



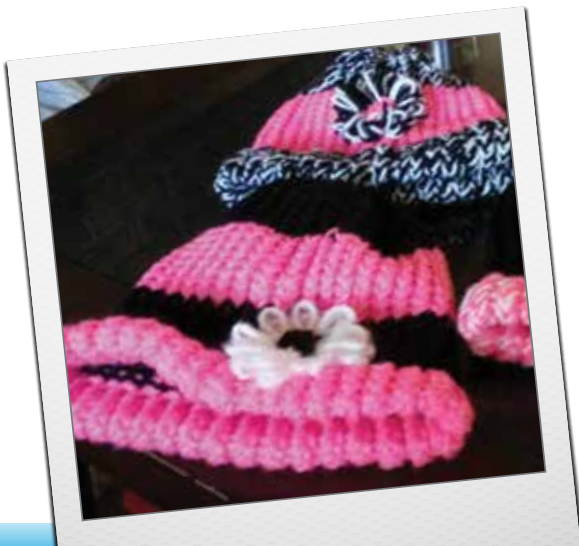
Pioneering in New Territory: Ways to Volunteer from Home

Pioneers have always embraced challenges. But in 2020, we are faced with unique ones: the extraordinary need of so many Americans and how to volunteer safely during the ongoing pandemic. We need to think outside of the box. Pioneers may not be able to volunteer in person as in the past, but there are still many opportunities to help others – right from the comfort of your couch. Keep reading to discover how you can still make a difference, with new projects and old ones reimaged, in

Follow a Pattern: Sewing, Knitting and Crocheting Projects

Fabric Face Masks – In 2019, virtually no one could have anticipated the demand for cloth masks. In 2020, they are a necessity for everyone to wear to slow the spread of coronavirus. Pioneers across the country have answered the call to stitch and deliver fabric face masks to hospitals, care centers, and friends and family. If you are ready to get sewing, here are a [few patterns](#) and tutorials from JoAnn Fabrics and [another tutorial](#) from Mask Crafters.

Hug-a-Bears and Heart Pillows – For many years, Pioneers have been creating stuffed bears and heart pillows to deliver to hospitals, emergency services and first responders. The materials needed are simple: cloth, needle, thread and stuffing. No sewing machine necessary. Click [here](#) for information on how to get your chapter involved in this gold standard of Pioneer philanthropy.



Hats and Beanies – From crocheting beanies for newborns to knitting head covers for cancer survivors, crafty Pioneers have had great success wielding yarn and needles over the years. [Here](#) are some sample patterns and project ideas used by chapters in the past. And, for a new project, check out the [Magic Yarn Project](#) which has ideas and patterns for knitting character wigs and “yarn” hair for children with cancer.

Blankets and Quilts – Who doesn’t love a soft, cozy blanket to snuggle in? Especially kids! Check out the [Linus Project](#) for ways your chapter can get involved in making “binky” blankets for children in need. These blankets can be sewn, knitted, or even quilted and no advanced sewing skills are needed.

Get Creative:

Crafting, Writing and Baking Projects

Greeting Cards and Ornaments – Gather up your old greeting cards and glue guns! Old cards can be repurposed to make placemats, gift tags, and even new holiday ornaments! For gift card tags to donate or sell at fundraisers, simply cut up old cards, then punch a hole and tie a ribbon through them. For placemats, tear up the cards and glue them to plastic placemats and cover with adhesive or mod podge. And now you have some small items to donate to nursing homes and residential centers for a bit of holiday cheer. And, finally, check out this [website](#), Felt Magnet, for creative ideas on how to craft holiday ornaments for gifts or donation.



Pen and Paper – If you don't have crafting or sewing skills, no worries, you just need pen and paper to help out. Plain, old-fashioned letters are always welcomed by veterans and especially military members serving overseas. Click [here](#) for resources about how to write and send letters to our veterans and active military. If you want to pull out the markers and construction paper, [Cardz for Kidz!](#) will deliver handmade cards to hospitals and care centers to provide encouragement for both children and seniors facing health issues.

Cake and Cupcakes – Are you stress baking during 2020 but don't want to eat all those calories? Put those skills to good use by baking birthday cakes and cupcakes for children in the foster care system. This [Cake 4 Kids](#) organization seeks volunteers to bake birthday cakes for underserved children in foster or group homes. You bake, they deliver.

Build on Tradition:

Pioneer Projects Reimagined for 2020

Pioneers have built a strong legacy of helping others. But during this one year, some of our cornerstone projects have taken on a new meaning and urgency. Here are a few ideas on how to adapt a few of our most popular philanthropies during the pandemic.

Activity and Craft Kits – During the pandemic, seniors in nursing homes and disabled adults and children in group homes often remain isolated and bored. Instead of, or in addition to, the hygiene kits normally donated, consider providing sensory **arts and craft kits, puzzles, coloring books**, and even audiobooks to these organizations.

Health and Hygiene Kits – Through the years, Pioneers have donated thousands of hygiene kits to hospitals, nursing homes, homeless shelters and youth facilities. This year, everyone knows what PPE stands for, and how hard it is for many of these places to find personal protective equipment. **Face masks, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies** and other PPE materials can be distributed, along with the standard toiletry kits, to these establishments.

School and Home Supplies – In normal years, many Pioneer chapters donate backpacks filled with school supplies, or even non-perishable food, to underserved children and school districts. Think outside that box this year and consider donating **pencil cases** or **small bags with supplies** geared for children to use for online learning at home. Pens, pencils, art tablets, copy paper, crayons and markers could be included. And, for many of these children, their one hot meal a day has vanished. Their families probably still need food and supplies at home, so those donations can continue to be an option as Pioneers work with school districts in their communities.

Stay Strong this year, Pioneers!

Your hard work and dedication during these difficult times makes every single one of you an everyday hero.

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