40 Serving Ideas for 40 Days in the Word

1. Ask your mayor or a city official about your community’s greatest needs and what you could do to address them.
2. Cook a meal for an individual or family who is sick, recovering from surgery, recently had a baby, etc.
3. Contact your local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) chapter to ask how you can serve veterans in your community.
4. Make cards for seniors in a nursing home or convalescent facility.
5. Volunteer to spend time with children at a local YMCA or Boys & Girls Club.
6. Mow the grass or clean up the yard for your neighbor.
7. Call a local non-profit to ask what their organization’s greatest need and then offer to help with it.
8. Help your neighborhood grocery store by collecting their shopping carts that have been taking off of their lot.
9. Offer to babysit for a neighbor so that they can have a date night.
10. Collect unused make-up, perfume, and other cosmetics for a center for abused women.
11. Volunteer at your library or local school to help a child learn how to read.
12. Assemble a new parent’s kit for the arrival of a newborn.
13. Bring comfort and relief to patients and caregivers by volunteering through a local hospice agency.
14. Teach classes or tutor those who are learning English as a second language.
15. Work with local officials to paint over graffiti in your city.
16. Contact the local fire and police department to find out how you can bless the servicemen and women in your community.
17. Write letters or create care packages for soldiers who are serving overseas.
18. Collect backpacks and school supplies to give to children of families who can’t afford them.
19. Sports clubs are often responsible for upkeep on their fields. Offer to help clean up their sports/recreation areas.
20. Bake some cookies for a neighbor that you haven’t met as a means to introduce yourself.
21. Create hygiene kits (toothbrush & toothpaste, shampoo, etc.) and give them to homeless individuals or families in your community.
22. Contact your city’s juvenile court system and offer to mentor an adolescent on probation.
23. Get in touch with your local Habitat for Humanity chapter about helping them build houses for those in need.
24. If your community doesn’t have a food bank, work with local officials to start one.
25. Host or participate with a vocational training for community members out of work.
26. Volunteer at a local agency that works with children with disabilities.
27. Help a neighbor make repairs to their property or home that they are unable to do themselves.
28. Sign up to serve as a “Big Brother” or “Big Sister”
29. Clean up trash at a park, beach, or river.
30. Contact a local school principal to find out how you can best serve their school.
31. Spend time visiting with seniors in a nursing home or assisted living facility.
32. Ask for permission to paint your town’s fire hydrants.
33. Look at your city’s community events calendar, pick an event, and find out how you can serve at it.
34. Organize a community dog wash.
35. Offer to pick up groceries with/for a senior citizen.
36. Make “Get Well” cards for kids in a local children’s hospital.
37. Get permission from city officials to paint a community mural.
38. Put together a clothing drive to benefit people in need.
39. Help fix a run-down playground.
40. Use your computer or social media skills to teach a class or tutor those who want to learn.