Many community groups are looking for volunteers, and some may not have occurred to you. Most of us know that hospitals, libraries, and churches use volunteers for a great deal of their work, but here are some volunteer opportunities that may not have crossed your mind:

- Day care centers, Neighborhood Watch, Public Schools and Colleges
- Halfway houses, Community Theaters, Drug Rehabilitation Centers, Fraternal Organizations and Civic Clubs
- Retirement Centers and Homes for the Elderly, Meals on Wheels, Church or Community-Sponsored Soup Kitchens or Food Pantries
- Museums, Art Galleries, and Monuments
- Community Choirs, Bands and Orchestras
- Neighborhood Parks, Youth Organizations, Sports Teams, and after-school programs, Shelters for Battered Women and Children
- Historical Restorations, Battlefields and National Parks

Updated by Deborah Hempe
January 2013

Middle Country Public Library
101 Eastwood Blvd.
Centereach, NY 11720
(631)585-9393
www.mcpl.lib.ny.us
HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

Nicodemus Wilderness Project Apprentice Ecologist Initiative Program
http://www.wildernessproject.org/
The Nicodemus Wilderness Project is a 501(c)(3) publicly-supported nonprofit organization that coordinates large-scale events that utilize the resources of the local community to provide long-term environmental benefits for nature and wildlife. The goals of the Apprentice Ecologist Initiative™ (officially recognized by the U.S. EPA) are to elevate kids and teens into leadership roles by engaging them in environmental stewardship projects, empower youth to rebuild the environmental and social well-being of our communities, and improve local living conditions for both citizens and wildlife.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

United Way
http://national.unitedway.org/
The United Way is a nationwide umbrella organization for thousands of charitable organizations.

Salvation Army
http://www.salvationarmyusa.org
The Salvation Army provides social services, rehabilitation centers, disaster services, character building groups and activities for all ages.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

United We Serve
www.serve.gov
Online resource for finding volunteer opportunities in your community and for creating your own.

Volunteer Match
www.volunteermatch.org
As the largest online network of participating nonprofits, VolunteerMatch attracts thousands of volunteers every day.

Do Something
www.dosomething.org
Uses the power of online to get teens to do good stuff offline.

AmeriCorps
www.americorps.gov
AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country’s critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

ServeNet
http://servenet.org
Enter the city or zip code to find volunteer opportunities to help children and youth nationwide.

Volunteer Guide
http://www.volunteerguide.org/
Inspires and facilitates more than one million acts of kindness per year, offering service projects for the busy person that are entirely flexible.

SEW, KNIT OR CROCHET FOR CHARITY

Learn how to sew, knit or crochet and you could turn your talent and time into a fun and rewarding service opportunity.

Project Linus
www.projectlinus.org
Project Linus is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.”

Sewing for Charity
http://sewing.about.com/odfreeprojects/tp/charitysewing.htm
The patterns and projects listed here can fill so many community needs at places like shelters, hospitals, nursing homes and more.