



Community Service that can be done from home.

We class Community Service as volunteering your time to the community without receiving anything in return. Since we're in lockdown, we understand that it's a little bit harder to achieve some Community Service activities. So, we've put together this list of Community Service ideas that you can do from home. Please use this list as inspiration, it might spark an idea for you that we haven't even thought of!

Here are our top 10 Community Service ideas:

1. If you're skilled at something you could use that to your advantage and **create things to be donated**. Just set them aside to be physically donated after lockdown. Here are just a few suggestions:
 - a. If you can sew, make pet beds or toys for the [SPCA](#), the [Matakana Animal Sanctuary](#) or find a local animal organisation that would benefit from some handmade animal items.
 - b. Sew pillows that can be donated to community organisations like libraries, community centres, a Hospice or Women's Refuge.
 - c. Knit or crochet squares or baby items (like booties or beanies) to be donated to [Little Sprouts](#) or [Plunket](#).
2. Roll up your sleeves and **sort through** your family's toys, clothes, books and art you no longer need. Set them aside somewhere safe until after lockdown or donate them now in a [Purple Locker near you](#).
3. Know any younger kids in your community? You could **organise a video call** and read a book to them or help them to learn how to play an instrument or skill. In fact, it doesn't have to be younger kids that you help, it could be someone your age or the elderly. [Zoom](#) is a great video calling website.
4. Keep New Zealand beautiful. When you're out keeping active, **pick up any rubbish** along the way and don't forget to wash your hands thoroughly when you get home. Do some research into [Keeping NZ beautiful](#) here.
5. Be creative and **make letters and cards** for the elderly and vulnerable people. Check out [Sending Love](#) or this Facebook Page [@loverlettersNZ](#). Or create lovely letters and cards of appreciation for all of the essential workers out there who are working so hard during this time. Set them aside to be given out after lockdown or send them now.

6. Get your hammer out and **build some backyard trapping tunnels** following this [DOC tutorial](#). A trapping tunnel is a box to put a rat trap inside (please note that the traps do cost money). The tunnel is designed to protect your young family members and pets from the trap.
7. Turn to the seas and **help scientists** [transcribe Arctic and worldwide weather](#) observations recorded in ship's logs since the mid-19th century. Using old weather observations you can help predict our climate's future.
8. **Find and track** New Zealand birds. Check out [eBird.org](#) - this is especially good if you live in a rural setting.
9. Grow a green thumb and **get gardening**. Plant a garden using seeds that you already have and when you've harvested your vegetables give them to those in need in your community. A garden requires lots of love, so researching what to sow, when and how to care for your plants will keep you busy!
10. Get in touch with a **local rest home or hospice** and find out if there is anything that you can do from home that could help their residents or workers. Some rest homes are using technology to keep their residents in touch with loved ones. You record something that can then be shared with residents. You could read a poem or a book or play an instrument for them.