



# Youth VILLAGES®

## The force for families

### Ways to Support Youth Villages During the COVID-19 Pandemic

When the pandemic hit, YV's school and group activities were some of the first things to be cancelled for the foreseeable future. That means our 30 group home youth (and their staff) are essentially stuck at the homes until further notice. They have access to their yards, Xbox Ones, limited internet, and are continuing virtual schooling through the end of 2020. The youth have even started their own workout and running clubs! BUT, they are still teens and we need your support helping them on their journeys toward mental well-being and getting placed into a foster home. Here are some ways you can help...

#### **Field Day Activity Set-up**

As the summer winds down, we have some great opportunities to set up a field day, water fun day, art/crafts/tie-dye stations, exercise stations, art/poetry/reflection, easy food prep/cooking/cookie decorating.... Or any mix of activities you choose or create. Volunteers would need to gather and bring supplies, and set-up stations with instructions so staff can assist the youth along the way. Ideally, completing all stations would take 60-120 minutes.

#### **Group Home Yard and Garden Maintenance**

After a very long spring, we are looking for a few hard working groups of volunteers to help with yard work and general outdoor clean-up. Projects will range from pruning shrubs, to removing/replacing mulch, to helping repair/replace veggie gardens, and more. At this time we can accommodate small groups of 5 to 10 people. We'll provide tools, safety gear, project supplies and snacks/water; but you're always welcome to bring your own. Also bring your own mask for group huddles or teamwork projects. Disposable masks and hand sanitizer will be available.

We'd like to do these projects in September and October. To beat the heat, we can begin as early as 7 a.m. and will end all projects by noon. Projects will be 2 to 3 hours, and we'll be tackling each home in multiple phases. We'll work with team leads to set up times and dates, day of week is flexible.

#### **Virtual/Zoom Volunteering**

Host a virtual game! Pictionary, bingo, heads-up... Whatever family friendly games you like- they will love! If you'd like to send over prizes or snacks ahead of time, we'll be sure to have them ready to go.

Do you have an artistic or crafty talent to share? The youth have loved Zoom painting instruction and activities like crochet and knitting are always popular.

## Front Porch and Yard Décor

All three group homes are in suburban south Nashville, and nothing makes a house homier than seasonal décor on the front porch and yard. Use your artistic touches to create seasonal fun! It can be as much or as little as you like. Ask to see pictures of the Wallace house last Christmas for inspiration.

## Provide a Meal or Meal Prep

YV provides three meals a day and snacks, but the teens get really excited when a home or restaurant cooked meal is delivered! Can you provide a meal, or even prep ingredients and instructions for the youth to cook? How about grilling something on our grills? Provide a game or Red Box gift card and they'll make a night of it.

## Group Home Amazon Wish Lists

- Group Home Fun and Games: Please share this [Amazon Wish List](#) with your friends, co-workers, congregations, on social media, etc... to help us send care packages to the homes. The list is full of games, arts/crafts, books, movie night kits and more. Also feel free to get creative and send other things you think teens may love (shipping address in my signature).
- Back-To-School: The youth in our care also need Back-To-School supplies and you can support them through this [Amazon Wish List](#). Please use "Julie Abbott's Gift Registry Address" for shipping.

## Other Upcoming and Ongoing Opportunities

- Birthday Heroes – Do any of the above with a birthday party twist!
- Halloween party (or any other holiday- Nat'l ice cream day, donut day...) - let's brainstorm some ways to have a fun filled, virtual or in-yard experience!
  - Could you send each home a Halloween package filled with candy, decorations, games, costumes, decorative face masks, etc.?
  - Host a virtual Halloween party with Halloween trivia (home vs. home), Halloween bingo or Halloween charades, etc.
- Group Home Holiday Meal drop-off, delivery or prep.
- Holiday Heroes – fill a wish list, more info to come.

**For more information or to sign your team up to help, contact Julie**  
**[julie.abbott@youthvillages.org](mailto:julie.abbott@youthvillages.org)**