

Helping Out is Cool

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P *People getting together to solve serious problems through voluntary community service is the goal of the Points of Light Foundation. National Volunteer Week, sponsored by the Foundation, is an opportunity to highlight the efforts of millions of people who volunteer in their communities.*

The Foundation is a partner to a national network of 500 Volunteer Centers and works with business and non-profit agencies across the country. To find out how you can connect with other volunteers and volunteer projects in your community, call the Points of Light Foundation at 1-800-59-Light.

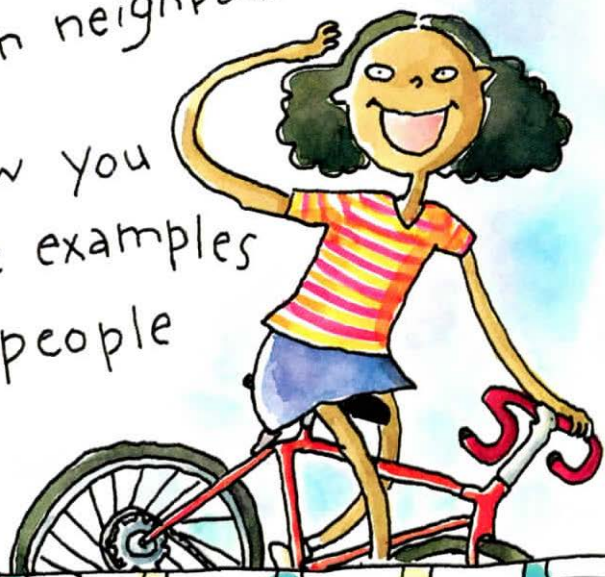
*We are very excited about **Helping Out Is Cool**. Involving young people in voluntary action is an excellent way to strengthen volunteerism and to make it a lifelong interest. Children have a natural curiosity about people and events and are instinctive 'givers'. **Helping Out Is Cool** will educate and inspire children and may open the eyes of a few adults too!*

People helping people
is so wonderful to see
If you're wondering what I mean,
just come along
with me.



I'll take you on a special tour
of my own neighbourhood

And show you
some examples
of some people
doing
good.



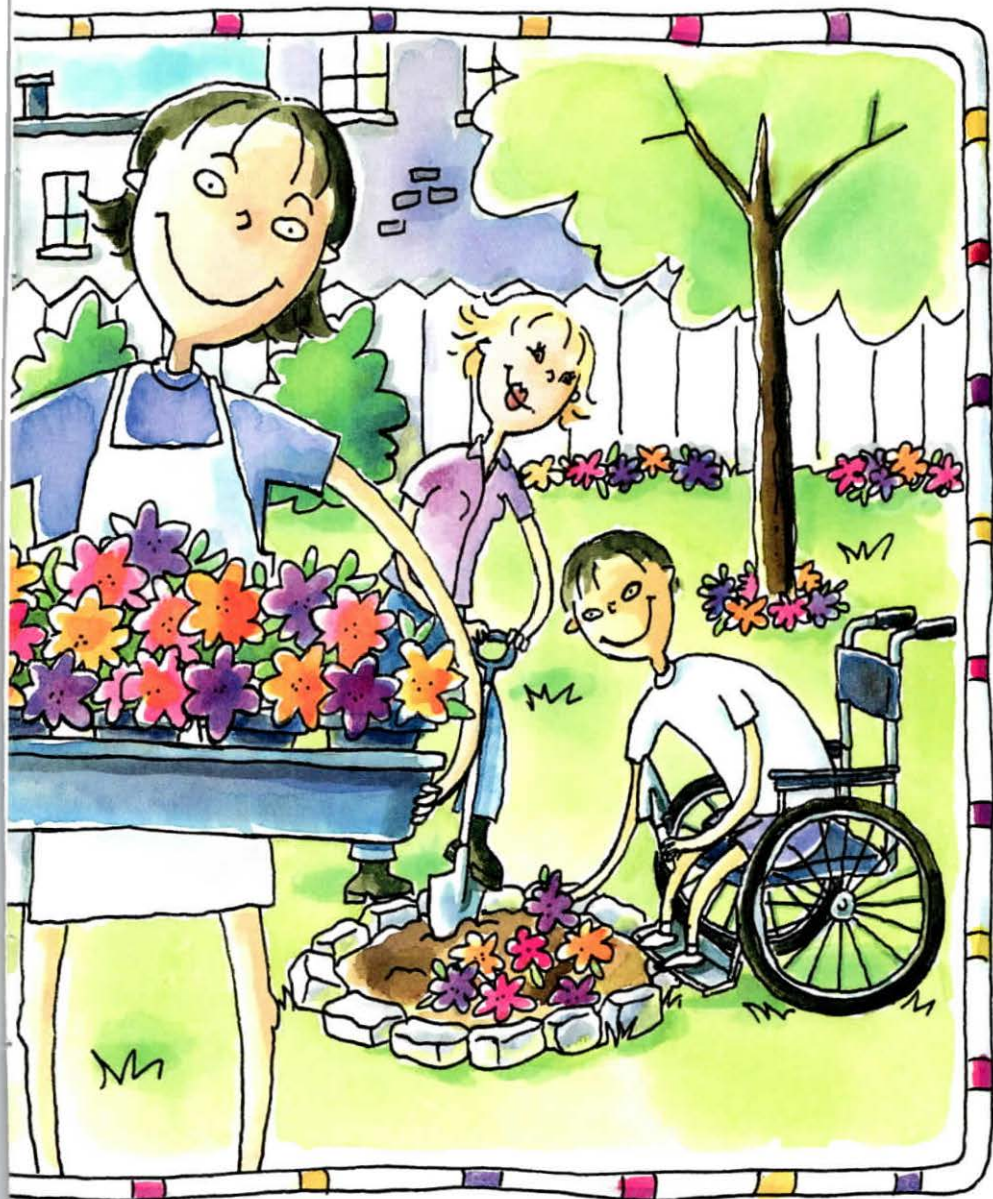
C'mon outside I want to show you
something down the street



