

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT and OUTREACH

### COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

#### PROJECTS:

- **Public Policy Issues** - Hold a Public Policy Breakfast once a month to discuss the District, National, State and City issues. A Chairman should be appointed to organize the discussion.
- **Advocate for Civic Education in schools** - Copies of the Constitution and other Government Rules and Regulations should be distributed at schools.
- **"Get Out To Vote"** - Encourage your members to encourage their friends and families to VOTE. Only the people can make changes. Provide transportation to anyone who needs help in going to the Voting centers. Or, make sure that they have signed up for Mail In Ballots.
- **Women's History** - March in National Women's Month. August 26, 2020 is the centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment that gave voting rights to women. If possible try to have an event or something to commemorate this day in history.
- **Keeping homes safe** - Communicate with local Police Departments to see if they have the 'Neighborhood Watch Program' that checks on people who are on vacation, in the Hospital or are elderly. This is a Volunteer Program that you could sign up for.
- **Police Department Appreciation** - Support an annual Police Appreciation Event with a booth or volunteering to help organize an event if there is not already one in your community.
- **CPR or First Aid Classes** - Check with your local Senior Center, Boys and Girls Club, Schools to make sure that they have someone who knows CPR and First Aid. Also, check to see if they have Defibrillators and know how to use them in case of an emergency.
- **EIGHT TIPS ON HOW TO DETECT A SCAM** - Provide information on how to detect a SCAM. These are usually phone calls requesting money for someone who is in need of help. It usually refers to a family member. Also, remind your members to never give out their Social Security, Bank or Credit Card numbers to anyone. NEVER SEND MONEY ORDERS.

- **RISKY DRIVING PRACTICES** - Check with the local High Schools to see if they are providing information on Safe Driving to their students. Texting, failure to use Seat Belts, talking on the phone and communication with other in the car are many of the reasons for accidents.
- **Collections for Homeless** - Collect clothing, personal items and pet food for the Homeless and Seniors and others who need help. 'Kindness Bags' that contain certain items for hygiene, toilet paper, paper towels, soap, laundry, dish, etc.. can be distributed at the Senior Center or local Churches.
- **Food Pantry** - Collection of non-perishable food items to give to Churches or the local Food Bank.
- **School Donations** - Work with local schools to help children who need shoes, backpacks, supplies, clothing to go to school.
- **Winter Clothing Drive** - Have a clothing drive to collect coats, sweaters, scarves, hats, jackets, gloves to distribute to schools, Senior Centers and Churches.
- **Support Military** - Contact local Military organizations to identify ways to support Veterans or active Service members who need help
- **Women Veterans** - Work with the VA Hospital Women's Program. They need help with Homeless Women Veterans who need clothing and hygiene supplies.

Collection of Coupons and Sunday Comics for Military. Coupons are used to buy grocery items at the Commissary or other stores. The Comics are use to pack the boxes that are sent to the Service men and women.

UNICEF - 'Trick or Treat' boxes are handed out to children or adults at Halloween to collect funds for UNICEF.

Heifer International - Raise funds to buy a goat for a family in another country so that they can have milk for their family.

Organize a 'Buddy Box' project - Do this in coordination with other Clubs and community members. Purchase of plastic 'shoe boxes' that are given to the members and participants to fill with necessity items; playing cards, pens and pencils, greeting cards, stamps, writing pads, hygiene products (small containers), socks, baseball hat or beanie, T-shirts, etc. The boxes are then distributed to the patients at the VA Hospital in December. This is organized with the help of the

VA Hospital Staff. For more information on this project please contact, Judy Wagner.

Work with the local Senior Center to deliver 'Meals On Wheels' or to serve Senior lunch at the Center. They could also use help with the Senior events that they have during the year.

Support the local Animal Shelter with old blanket and towels and pet food. They can always use help with these items.

Crochet, Knit or sew items to donate to Veterans, Seniors, Homeless, Children/baby items (Precious Life/Los Alamitos)

Organize an ESO monthly meeting to discuss books that the members read. This is a good way to just get together and discuss what they are currently reading. There is a reading list provided by District and ways to earn awards for different types of literature.

Collect book for local Libraries that have a Book Nook that sells books to raise money for the Library Projects that are not funded.

Check into ways to help people who are learning English or need help with applying or obtaining Citizenship.

### **MOST OF ALL - BE AWARE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS**

Check the elderly, watch for people going door-to-door trying to sell things, have packages delivered to a neighbor if you are not going to be home. Be cautious and aware of your surroundings and stay healthy.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions on any of the things that I have mentioned. The Cypress Women's Club has been participating or have participated in most, if not all, of these projects.

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