# WE volunteer now

## Virtual volunteering:

# 10 ways your students can give back to their community

Now more than ever, it's important to find ways to support and uplift the people around us. And even the smallest actions can make a big difference! There are so many ways your students can take action even while doing online or hybrid learning.

### 1 Start an online reading club

Connect with other classes to start a reading club that younger students can take part in. Older students can partner with younger ones to practice reading via video chat. Or take turns hosting a "virtual story time" to read to a younger class.

### 2 Connect with local seniors

Partner with a local retirement home for a documentation project to help combat loneliness and isolation in seniors, and help students learn about the past. Pair students with seniors via video or phone call to interview them and write their stories.

### 3 Check on your neighbors

Encourage students to make cards with their name, phone number and email to leave in the mailbox of neighbors who are elderly, have disabilities or might otherwise need help—for example, by shoveling snow or dropping off groceries. Be careful to only share your contact info with people you know.

### 4 Connect with a food bank

Hold a virtual food drive. Find out from your local food bank how to best support them, whether through dropping of food or financial donations. Use social media to spread the word and raise awareness about the root causes of hunger.

## 5 Start a tutoring network

Start a tutoring group for younger students at your school to help them with their schoolwork, and encourage other students to sign up.

## 6 Organize a winter clothing drive

Ask people to donate items like gently-used mittens, scarves and outgrown jackets to support a local shelter. Spread the word online and have a central location to collect items, keeping health guidelines in mind.

## 7 Spread joy and positivity

Many people may be feeling isolated or sad as the weather gets colder. Have students write positive, encouraging cards or make drawings to drop in neighbors' mailboxes, or distribute digital cards via email.

## 8 Share your skills

Encourage students to think about their hobbies and interests—from drawing, to yoga, to speaking a second language. Host video sessions with younger classes to teach them skills, share their passions and spread positivity in the school community.

## 9 Craft for good

As a class,  learn how to make a craft, like knitted blankets, that you can donate to a shelter during their next winter clothing drive. If someone is good at knitting, they can teach everyone, or you can find instructions online to follow together.

## 10 Do random acts of kindness

Encourage students to surprise their family or classmates with kind acts, from helping around the house to writing them a card.

**How are you taking action to help others? Share your actions and ideas on social media—and don't forget to hashtag #WEVolunteerNow!**

WE