It used to be a
vacant lot
but now it's
really neat.

Last spring a group
of people
came and planted trees and flowers
And now we have a garden
that our neighbourhood calls ours.





This big building over here
is our old town hall.
That painting on the bricks
was done by teenagers
last fall.



It's here on Sunday
mornings
that my family and I come
We serve breakfast
to the homeless
and leave when cleanup's done.





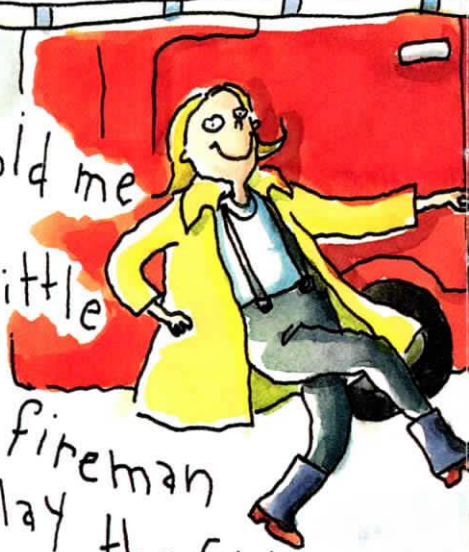
My dad once told me
that when he was
really little



He hoped to be a fireman
and learn to play
the fiddle.



Now he's a musician,
and he plays the violin
And at the firehall
each month
he goes and pitches in!





My mom does something really cool

-Come and take a look

Twice a month she lends a hand
to tape record some books

The tapes go out to people
who can't read or who are blind

When they listen to the story
they can see it in their minds.



There's our weekly baseball game
come see who's going to win

Before each game we all bring food
and put it in this bin

there are cans of fruits
and vegetables,
and even cans of meat



the food gets shared
with others
who don't have enough to eat.





Behind that pile
of newspapers
is one of my best friends

We call her 3 R's Ronnie,
she's up on all the trends

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,
is a motto we all share



We have
to show

to work together
the earth
we care.



