

Family Volunteering

Benefits:

1. Brings the family closer together
2. Value system strengthen by volunteering; self-satisfaction; makes one feel good
3. Strength in numbers; family gets more done than an individual
4. Benefits to youth – such as helps with job and college applications
5. Provides new learning experiences and helps develop new skills
6. Enhances interpersonal communication and problem solving skills
7. Helps families learn about social issues
8. Positive influence on the people they help and vice versa
9. Set an example for children – Children/Youth that volunteer become adults who volunteer
10. Offers the opportunity for family discussions before, during and after volunteering
11. Fun! Social!

Challenges:

1. Family volunteer opportunities are often a challenge to find
2. Personal time – family schedules are often full
3. Emotional costs – family becomes attached to people who may pass on or move. Children may see or hear things that are unsettling.
4. Coordinating volunteering has extra stress from the responsibility of having children present