



Here are some suggestions for how to be a good neighbor, encourage others, serve your community and share your faith during the coronavirus quarantine. There is so much you can do from home!

Cook a casserole and give it to a neighbor. Casseroles are great to re-heat for dinner and make a fantastic gift when you're having to cook every meal at home. Connect with neighbors and see if anyone needs a casserole. You can leave it at their front door.

Donut a neighbor. Buy an extra dozen donuts and give them to a neighbor. The donut drive-throughs are still open for business.

Share your skills. If you have a useful skill, let neighbors know that you can use it to help them for free. Plumbing and electrical help, light carpentry, car maintenance and repair, lawn mower maintenance—you can help with any of these tasks while still maintaining social distance. Volunteer a few hours a week on handyman tasks in your neighborhood. Make a handyman volunteer card and put it on your neighbors' front doors with your contact info.

Organize a supply run for your neighborhood to help save gas and keep people home. Have one healthy person make a trip to the grocery store, hardware store or drug store to get supplies. Cash and shopping needs can be left on the front porch, and items and change dropped back off there.

Send a thank you. Send handwritten thank you notes to ten people. There are always people in your circle who would love to receive a thank you. Here are a few ideas for people you can write:

Your child's teachers

First responders

Your doctor

Your boss or coworkers

A friend from high school or college

Your pastor or minister

A local city leader or official that you respect

A person who has been patient with you

Someone who gave you encouragement

A person who inspired you to be better

A relative you haven't contacted in a while

Your husband or wife

Your brother or sister

Your mom or dad

Your trainer at the gym

Your childhood best friend

Your postman

Your son or daughter

The person who mows your lawn

Your favorite musician

Someone who made you smile

The college professor who had an impact on you

Get it ready to donate. Do you have household items that you might donate to charity—a lawn mower, car, vacuum cleaner, stereo, tv, computer? While you are spending time at home is a great opportunity to get it ready to donate. Clean off that computer. Clean out that car. Tune up the lawn mower. Then when the coronavirus ends, donate the item(s) to charity.

Share a sidewalk Scripture. Got some sidewalk chalk for your kids? Leave a message of encouragement or a Scripture on your sidewalk or driveway. People are walking neighborhoods more during the coronavirus and will see your message.

Start a neighborhood online group. Does your neighborhood connect online? Start a group on Facebook, Twitter, Google or use a tool like nextdoor.com. Encourage your neighbors to join and post information for the neighborhood. This is a great place to also drop an encouraging thought during coronavirus. Ask your HOA or apartment complex if they need help with anything. They may know of specific needs in your community or development that you can meet from home. Call your HOA President or your apartment manager.

Start a neighborhood library and game drop. Take stacks of old books you have read, or board games you don't use any more, and set up a neighborhood library at your clubhouse, or a garage or other more isolated area. Email your neighbors or put a note on their front doors that they can stop by and get a book or game to enjoy in their home.

Just keep raking. Are you raking your yard today? Consider asking your neighbor if they would like you to rake theirs as well. This can be especially helpful to the elderly or single parents.

Support your child's teacher. Many students are still at home after months of the pandemic, and teachers are burning the candle at both ends, teaching in-person and online. Call them and find out how you might be able to help.

Give an hour to employees for family. As your business continues operating during the pandemic, consider, if possible, giving your employees a paid hour off to care for their families. Look for ways to support your employees as they continue to work and care for their families at home.

Give a free lunch. Many families still have school kids at home now and school lunches are either not being provided or have to be picked up. Consider providing free sack lunches to families in your neighborhood. Sandwich or hot dog lunches are inexpensive and easy to make. Connect with neighbors and see who might need lunches. This is also a good idea for seniors living in your neighborhood.

Neighborhood coupon file. Are you a coupon clipper? Organize them into a file folder for various categories—canned food, household supplies, fast food, etc. Place the file at your neighborhood clubhouse or on your front porch. Encourage neighbors to stop by and grab coupons they may need. During coronavirus many people have lost their jobs—coupons will help them save money they really need right now.

Resources for seniors. Same idea as the neighborhood library—but for senior adults. Think books, card decks and games, DVD movies, documentaries and concert videos, crossword or word search puzzle books, walkers, canes and other mobility aids. Connect with nearby seniors and find out what they need. If you don't have senior neighbors, offer to donate these items to a nearby assisted living facility.

Provide office supplies at home. Are you working from your living room? So is everyone else. Do you have office supplies that are available like pens and copy paper, paper clips, Post-It notes, writing pads, or computer supplies? A healthy family member could also offer to make an office supply run for neighbors (see the grocery store supply run above for details).

Start a Go Fund Me for a local cause. Many nonprofits are having a difficult time with funding and operation during coronavirus. Choose a local charity and start a Go Fund Me online. Connect with your online friends and encourage donations.

Donate a computer or tablet to a school family. Got an extra iPad laying around? There's a family nearby with three kids at home and one computer, all trying to do their school work. Connect with parents in your area and find out if an extra computer or iPad might be useful to someone during coronavirus.

Hold a front porch canned food drive. Our own CarePointe food pantry is serving more families during coronavirus. Can you hold a food drive in your neighborhood? Print a list of food items you are collecting and put them on your neighbors doors, with instructions to leave items on the front door on a certain morning and time. Go around and collect the items and bring them to CarePointe (we receive food on Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to noon, at the church campus).