

A TIME TO SERVE TOGETHER



Celebrate Community, a joint initiative of Rotary International and three other major volunteer service organizations, will continue this year with a focus on local community service. Events are scheduled for the week of September 11-17, 2022.

The organizations — Rotary International, Kiwanis, Lions Clubs International, and Optimist International— collaborated during the past 18 months to share ideas for future projects. This first public effort encourages local clubs to reach out to one another for collaboration on projects that improve and benefit their communities.

The Celebrate Community initiative is one way to join together to work on a project that will have a measurable impact on communities around the world. We have so many common goals and objectives. Rotary clubs are encouraged to reach out to local Lions, Optimist, and Kiwanis clubs.

Now that COVID-19 has diminished resources around the world — particularly in areas that were already stretched thin — the organizations' leaders support the effort, noting collaboration is needed now more than ever.

Joint projects allow us to pool resources, join hands and work together to alleviate the stress on local agencies and help get community members the things they need.

Clubs are encouraged to work together on service projects in the following areas:

Environmental:

- Community cleanup (e.g., parks, schools, trails, roads/highways, downtown, etc.).
- Tree-planting (in parks, schools, or areas identified by community).

Food insecurity/hunger:

- Collection and donation of non-perishable food for local pantries.
- Packaging meals for donation (e.g., Meals from the Heartland, Food Bank of Iowa, food baskets, etc.).
- Donating labor and materials to plant and harvest a community garden.

Health and wellness:

- Support for local hospitals, Ronald McDonald House, etc.
- Organizing or participating in walks or runs for health causes (e.g., cancer, JDRF, autism, etc.)

Education and literacy:

- Reading to children.
- Collection of books for schools, city libraries, and Little Free Libraries.

Conducting joint service projects allow community members who are serving in different clubs to learn more about each other, their organizations, and their combined efforts to help children and adults that need our help.

Some service organizations routinely conduct a One Day service project. If your club doesn't have a One Day project, reach out to local Kiwanis, Lions, or Optimist clubs and determine if there's a project you can all work on together to make a greater impact on your community.

No matter which option your club chooses, be sure to take photos and share on your club's social media pages as well as the District 6000 website and Facebook page. If you participate in Celebrate Community, use the hashtag #CelebrateCommunity.