

# Help to Make New Friends

By Erin Davis Gibbons



People, and even animals, love face-to-face time with others. Find a school, nursing home, animal shelter, or other care facility and volunteer your time.

## For

Young Adult

## Season

Winter

## Needed

Computer or other device with Internet access, Bible or Bible app



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## Activity Plan

1. Maybe you volunteer frequently. Maybe you're looking for a new place to volunteer. Maybe you've never even considered it! But there are lots of places where you can offer a smile and some time with people (or animals!) who would love to spend some time getting to know you.
2. Do your research. Find out if your church or the church down the road is looking for people to visit members in the hospital or nursing home. Find out which local schools or nursing homes are looking for volunteers. Check out the volunteer needs of organizations that care for those who are hungry or homeless. What kinds of volunteers are sought by area animal shelters? Ask your friends and family, check with your community's United Way, or search online. List your options.
3. Look at the list of places where you might volunteer and consider where your skills and interests would be a good fit:
  - Do you like talking with people you don't know?
  - Are you an animal lover?
  - Are you comfortable in hospitals and nursing homes?
  - Do you like to work with children?
  - Do you have a musical ability you could offer?
  - Do you have skills in building or cooking that might be needed?
4. Get trained! Many organizations require a bit of training and orientation before you begin to volunteer. Don't be surprised if some require a background check.
5. Schedule your first volunteer time. Before you head out, read 1 Peter 4:10-11 from your Bible or the text below.

<sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Then pray:

*God, be with me as I serve in your name. Give me the words to say and the caring actions to take. Remind me that that when I offer my smile and loving care to others, I'm sharing your smile and loving care with them, too. Amen.*

