

Toys for Tots <http://toysfortots.org/donate/toys.asp>

Help kids in your community. Toys for tots is just one organization that helps provide toys to needy children. By going to the web address above you will be able to find a local Toys for Tots toy drive and all the information on how to get involved. If there is no Toys for Tots in your area check on the web for local organizations that help kids.

Habitat for Humanity <https://www.habitat.org/getinv/default.aspx>

Rebuilding Together <http://www.rebuildingtogether.org/>

Want to join in the fight against poverty housing and homelessness. To get your chapter involved, go to one of the two web address above to find a local program near you. Search the web or phone book for local organizations that help provide housing for those in need.

Hugs Across America <http://www.hugsacrossamerica.net/html/getinvolved.htm>

Hugs Across America is a non profit organization whose mission is to bring comfort to children in crisis through the hugs of teddy bears and messages of loving care. Visit the web address above to find more about this organization and how to become involved. If there is no local Hugs across American near you, check with local hospitals or children services for other way to give teddy bears to children in tough situations.

Clothing Drives <http://www.clothesthedeal.net/volunteer.html>

My New Red Shoes <http://www.mynewredshoes.org/>

There are many in our communities who have fallen on hard times. Many of these include children. You can go to one of the address above to find out ways to start and be involved in providing clothing to those in need. My New Red Shoes, in based in California and they provide new shoes for children on their first day of school. Check local listing for organizations like My New Red Shoes in your area.

Care packages for Veterans/Soldiers <http://www.anysoldier.com/>

<https://www.uso.org/donate/custom.aspx?id=850&>

<http://www.ustroopcarepackage.com/>

Want a way to help support the men and women who are serving our country. Visit one of the websites above for information on sending care packages and for others ways to volunteer.

Volunteer at a soup kitchen http://4homeless.hypermart.net/soup_kitchen.html

<http://www.cskdetroit.org/volunteer.cfm>

Many who have fallen on times, now find themselves homeless. Volunteer at a local shelter or soup kitchen to help those in need. The 4homeless website is a tool to help find a shelter/kitchen in your area.

Bread for the City <http://www.breadforthecity.org/Page.aspx?pid=238>

The mission of Bread for the City is to provide vulnerable residents of Washington, DC, with comprehensive services, including food, clothing, medical care, and legal and social services, in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. Check locally for organization similar to Bread for the City.

Cancer Walks http://www.cancer.org/docroot/emp/emp_2_volunteers.asp

Lungevity <http://www.lungevity.org/howtohelp/?section=441&page=441>

Dogs walk Against Cancer http://www.cancer.org/docroot/HOME/sup/sup_0.asp

The American Cancer Society is at work in communities all across the country providing programs aimed at reducing the risk of cancer, detecting cancer as early as possible, ensuring proper treatment, and empowering people facing cancer to cope and maintain the highest possible quality of life. The links above are just a few of the ways to volunteer. There are also walks for Alzheimer's Disease, Diabetes and other illness.

March of Dimes <http://www.marchforbabies.org/?gclid=CI28mYbrkJgCFQFvGgodC3PunQ>

The March of

Dimes supports access to health coverage for all women of childbearing age, infants and children. Visit the web address above for ways to volunteer.

Youth Programs

YMCA http://www.ymca.net/get_involved/get_involved_as_a_ymca_volunteer.html

Big Brothers/Big Sisters www.Bigbrothersbigsisters.org/Volunteer

Volunteering at one of the many youth programs is not only a great way to do volunteer work but is also rewarding. "Volunteering just 4 hours a month can change a young persons life."-Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Look for local youth programs in your community.

Community Programs

Adopt a Highway <http://www.adoptahighway.com/>

Clean up a park/beach <http://www.floridastateparks.org/lakemanatee/Volunteer.cfm>

A great way to combine volunteer work, family time and being outdoors is to volunteer at a local or state park. Many parks have programs where groups can sign up to volunteer. Look on local park websites to find places and ways to volunteer.

Hands on DC <http://www.handsondc.org/>

Hands on DC is an all-volunteer project that creates better schools and brighter futures for students in the District of Columbia. Search for a project like Hands on DC in your area and contact them for ways to be involved.

Ronald McDonald House <http://www.clevelandrmh.org/involved/opportunities.php>

The Ronald McDonald House provides a home-away-from-home for families with children who are receiving medical care. There are many ways to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald house: cleaning, preparing meals, playing games, food drives and even preparing "goodie bags" with items families might need at the hospital. Find a Ronald McDonald House your area and set up a group volunteer.

