might choose one Saturday each month to do service work together.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPhelping
- ysa.org
- girlscouts.org
- scouting.org
- kidsagainsthunger.org
- salvationarmyusa.org

At the library:

- "Can We Help? Kids Volunteering to Help Their Communities" by George Ancona

The Mini Page® © 2018 Andrews McMeel Syndication

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of giving back are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ANIMALS, BOOKS,
ENVIRONMENT,
FAMILY, FOOD, GIFTS,
GIVE, HOLIDAY,
MONEY, POSITIVE,
PROBLEM, SENIORS,
SERVICES, SHELTER,
THANKSGIVING,
TIME, TOYS, TRAVEL,
VOLUNTEER.

T	S	Y	O	T	M	E	L	B	O	R	P	F	B	Q
V	P	X	T	N	E	M	N	O	R	I	V	N	E	I
O	S	E	M	I	T	P	O	S	I	T	I	V	E	D
L	H	R	T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
U	O	E	O	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	S	B	Y	R
N	L	T	S	I	D	H	X	S	K	O	O	B	K	V
T	I	L	T	D	N	G	N	I	Y	L	I	M	A	F
E	D	E	F	O	L	E	T	R	A	V	E	L	V	P
E	A	H	I	O	V	P	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	V
R	Y	S	G	F	G	E	V	I	G	M	O	N	E	Y

Cook's Corner

Zucchini Fritters

You'll need:

- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups grated zucchini (1 medium zucchini)
- 1/4 cup finely minced red onion (optional)

- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- salt to taste



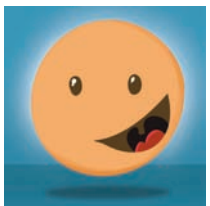
* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Beat egg in medium bowl. Add grated zucchini, onion and flour. Mix well.
2. Heat olive oil in large skillet on medium heat.
3. Drop zucchini mixture by tablespoons into heated olive oil. Brown each side 30 to 45 seconds.
4. Remove to drain on paper towels. Sprinkle with salt to desired taste. Serves 4.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. small (6) _____
2. it gets you into a movie (6) _____
3. get back (7) _____
4. open part of a house (5) _____
5. large group of people (5) _____
6. where your legs bend (5) _____
7. trash (7) _____

CH	ES	COV	TIC
KNE	ER	BA	POR
WD	TLE	LIT	GE
RE	GAR	CRO	KET

Answers: little, ticket, recover, porch, crowd, knees, garbage.

Mini Jokes



- Vinnie:** Can you name something that's unique to the month of November?
Violet: The letter V!

Eco Note



NASA has a team of satellites that keep a close eye on the Earth. They can collect lots of information about our home planet. On land, NASA satellites track soil moisture, flooding and drought, groundwater and crop health. These details can help scientists and farmers learn about soil and weather conditions. Over the sea, NASA satellites measure ocean temperatures, ocean currents, winds and severe storms and melting sea ice.

adapted from climatekids.nasa.gov

For later:

Look in your newspaper for service organizations that might need your help.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



The **Mini Spy Booklets** (Volumes 1, 2 and 3) feature 48 of your favorite puzzles from The Mini Page!

Help Mini Spy and other classic characters from The Mini Page find hidden objects from a list of clues.

Each 8.5x11-inch booklet is just \$4, plus \$1 shipping and handling, for a **total of \$5 each**.

Visit **MiniPageBooks.com**, or call **800-642-6480** for more information.

Mail payment to: Andrews McMeel Universal, Mini Page Books, 1130 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64106



The Mini Page® © 2018 Andrews McMeel Syndication

©2017 Blue Ox Technologies Ltd. Download the app on Apple and Amazon devices.