SUMMER SERIES: Do For Others…

Summer is here! What a great time to invest in learning about what you and your family can do for those in your community. Maybe you can start a trend! Once your neighbors see what a difference you are making, maybe they will step up and continue or start something on their own. Here is a list of ideas to get you (and your family) started!

**Phone a relative:** So many grandparents are missing their favorite little people, so why not call a relative who misses your kids and maybe misses you?

**Thank-you notes:** Write end-of-year thank-you cards to your teachers and other school staff, aftercare workers.

**"Get well soon" cards:** Let's add "we miss you" or "get well soon" cards to send to anyone you miss or who you know isn’t well. Real mail is lovely to receive.

**Hand out snack bags:** Gather shelf-stable snacks, bottles of water, socks and wipes into bags to hand out to people who need them. You can spot people from more than 6 feet away, wave, leave bags for them and walk away so they can safely pick them up.

**Food donations:** Make and contribute food to severely depleted food pantries.

**Walk a dog:** Become a volunteer dog walker for your less mobile or elderly neighbors, or the local shelters. Cat socializers are needed for local shelters that may be short-staffed or low on volunteers.

**Make food to share:** Cook, bake or order in for your neighborhood’s first responders or essential workers.

**Signs of thanks:** Make signs for your lawn that thank anyone your family is grateful for.

**Chalk messages of hope:** Lots of people are walking outside these days, and your kids can cheer them up with hopeful messages.

**Lemonade stand:** Set up a socially distant lemonade stand and give the proceeds to a hospital. People can place their order from 6 feet away, pay using an app or drop cash into a bucket. The kids should wear masks and gloves as they pour the lemonade, place it on the table and step back to their original spot.

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