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# How to Play a Part in Improving the Lives of Community Members

If you've been seeing problems in your community and wondering if you could make a difference, here's the good news: you can! No matter how busy you are, there are numerous ways that you can contribute to the betterment of your community — and the world, for that matter. Chances are, doing so will provide you with a deepened sense of purpose, among many other benefits.

If you're not sure where to start in improving the lives of those in your community, you've come to the right place. Here is some basic information for how you can begin helping people in your area:

## **Serving the Homeless Population**

*Homelessness is one of the most troubling challenges that communities all over the world face.*

- According to the most recent numbers (2018), there are more than [500,000 people](#) without homes in the United States.
- One practical way to help those in your community who are suffering from homelessness is to volunteer your time and energy at a local [food bank](#).

- Other ways to help include [donating](#) money, food, and other items to local and global organizations.
- You could also organize a clothing or [food drive](#).

### **Helping Animals in Your Area**

*There are countless animals without families of their own, but you can help them.*

- [Adopting](#) or fostering a pet are some of the most practical ways to help them find a home.
- Donating to local [animal rescue organizations](#) can make a big difference as well.
- Also, if you see a [stray pet](#), consider inviting them into your home, even if it's temporary.
- Knitting or sewing blankets, shopping at animal-conscious retailers, and organizing neighborhood donations are [other ways](#) to help homeless pets in your community.

### **Getting Your Kids Involved**

*Teaching your kids to help others is one of the best lessons they can learn.*

- Along with showing them that they can make a difference, getting your kids to volunteer can teach them essential [school and life skills](#).
- [Encourage your kids](#) to grow fresh produce to donate or organize a canned goods drive.
- Volunteering at [local organizations](#) — such as schools, churches, nursing homes, libraries, and the YMCA — that provide a variety of services is another great way for your kids to get involved.

### **Creating A Non Profit Business**

*If you are wanting to start a non profit business on your own, be sure to check out the resources below for helpful advice on getting started the right way!*

- Non profits thrive better in these [five states](#).
- The process of [starting](#) a non profit organization is fairly straightforward so do your due diligence.
- Check out this [extensive guide](#) on starting a non profit for a step by step.
- Setting it up [as an LLC](#) in your state can offer perks, like management flexibility.

Each of us can make a difference in our community. And when we take time out of our busy schedules to help others, it benefits all parties involved. Consider the information and resources listed here, and start changing your community today!