

Craft Projects that Help Others

Do you, your kids or your grandkids like craft projects? Have we got ideas for you! Check out the craft projects below... not only are they fun and easy, but they help people, too (or dogs, in the case of the dog biscuits below)!

Animal Treats and Dog Toys



Is there an animal lover in your house? Check out ideas for [crafts projects](#) that will help the animals at the Animal Humane Society feel more at home - like the snuffle ball pictured here. We even have a recipe for [peanut butter dog biscuits](#) - you can make these for your dog or your neighbors' dogs! The Animal Humane Society will take the toys (but not the homemade dog biscuits). See below for more info!

Contact info: volunteer@animalhumanesociety.org

Address for Animal Humane Society: 845 Meadow Lane N., Golden Valley 55422

Reusable T-shirt Bags



Put your old t-shirts to good use! Help the environment with a reusable shopping bag made out of a t-shirt. That's all you need is a t-shirt and a scissors - no sewing required! A great project for kids - [click here](#) for how-to instructions. You can use the bags or if you make extras, the organizations below will put them to good use!

Contact info: T-shirt bags can be dropped off at Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners (IOCP) at 1605 County Road 101 N. in Plymouth 55447 or contact Najmo Yusuf at NYusuf@iocp.org / 763.489.7505 with any questions.

Also note that bags can also be dropped off at PRISM at 1220 Zane Avenue N. in Golden Valley 55422 or contact Kevin Lytle at klytle@prismmpls.org / 763.432.4210.

Healthy Snack Packs

This is a great project for a family gathering, a group of friends or for co-workers! Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners (IOCP) is looking for healthy snack packs to hand out at school youth programs and in affordable housing neighborhoods. Healthy snack ideas include jerky, trail mix, fruit (apples/bananas don't need refrigeration), granola bars, dry cereal, dried fruit, popcorn, water bottle, fruit roll-ups, Nabisco Good Thins crackers and applesauce cups. Specific instructions are included [here](#)!

Contact info: Najmo Yusuf at NYusuf@iocp.org/ 763.489.7505

Letters to Soldiers

Let soldiers know how much you appreciate their service to protect us. Letters and drawings from children will be shared with deployed soldiers from MN, along with some food treats. A great way to make a soldier's day. *Send letters and drawings to:* The Heinzen Ditter VFW, 19020 Hamel Rd., Plymouth 55446, C/O Plymouth Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Make Beds for the Homeless



This craft project not only helps the homeless, but reduces landfill waste, too! Just take plastic bags from the grocery store, turn them into “yarn” and crochet a mat that can be used to provide a small comfort to people in need (such as a sleep mat for homeless people). Just follow the [video instructions](#) - this can be a great group project, too!

Contact info: Mats can be dropped off at St. Stephen's Human Services at 2309 Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis 55404. Please contact Amber at ABecker@ststephensmpls.org or 612.879.7636 to coordinate drop off.

Non-slip Socks



Some cozy socks and puffy paint are all you need for a fun craft project that can be used by any age! Make these non-slip socks for yourself, your family, your friends – anyone who wants warm feet! See the easy [DIY video](#) for directions.

No Sew Fleece Blankets

A fleece blanket is a craft project that's great for kids because it's easy, customizable (so many fleece patterns to choose from!) and functional. Make one for a family member or friend – check out the [step by step instructions](#). If you want to make blankets to help others, call to deliver your blankets to the Home Free Battered Women's Shelter @ 763-559-9008. Blankets are seasonal and will be accepted during the Fall and early Winter months.

Nite Nite Bundles

Do something special for a child in need. A "Nite Nite Bundle" includes a fleece blanket, book (for ages 0 to pre-teen) and a stuffed animal. These can be delivered to the Sojourner Project, a non-profit that provides help to victims of domestic violence and other forms of interpersonal violence. Please wrap the blanket, book and stuffed animal in clear cellophane wrapping, paper and ribbon. If you'd like to make the blanket, see the [step by step instructions](#) for a no sew fleece blanket.

Contact info: Becca Welna at becca@sojournerproject.org or 952.351.4067

Please visit www.westsidecia.org for your next volunteer opportunity!