



Ten Ways Your Church Can Partner With Your Community that Cost \$0

Sometimes church leaders limit potential and possibilities due to a scarcity mindset. With limited funds, too often leaders remember all they used to do with larger budgets or what they feel they can no longer do with limited resources. With a mindset of abundance, we offer this list of ways to partner with your community that will cost \$0. It's important to remember that what the church can offer that is way more valuable than dollars and programs are relationships, love, support, and a sense of authentic community. Hint: You'll find the more desirable and highly valued relational experiences embedded in these zero-cost ideas!

1. Partner with your local state highway department to adopt a stretch of highway in or near your community. Rally your congregation and community together to pick up trash and keep your town beautiful. People appreciate high-impact, low-commitment service opportunities.
2. Volunteer to be crossing guards for your local school so children can safely cross the streets on their way to and from school each weekday. It is a great way to build relationships with children and sometimes even their families and school personnel.
3. Connect with the local elementary school and volunteer to be the hospitality team for their "meet the teacher night" (or back to school night). Volunteers can stand at entrances to welcome families, help parents and students find their rooms, and relieve staff and PTA/PTO parents from this responsibility. This could then extend into becoming the hospitality team for other events such as the school carnival, concerts, plays, field day, etc.
4. Host the Chamber of Commerce Director and its Board Members at one of your Council or Board Meetings. Ask them to share the highlights of your town's development. Inquire as to what opportunities, gaps, or needs exist in the community, or ways the church could partner with them in the community.
5. Connect with events (that have a compatible mission with the church) that are already being planned in your community. Ask how your church can lend more support or helping hands. This could be events such as walk-a-thons, pet adoptions, foreign exchange student programs, a community festival, Habitat for Humanity, etc.

6. Identify a need in the community that both your church and your neighbors care about. Rally neighbors together and raise funds together to complete the project. For example, a local city park in the church's neighborhood is in need of some clean up and light repairs. The church rallies the neighbors together in support of the project. Funding to complete the project is accomplished through fundraising, grants, or petitioning the local authorities for budget allocations.
7. Offer to be weekly or monthly reading partners for individual students or a group of students at local schools. This is an investment in students, literacy, and the future. Or perhaps offer storytime for a classroom to give the students and the teacher a break.
8. Write notes of thanks, encouragement, and support for the staff, teachers, and school bus drivers in your local school district. Drop them off at each administrative office and the bus barn.
9. Write and deliver notes of thanks, encouragement, and support for your local firefighters, police, and other essential workers such as ambulance drivers, nurses, doctors, and other hospital workers.
10. Routinely prayer walk in your community. This is a simple act of walking the streets and praying prayers of gratitude for the ways God has blessed your community. Prayers for people struggling. Prayers for situations needing God's love and grace. Prayers of peace. Prayers for seeing how God is already at work in your community. Prayers for how God is inviting your church to be in ministry in your community.

This list is to prime the pump and get you started with potential ideas. There are dozens of ways to partner with your community with resulting Kingdom impact! Don't let church or budget size determine the size of the Kingdom impact! All things are possible through Christ!