

LEAD A SPORTS SERVICE PROJECT

USE SOCCER TO COLLECT CANNED FOOD ITEMS FOR A LOCAL FOOD BANK



SOCCER



CHILDHOOD HUNGER



PHILANTHROPY



Local food banks provide critical support for people who don't have access to nutritious foods, including fruits and vegetables. There are lots of ways you can help kids and families in need.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANK NEEDS

- ★ Identify your local food bank and call to find out what items they need. Be sure to ask about any requirements for food donations!
- ★ Find a description of the food bank and its services to share when recruiting and promoting your event.



2 ORGANIZE THE SOCCER GAME

- ★ Ask your soccer coach and team to help you organize a soccer game.
- ★ Figure out who will play and the "cost," or how many food items each person should bring, to participate.
- ★ Decide on a time and place for your game. Be sure to ask for permission to play on chosen field.
- ★ Invite another team or friends and family to play against your soccer team. For extra fun, hold a friendly competition to see which group can raise the most canned goods.



3 PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

- ★ Make a flyer inviting people to watch and donate food items. Post it at school and around town.
- ★ Write a calendar item for your local newspaper. Visit the website to find out how to send it.
- ★ Tell your family, friends, coaches, neighbors, and teachers about your event and encourage them to come.



Ask a local business (like a grocery store) to match your donations!

4 PLAY THE GAME (AND WATCH THE DONATIONS COME IN)

- ★ On the day of the game, set up a collection box and ask a volunteer to greet people and collect donations.
- ★ During half-time, tell your audience about the food bank, why the issue of hunger is important to you, and how they can get involved.
- ★ Don't forget – some people might be willing to make a cash donation in addition to bringing food!



5 DONATE AND SAY THANK YOU

- ★ Deliver your canned goods to the food bank.
- ★ Consider volunteering with your family at the food bank as well.
- ★ Don't forget to thank all the people who helped you. A spoken thank you is good, but a written thank you is even better!





EXAMPLES OF DISNEY SUMMER OF SERVICE GRANTEES USING SPORTS TO IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNITIES

GABRIEL, AGE 6

Gabriel started **Healthy and Active Recess for a Brighter Future** by bringing active toys to his classroom to encourage physical activity when bad weather moves recess indoors. Concerned about keeping kids active and making healthier choices, he combined fun games with competitions to inspire kids to create balanced and nutritious meals.



ABBY, AGE 11

Being from Alaska, Abby couldn't imagine living outside in the cold, so she organized a pool party to raise money for a local teen homeless shelter. She recruited her friends to make decorations and help plan the event, invited the mayor to come, and got local media to cover it. People bought tickets to swim and make crafts. Ultimately, she raised more than \$3,000 for the shelter.



PARKER, AGE 13



Parker taught kids to fish through his project, **Be a Smelly Fish Boy**. He wanted to encourage others to spend less time playing video games and more time enjoying the great outdoors. As he taught, he also promoted interest in nature and care for the environment.

JACKSON, AGE 14

Jackson and his basketball teammates (aged middle school through college) started **Basketball Blitz** by running concurrent food drives at basketball games to gather food and raise awareness about childhood hunger in their community. They wanted to show that even though they go to different schools and come from different backgrounds, they still can come together and make a difference for a hungry child.



Abby receiving an award for her work after her pool fundraiser

Need more ideas and inspiration?

Visit [YSA.org/BelInspired](https://www.youthserviceamerica.org/BelInspired) for planning tools and resources.