Special Olympics http://www.specialolympics.org/Get_Involved.aspx

"Are you looking for a way to play sports, be inspired or have an impact in your community? Special Olympics Programs change lives and bring people together. Join the fun – be a part of our global community of athletes and fans. The Special Olympics' mission is to provide year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Their vision is to create a more accepting and inclusive world for everyone." - SpecialOlympics.org.

American Red Cross Blood Drive <http://redcrossla.org/blood/blood-drives>

Volunteering with the Red Cross can be done in several different ways. The first to volunteer with non-profit organization, in the areas they need help. The second and best way for a group to volunteer is by setting up a blood drive with the Red Cross. Find a local Red Cross near you to start volunteering.

Volunteer at local nursing homes

<http://charityguide.org/volunteer/fewhours/nursing-home-volunteers.htm>

"Life in a nursing home, even the best of nursing homes, is often confusing, frustrating, scary, and lonely. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, more than 50 percent of nursing home residents have no close relatives, and 46 percent have no living children. These two facts are a major reason why an estimated 60% of nursing home residents never have visitors. Nursing home volunteer opportunities can include spending time with a resident, playing cards, talking, taking a walk, or sharing a meal. But you can also make visits during which you and the nursing home resident create and preserve memories that will provide comfort for the resident when friends and family are absent."-charityguide.org. Volunteer at nurse home in your area.

Food Drive

Organize a local food drive. Contact a local food bank and let them know of your plans. You can have a happy hour with an admittance fee of a canned food donation. A cookout where attendees bring a side dish and the canned/dry goods that go in the side dish. Or have attendees bring canned food to present the number in their family. You can also hold a food drive in your neighborhood. Set up a place for donations to be dropped off. Have volunteers help with organizing the donations. Put up signs to let community know what you are doing and why. A diaper drive is another way to help out in your community.

Networking

Receptions

- Welcome reception for relocating seniors, recent graduates, or current students.
- Holiday receptions
- With a speaker

Tours/Trips

- Guided bus tour of tourist attraction
- Tour of a museum or a city attraction
- Caravan to a game

Laser Bowling

Check with local bowling allies for family fun nights. Laser bowling is a family event that a local bowling allies offers: Lights are off, with strobe lights flashing, deals on food, drink and bowling costs. Kids love laser bowling. Other options: roller skating, ice skating

Attend Pro/ Semi-Pro sporting event

Get a group together to attend a sporting event. Most arenas will block off sections of seats so groups are all together. Plus discount cost on tickets. Some facilities will even announce the name of the group that is attending. Example: Baseball, basketball, football, hockey, bull riding (PBR)

Day at a State Park

Get together as a group with families and have a picnic, swimming, hiking and baseball/kickball game. Have an evening cookout, roast hot dogs and make s'mores.

Ethnic Dinner

A potluck style dinner where everyone brings food from their ethnic background or learn about a culture and everyone bring a dish from the culture.

Restaurant Opening

Make reservations for a group at a new restaurant that is opening. No new restaurants, just pick a local business and make reservation to help with the local economy.

Amusement Parks

Purchase tickets for a group to an amusement park. Kings Island, Cedar Point, Carawinds or Bushe Gardens. Groups often receive discounts. No parks close by, check out a go-cart course, miniature golf or batting cages.

Visit the Zoo

A great way to includes families with an event. Pack picnic lunches and spend the day learning about animals and their homes. Contact your local zoo for group rates/discounts.

Wine Tasting

Contact a local winery about hosting a wine tasting event. Most wineries for a small fee will provide light appetizers. So not only are you getting together with fellow alumni but it will be educational. Or visit a brewery, pastry shop or restaurant that does a food tasting.

Visit a Museum

Get a group together to visit a local museum. Contact your local museum to see about scheduling a tour and getting a discounted rate. Other options: Visit a Hall of Fame or cultural center

Back Yard BBQ's

A great way to spend a summer afternoon/evening. Grilling out with your favorite bbq's sides. Playing card and back yard games. Plan a theme party/get together: Hawaiian Luau or a fiesta.

Speed Networking

One proven idea is to get a few high profile business people in the room and provide their brief profile (along with others) online before the event. People should register in advance and be matched up people based on industry and interest before hand. Maybe have a short presentation before starting the event and allow for informal networking after. Links to speed networking articles or companies:

Philanthropic

Food Rave: Attendees pay a small fee to come to learn how to make a new dish and also prepare their own meal for the evening. Have a chef or someone that is a great cook show how to prepare the meal. Maybe provide one glass of wine per attendee but also have attendee bring their own beverages such as wine. Not only do you raise funds for a scholarship/benefit but it's also a great way to network.

