



## Circle K International Service Committee Childhood Development Initiative

Here are some ideas on how to get involved with the Childhood Development Initiative developed by the Circle K International Service Committee. There are specific organizations you can work with as well as service project ideas. Children are our future and by providing them with a better today we can promote a better tomorrow.

Organizations	Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>March of Dimes</b> — <a href="http://marchofdimes.org">marchofdimes.org</a> March of Dimes promotes the health of mothers and babies. There are many opportunities to get involved with their work. By taking part in any of the March of Dime events, clubs can promote wellness and health for women and children around the world.</li> <li>• <b>St. Baldrick's Foundation</b> — <a href="http://stbaldricks.org">stbaldricks.org</a> Saint Baldrick's Foundation strives to end childhood cancer. They work closely with doctors around the world to provide care and treatment for children who have been diagnosed with cancer. Raising money, hosting events, shaving your head for awareness and advocating for cancer research are some of the ways clubs can get involved with this organization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>School supplies drives</b> School supply drives are a great way to help children who are experiencing financial hardships and cannot afford to buy new school supplies such as notebooks, pencils, pencil cases, pens, backpacks, books, etc. By providing these supplies to children you give them an opportunity to succeed.</li> <li>• <b>Classroom wish lists</b> Also known as "adopting" a classroom, your club can provide needed supplies, toys and furniture to classrooms to help children and teachers have more opportunities for growth and development. Most classrooms have wish lists that are composed of all types of materials ranging from disinfecting wipes and sprays, to arts and crafts supplies, to dress up clothes.</li> </ul>

- **Love Letters for Literacy** —

[lovelettersliteracy.org](http://lovelettersliteracy.org)

Love Letters for Literacy promotes literacy development at all ages. This organization encourages individuality and personalization with their letter campaign. Clubs can create card kits with each letter of the alphabet depicted. The kits are then distributed to local schools or childcare centers usually in low income areas. They are often given with books and other methods of literacy development.

- **Dolly Parton Imagination Library**

[imaginationlibrary.com](http://imaginationlibrary.com)

Dolly Parton Imagination Library provides free books to all children from birth to age 5. The books are mailed directly to the child's door. These books are high quality and incorporate all different authors and styles of writing. Books can be shipped to any address in the US, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and Ireland.

- **GoNoodle** —

[gonoodle.com](http://gonoodle.com)

GoNoodle is a free online resource to help children get active and develop gross motor skills. The website has several videos that encourage kids to get up and move. GoNoodle also has an app.

- **Together We Rise** —

[togetherwerise.org](http://togetherwerise.org)

Together We Rise is a nonprofit organization that focuses on helping children in the foster care system. They bring resources to children and to provide service-learning opportunities to educate people on the issues surrounding foster care.

- **Deep clean classrooms**

A great way to be in the classroom and providing hands-on service is by volunteering for a classroom deep clean. This means going into a room after the children have left and sanitizing each toy, book, table, chair and other items. Classrooms get surface cleaned daily but rarely get a deep clean due to lack of time by teachers. This project can help teachers and promote wellness and cleanliness in the classroom.

- **Host an event**

Various events can be held to promote childhood development including literacy events, wellness events, science and math events, etc. Think about the different majors represented in your club and try to host an event that can showcase that knowledge on a level children can understand. Think about partnering with local libraries, parks, community centers or your college. This is also an opportunity to get other branches of the Kiwanis Family involved.

- **Distribute food backpacks**

Partner with another member of the Kiwanis family and create a backpack program at a local school. Collect ready-made food, fill the backpacks and distribute them to students in need. You can also include school supplies and clothing materials as well.

- **Mentorship programs**

Work with your local Kiwanis clubs, Key Clubs, Builders Clubs and K-Kids to offer mentorship programs to local kids in your community. This is also a great way to strengthen your Kiwanis family relations.

- **World Literacy Foundation** — [worldliteracyfoundation.org](http://worldliteracyfoundation.org) World Literacy Foundation strives to bring appropriate literacy and educational materials to children around the world regardless of geographical location or financial status.

- **Better World Books** — [betterworldbooks.com](http://betterworldbooks.com) Better World Books began as a book drive created by three college students to raise money for literacy initiatives at their community center; their online inventory today comes from regular book drives at almost 2,000 colleges and universities. Better World Books donates one book to Feed the Children, Books for Africa or another organization from their list of partners for every book sold on their website.

- **Youth Service America** — [ysa.org](http://ysa.org) Youth Service America is a global organization focusing on youth community service involvement and gaining leadership skills. This organization includes opportunities for awareness (educating the community for change), through advocacy of policy making and creating avenues to bring policy change and service offering a multitude of ideas and campaigns.

- **Children's Defense Fund** — [childrensdefense.org](http://childrensdefense.org) The Children's Defense Fund focuses on child advocacy and research by advocating for policies, leading programs to serve and empower children and families and providing information to the public to inspire activism for children.

- **Kiwanis family partners** Work with your local Kiwanis clubs to start SLP's at the schools in your area.

- **Book drives** Partner with Better World Books, your local library, community center or another organization to donate books collected on your campus to support literacy in your community. Consider working with K-Kids to collect children's books as well! Set up donation bins on your campus with information about illiteracy in your community.

- **Advocate for children** There are countless ways to raise awareness in your community and advocate for the rights of children and families. Set up a table on your campus with information about child poverty, education, early childhood development or gun violence reform and how students on your campus can help. Contact policymakers and consider attending local city council or town hall meetings to advocate for policies that benefit children. Organize an educational program with guest speakers from your community to discuss the issues found on the Children's Defense Fund website.

- **Children's Miracle Network-**

[childrensmiraclenetworkhospitals.org](http://childrensmiraclenetworkhospitals.org)

The Children's Miracle Network is dedicated to providing the best possible health care to children in all communities. They strive to make a better future for all children. There are many ways to get involved including donations, awareness and hosting events.

- **Scholastic —**

[scholastic.com](http://scholastic.com)

Scholastic provides educational materials to children at an affordable price. They provide free resources that can be used at home to help develop cognitive, social/emotional, and language skills in children of all ages.

- **Reading is Fundamental —**

[rif.org](http://rif.org)

Reading is Fundamental provides children with educational materials to help them with the fundamental life skill of literacy and learning. They provide free resources and have grants available.