

25 Ideas

FOR INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE



- 1 SET UP A COMMUNITY GARDEN.** Tend it together. Invite the neighbors. Share the produce. Find out how one church built relationships while growing plants in [Garden Ministry Teaches Children Creation Care](#).
- 2 ENGAGE INTERGENERATIONAL TEAMS ON SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIPS.** Visit [Changed for Life](#) for free resources that participants can use together before, during, and after such trips. Tip: Refer to the grown-ups on the trip as “caring adults” instead of calling them “chaperones.”
- 3 SEND COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES** to out-of-town students. For ideas, read [College Care Packages that Nurture Faith](#) and [this story](#) about the care packages an Ontario church sends to its young adults.
- 4 HOST NEIGHBORHOOD POTLUCKS.** In [Friday Night Meatballs: How to Change Your Life with Pasta](#), blogger Sarah Gray describes how her family hosts weekly intergenerational dinners. What might it look like to host Friday Night Meatballs in your neighborhood or Sunday Soup at your church?
- 5 CLEAN UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD** with multi-age garbage pickup crews. End the activity with conversation over a shared meal or snacks.
- 6 SHOVEL SNOW AND/OR RAKE LEAVES** for those who are unable to do so themselves. Work as a multi-age team and then rest together over hot chocolate.
- 7 SERVE A MEAL IN YOUR COMMUNITY.** Create intergenerational groups to commit to regularly serving a meal at a local soup kitchen, shelter, or other community-based organization.
- 8 EXTEND VBS TO INCLUDE FAMILIES.** Using an intergenerational curriculum such as [A Very Blessed Summer](#) from GenOn Ministries is one way to do this; another idea might be to offer classes for adults to take while the kids are learning. Check out how one church used Godly Play materials to lead an intergenerational justice themed “VB-Us” in the post [What Is Your Work Today?](#).
- 9 BECOME A MESSY CHURCH** and provide a monthly meal, celebration, and hospitality for people who aren’t part of another form of church. Watch [Introducing Messy Church](#) to find out more.
- 10 HOST INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE NIGHTS AT YOUR CHURCH.** Plan a variety of activities in which all ages can participate and which will bless a person or group in need. Some ideas: make greeting cards, assemble toiletry kits for a shelter, prepare a pot of soup for the soup kitchen, bake muffins for a new parent, etc. For more ideas, see [Generations Together, Chapter 5: A Congregational Toolkit for Becoming Intentionally Intergenerational](#), page 142.
- 11 HOST A MEAL-PACKAGING EVENT** for an organization such as [Stop Hunger Now](#).

- 12 SEEK JUSTICE TOGETHER.** You'll find great resources to get you started at [#kidstalkjustice](#), [Live Justly](#), [Blessing Not Burden](#), [Climate Conversation: Kenya](#) and [DoJustice](#).
- 13 PLAN AND HOST A FUNDRAISING EVENT TOGETHER** at your church.
- 14 ENTER AN INTERGENERATIONAL TEAM** into a local walkathon, race, or bikeathon.
- 15 MAKE BABY BLANKETS** to bless new parents in your congregation or to support the work of organizations such as [Project Linus](#). You'll find patterns for a variety of styles [here](#).
- 16 MAKE SANITARY SUPPLY KITS** for [Days for Girls](#). Read the story of how an intergenerational group from Iowa did it [here](#).
- 17 PROVIDE PHYSICAL LABOR** for a community organization that's in need of some help. End your efforts each time with a shared meal or snack to build relationships.
- 18 ASSEMBLE GIFT BASKETS** for new parents, people who are housebound, new refugees to your community, and more.
- 19 INCLUDE ALL AGES ON YOUR COMMUNION PREPARATION TEAMS.** For a list of general descriptions of the spiritual characteristics of children at various stages, along with notes about how they might experience communion, click [here](#).
- 20 VOLUNTEER AT A RETIREMENT OR NURSING HOME FACILITY.** Inquire at a local facility about the best ways that an intergenerational team could support the residents in an ongoing way.
- 21 FEED COLLEGE KIDS** a free monthly lunch at church after the worship service or in the homes of members.
- 22 BE EARTH SMART.** Form an intergenerational team to brainstorm ways your congregation can "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." (Children and youth will have some wonderful ideas for this!) Set a goal like "become Energy Star certified" and then work together to make change happen.
- 23 CREATE AN INTERGENERATIONAL ADVOCACY TEAM** to follow state and federal legislation on particular issues like hunger, climate change, or immigration and to share what they are learning with the rest of the congregation.
- 24 PRACTICE HOSPITALITY AT CHURCH.** Include all ages on the teams that welcome people into worship on Sunday.
- 25 PRACTICE HOSPITALITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY.** Partner with local organizations to welcome refugees and immigrants to your community. Invite intergenerational teams and/or families in your church to get involved.

The Faith Formation Ministries team is available to consult and brainstorm with you on these ideas and more. We'd also love to hear your faith formation stories so that we can share them with others. You'll find our contact information at crcna.org/FaithFormation.



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