Golf Tournament: Contact a local golf course about setting up a tournament. Some golf course off discounted rates for the day and for meals at the clubhouse. If the golf course does not have guidelines to follow: Set up a registration and entrance fee with deadline. Offer prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize. Prizes could be donations from a local business or even be cash prizes from the entrance fee. The web is a great place to look for help with the details of setting up a tournament. <http://www.profitquests.com/IdeasGolfLinks.html>

Silent Auctions: Create a registration form and come up with a reasonable attendance fee. Include a lunch, dinner or light appetizers in the cost of the attendance. Ask local alumni or businesses to donate items for the auction. Have the money raised from the items that are raffled off go towards a scholarship/ chapter benefit.

Cook Off: Chili cook off or dessert cook off. Create a registration form and have an entrance fee. Create a panel of judges for the cook off, ask fellow alumni to volunteer for this job. Create a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize for the winners of the cook off. (prizes could be donations or come from the entrance fees.

Benefit for local charity: Contact a local organization in your area that takes donations. Such as Toys for Tots. Have a dinner or happy hour where the admission fee is to bring something to donate to the charity. No funds are raised, but helps the community as well as provides networking.

50/50 Drawing: While not a new idea, a 50/50 drawing is great way to raise funds. A 50/50 could be done at almost any event. Happy Hours, socials or even auctions.

Adding \$1 to an event: A simple way to raise funds for a scholarship/benefit is to simply add \$1 to the cost of an event. You might not raise funds quickly but over time the \$1 would start to add up.

Dinner with auction: This event would be great around the holidays. Depending on the size of the venue, ask 8 to 10 alumni in your area to be in charge of filling a table for the dinner. The alumnus in charge of the table would be responsible for decorating the table, providing dishes, silverware, napkins and cups (everything you would need for a meal). They would also be responsible for fill the seats at the table. The cost of the seat should be set so all the seats are the same cost. The fee would go towards the meal. Adding the silent auction to this event is fun way to send time networking and continuing to raise funds.

Career Development

Networking Week- Charlotte Chapter: The goal of this event is to give students an opportunity to visit with various companies in Charlotte allowing them to see the kinds of jobs that are available here. Also, it gives them the opportunity to begin their job search before graduation. The Ohio University Alumni Association Charlotte Chapter will also be hosting an Alumni Banquet on Thursday evening, an Alumni Happy Hour on Friday evening, an Alumni event at the Charlotte Bobcats NBA Game on Friday night and the 3rd Annual Alumni Night with the Charlotte Checkers Hockey team on Saturday night.

This is a networking event and not a job fair. The purpose of Charlotte Networking Week is to assist Ohio University students in networking with Ohio University Alumni in Charlotte to help students with their career and job search. This event also allows students to visit various companies in Charlotte to get a better understanding of the Charlotte job market and industries available. Please bring your resumes.

This event currently hosts students in communications, education, and business.

Seminars: <http://www.amanet.org/seminars/>

Have successful alumni or someone from the community give a presentation on their business/profession and how they got started and any tips they might have. This event could be combined with a wine tasting or dinner for a more relaxed, personnel feel. Check out the web for more information on seminars and how you can even attend seminars via the web. The link about is just one of many sites that offer web based seminars.

A behind the scenes look at a business: This would be similar to a seminar but with a hands on look at the business. Ask a local business to do a "tour" of the business and tell how the business was started and give a brief talk about each department. Have a question/answer session at the end.

Business Etiquette: <http://www.etiquetteexpert.com/> Hold a class on business etiquette. Ask local professionals to help with specific areas. Have the class go over resumes, interviews, proper business dress, going to dinners and networking. The link above is just one of many websites that offer etiquette training.

Student Recruitment

College Fairs: Check with your local high school to see if they ever have a day/time when alumni can come in and talk about their college. Have a short speech on why you choose OU, your experiences and how you are still involved.

Posters: A lot of high school will allow college/universities to put up posters in specific areas. Check with your local high school about hanging up posters in the school.

Game Sponsors: Most high school sporting events have a concessions stand of some sort. Ask the local high school athletic director about your chapter working the concessions stand in exchange for wearing OU gear and giving out info on Ohio University.