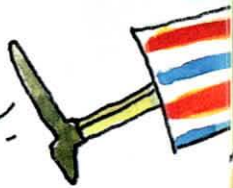
Reduce
Reuse
Recycle



My class at school got together
and decided what to do



We voted on a charity,
then came up with a plan
or two



We had a Family Fun Day
-there were booths
and games & toys

We raised a lot of money
to give to other girls and boys



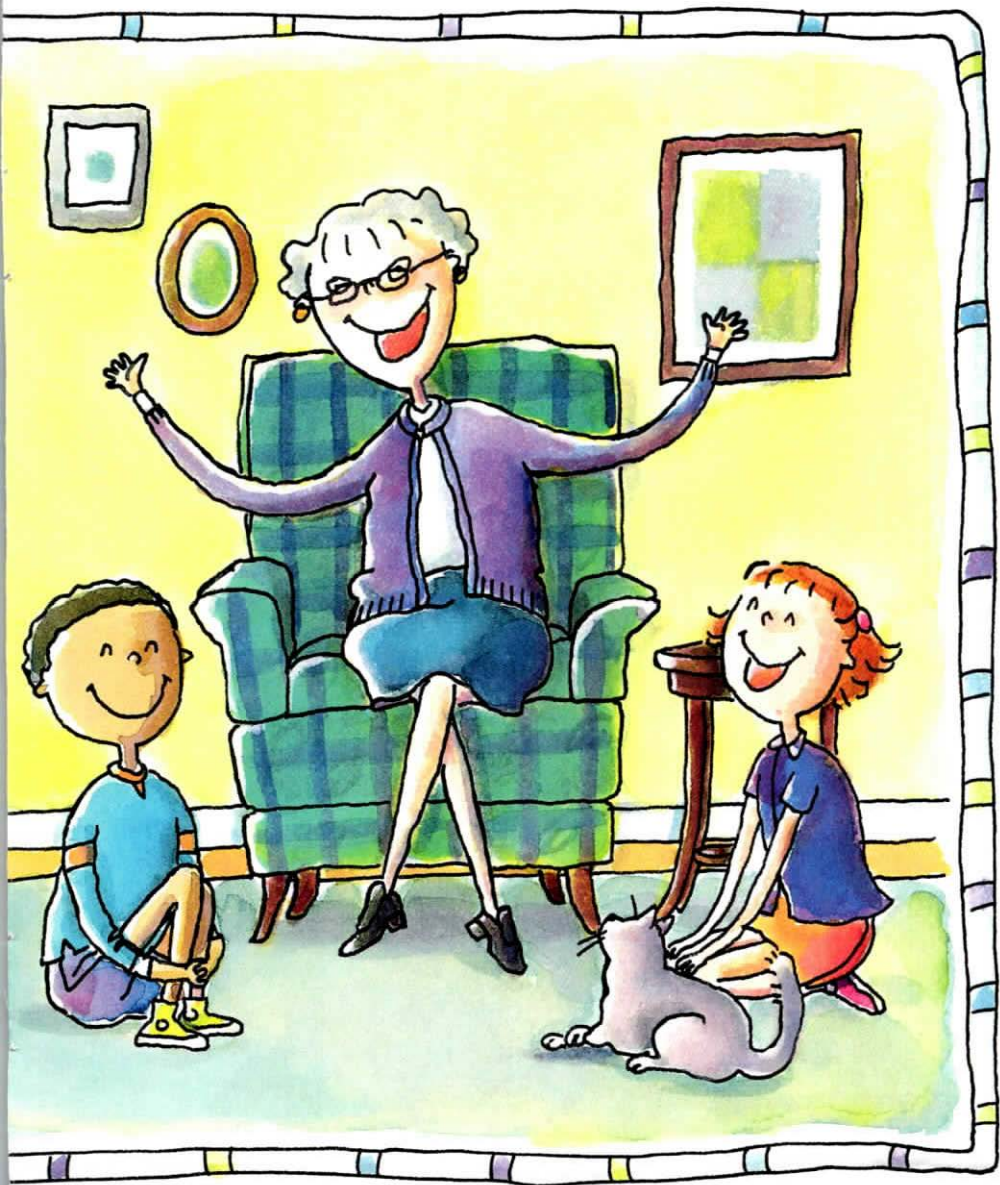


A weekly visit with
some friends
to seniors down the block

Gives us a chance to hear
