



Tony La Russa's
Animal
Rescue
Foundation

Youth and Group Community Service Projects

A guide listing fun projects volunteers of all ages can do on their own at home, in school, or during club/scout meetings to support ARF. *Help change the lives of dogs and cats in your community!*



Thank you for your interest in helping the animals at Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation! It takes a tremendous amount of time, people, resources, money and love to keep an animal shelter running. ARF relies on the support of volunteers to make a difference in the lives of animals. There are many fun and interesting things you can do in your community to help animals at ARF.

Community Service projects are a fantastic way to get volunteer credit for community service requirements, build job skills and gain work experience, or for inclusion on applications for college or scholarships. We hope this Community Service Project Guide helps inspire and direct you!

Getting Started

Once you are ready to start your project, please contact ARF's Humane Education staff, youth@arflife.org, (925) 296-3152. Our staff can provide guidance and encouragement and/or help develop other project ideas.

Getting Credit

Once your project is completed, please contact Humane Education staff to arrange a time to bring the final product to ARF. Our staff can also sign any paperwork and acknowledge your donation. *ARF requires all volunteers requesting credit for community service requirements to track and record your hours. Please use a log, such as the ARF Volunteer Hours Log located at the end of this guide, to document your service hours.*

Contact us

Humane Education Department: youth@arflife.org, (925) 296-3152

Thank you for helping ARF help animals!

Community Service Project Ideas

Every animal needs a few basic things to stay happy and healthy – food, water, love, and exercise. Here are few ways for you to help us provide these necessary things for the animals that we care for.

Collect Things!

Organize a Donation Drive in your community. Work with your school, neighbors, local business, or community centers/organizations to plan and implement a donation drive for these items:

Dog and Cat Food- ARF's FoodShare program distributes dog and cat food to low income responsible pet guardians throughout Contra Costa County. Pet food can be wet or dry and must be unopened and unexpired.

Blankets- A blanket can be comforting for a rescued pet. Blankets must be machine washable and not electric.

Pet Beds- ARF needs one piece fleece beds that can be put in the washing machine and dryer. ARF also uses Kuranda beds which can be purchased at a discounted rate at www.kuranda.com/donate/858.

Towels- Beach towels, bath towels, hand towels, and wash cloths are appreciated

Dog and Cat Toys- ARF animals love new toys! Nylabone products, Kongs, and rope toys are great for dogs. Cats LOVE balls, small toy mice, and wands without feathers.

Thrift Store- Gently used clothing, jewelry, house wares, and books can be collected to donate to the ARF Thrift Store. Sales support ARF's Emergency Medical Fund® to provide veterinary care for low income responsible pet guardians of Contra Costa County.

Wishlist Items- Visit our wishlist to see what our shelter is currently in need of. <https://www.arflife.org/pages/544/wish-list>

How to Organize a Donation Drive

1. **Set a Goal:** How much will you collect?
2. **Develop a Strategy:** Who will donate the items?
3. **How will the items be collected:** Will donation be dropped off at a single collection site or will it be picked up from donors?
4. **Set dates to collect:** Where will the collection site be? When will the drive take place? Ask local businesses and pet stores to be a drop off site.
5. **Obtain barrels or large boxes:** Decorate boxes or barrels.
6. **How will you advertise:** Have fun! Putting up posters in your community and school is a great way to get the word out! You can also write letters to local stores. Check out our media kit <https://www.arflife.org/virtual-press-kit> for flyer details, including logos and images.

Make Things!

You can make enrichment and comfort items for our animals! See our [D.I.Y. Cat and Dog Toy Manual](#) for project ideas.

Raise Money!

Hold a Bake Sale: A bake sale is easy to put together and with a little extra effort, you can turn yours into a fun event. Make it fun by adding a theme such as a Christmas Cookie Exchange, pet shapes, or even offer treats/toys for pets! Advertise that proceeds benefit Animal Rescue Foundation.

Organize Pennies for Pets: Circulate a jar once a day for several weeks in your classroom to collect loose change. You can even start a competition between classes!

Host a School Event Fundraiser: Organize a dance, read-a-thon, contest/tournament or talent show! A local DJ/band or other businesses may be willing to participate for free or at a discount if they know proceeds from the admission charge will benefit animals.

Get Outdoors: Do yard work, mow the lawn, shovel snow, or pull weeds for your neighbors. Tell them that the money you earn from your services will go directly to Animal Rescue Foundation.

Organize a Yard Sale: Collect items you and friends no longer use and have a yard sale. Advertise that proceeds benefit Animal Rescue Foundation.

Foster an Animal!

ARF's dedicated foster families save lives every time they open their homes and hearts to a homeless animal. Fostering is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer together as a family or care for a pet without a long-term adoption commitment. Join us as a foster family and start saving lives!

Get the scoop on the joys of caring for dogs or cats, kittens, or puppies in your home and hear about the realities and rewards of fostering at ARF's Foster Orientation. Bring your concerns and questions to this free, no-obligation presentation and get started! Visit our website for upcoming dates, or to read more about our foster program. <https://www.arflife.org/foster>



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Community Service Hours Log

Student Name: _____ School: _____

Date	Description of Service Project Task	Service Hours	Initials of Parent or Authorized Adult who supervised
Total Hours:			

Signature of ARF Staff Member: _____ Date: _____