some stories
funny tales and talk

We learn from their experience,
different tales from everyone

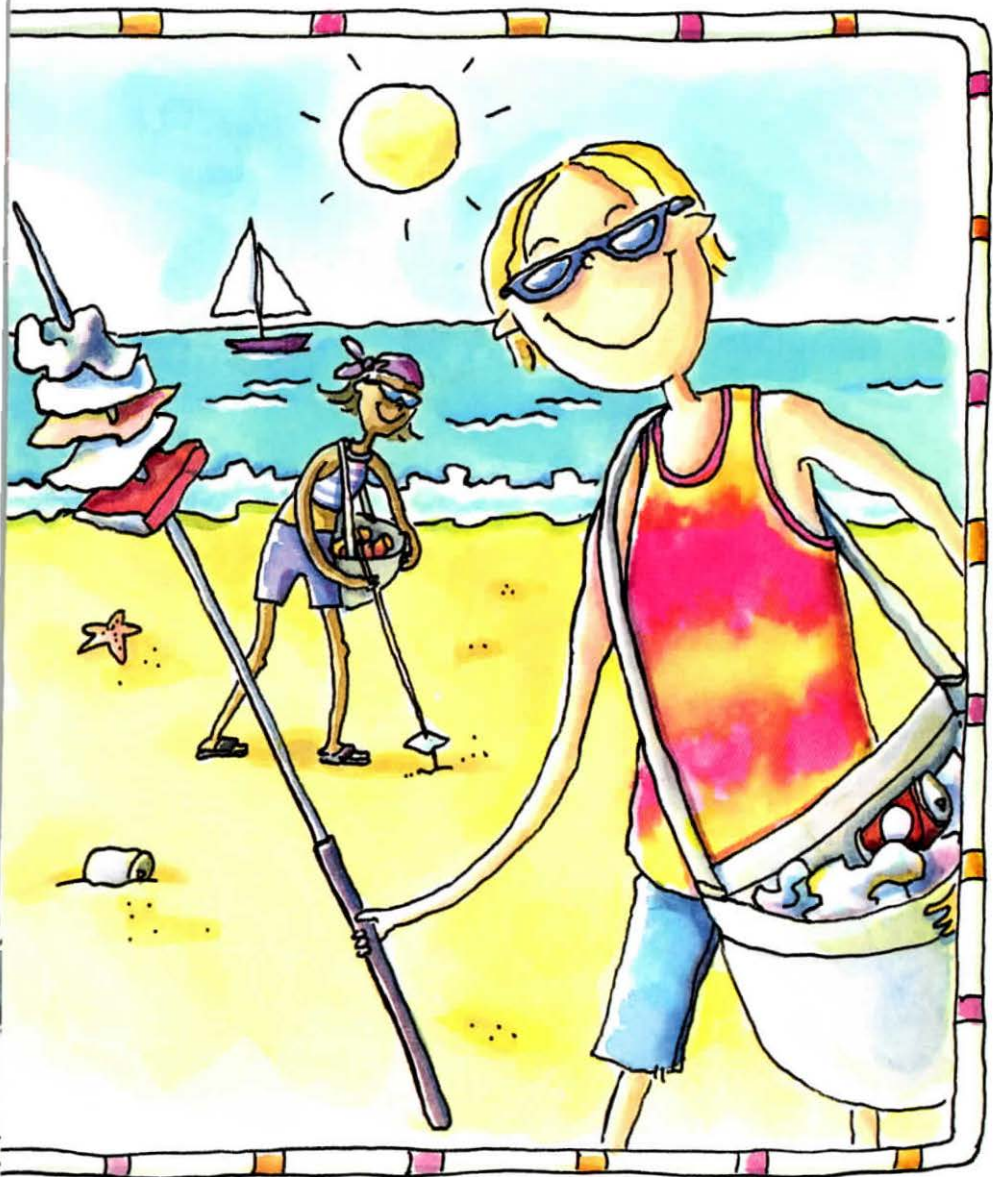
You may call it volunteering
as for me, I call it fun.




There was a day last summer
when my friends and I were bored
We went out on a bike ride
and decided to explore.




As we rode down to the lake
we found something
great to do
A group was cleaning up the beach
we thought that we'd help too.

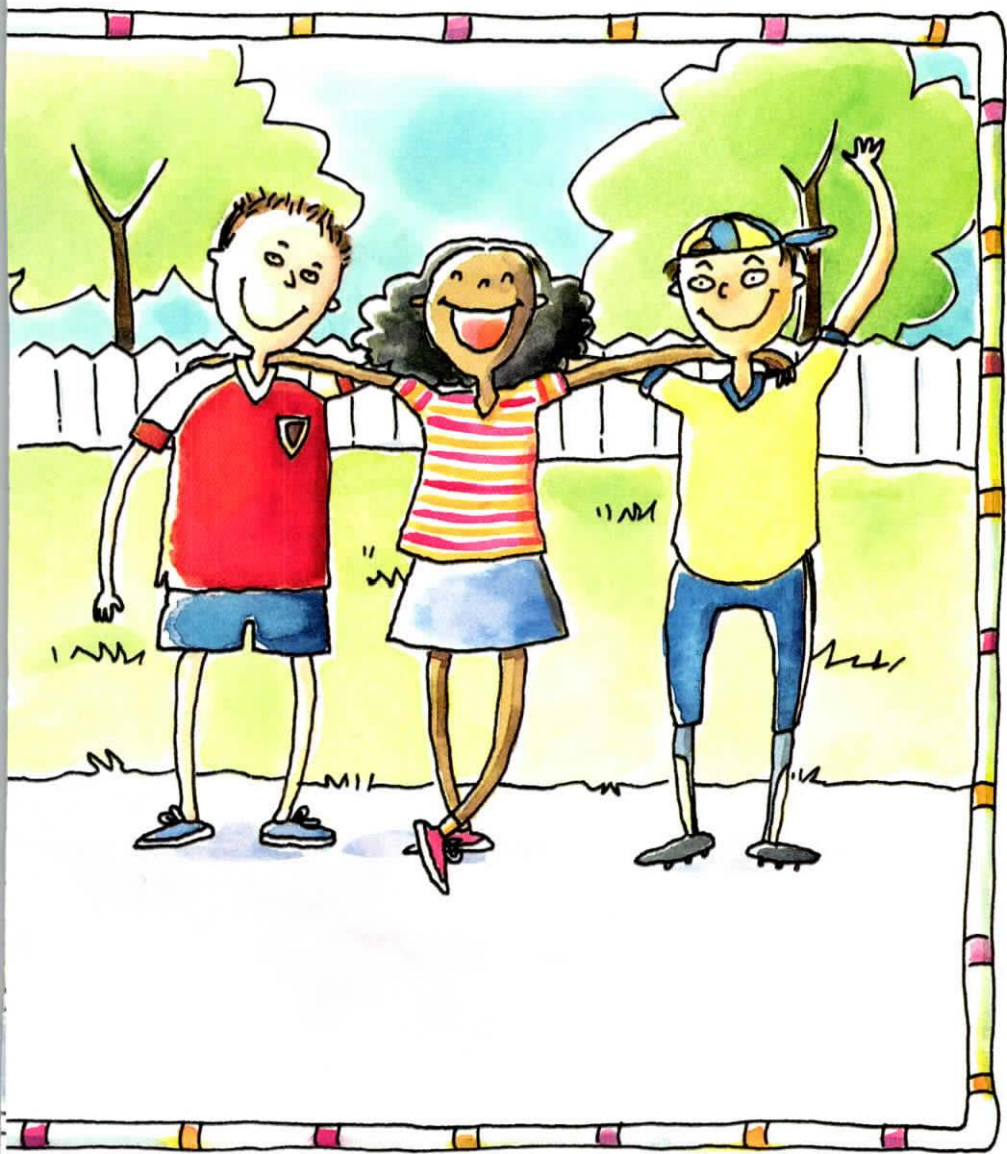


We had a lot of fun that day
and discovered something else
It's when you help  out others,
you feel good about yourself.

There are many ways to volunteer
when you have time to give.

You can meet new people,
 lend a hand,
while learning how they live.





All the people in this book
volunteer to help out others

Anyone can volunteer

-brothers, sisters, dads and mothers



You can volunteer at home,
in your neighbourhood or school,



But no matter where you choose to
do it,

helping out is cool!

Helping Out is Cool

-Activity Guide

Helping Out is Cool is an excellent vehicle for a unit on volunteering or any learning outcomes associated with the community. Here are some ideas for activities that include collaboration, integrated learning and accountability, with a focus on creative skills to help students become life long learners.

The Arts



- Have students write and perform a play about helping out
- Design and paint a mural conveying a service theme
- Create an activity book for young students
- Create and display recycled art
- Make pictures to brighten up hospital rooms, shelters, group homes, senior care facilities

Personal and Social Studies



- Identify and contact local volunteer organizations for information and guidance in planning a service project
- Plan and implement a food, toy, clothing or book drive
- Go to library to help repair old books

(Continued on next page)

- Field trips to: day care, senior homes, hospitals, shelters, other schools
- Create a **Helping Out Is Cool** game that promotes fun and awareness and raises money for a cause
- Have your students become mentors for younger students in school. Have them help others to learn to read and write.

Math and Science



- Create and maintain a recycling centre. Graph the results.
- Plant trees and flowers to beautify school or neighborhood
- Measure garbage of school to promote litterless lunches. Graph results.
- Take a tour of school grounds and create a plan of action to keep them clean and safe
- Find ways to make your community more accessible for physically challenged people

Language



- Research biographies on historical figures who helped others
- Create public service announcements and posters to increase awareness
- Have class write a letter to government official about something they are concerned about
- Have class interview a grandparent or older family member. Create historical photo-album.
- Ask students to keep a diary of helpful things they do for others or that others do for them

These are just a few ideas to get you started. Challenge your students to come up with additional activities and projects that will help continue the service learning approach throughout the year.

Contact your local volunteer organization for more ideas.



Helping Out
is
Cool

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