

# TIE BLANKET DIY PROJECT

Making and delivering blankets is an easy project for families and Life Groups to do together. You will want to have steps 1 & 2 completed before Good Neighbor Weekend.

## STEP 1: GET ORGANIZED

Contact local organizations that could possibly use the blankets. See what the need is and then estimate how many blankets your Life Group can make. Some places you might want to consider donating to include hospitals, retirement homes or shelters.

## STEP 2: GATHER THE MATERIALS

There are a few items you will want to purchase ahead of time. You can find these items at any craft/fabric store near you. Letting the kids pick out the fabric is a fun way for them to feel more involved in the process!

- Each blanket will need two different pieces of fleece fabric. Each piece will need to be 2 yards in length.
- Fabric scissors
- Ruler/yardstick
- Pins

## STEP 3: GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY

You can set up a station for each of the blankets you plan on making. **These blankets are easy and fun for people of all ages to create!** Just follow the steps below or watch the video for visual instructions. We recommend an adult to assist the children in cutting the fabric.

1. Cut each piece of fleece into two 56" x 70" rectangles.
2. Place fleece rectangles with the faded sides together.
3. Cut a 7-inch square from each corner of the fleece pieces.
4. Cut 7 inches into the fleece at 1-inch intervals around the edges of the rectangles.
5. Knot fringed pieces together around entire blanket, using 1 strand from the front fabric layer and 1 strand from the back-fabric layer.

For additional help, watch this [YouTube Video](#)

## STEP 4: DELIVER THE GOODS!

This is an important step in the process and is best if done with the entire group. Your blankets alone will be a blessing, but taking the time to add a personal touch is what will be remembered. If you're able, sit down with the recipient and ask if you can pray with them. If you're not able to see the recipient, include a handwritten card for them to read when they receive the blanket. Do something fun as a group afterward to celebrate and talk about your experience!

# THROW IT OUT

Several items are not accepted by typical city trash and recycle programs, such as batteries, old televisions, VCR's, electronics, lightbulbs or leftover paint in a can. You can serve your community and the environment by collecting these items and disposing of them in a safe and easy way. There is some prep before the day of Good Neighbor Weekend.

## STEP 1: GET ORGANIZED

The first thing you will want to do is become familiar with the disposal process for the items you will be collecting. Here are some businesses that specifically accept these unwanted items.

- Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics (must be resident of Hamilton County)
- Batteries Plus Bulbs
- RecycleForce

Each item has a certain cost to dispose of them. Old lightbulbs are typically .75 to .99 cents, with old batteries costing the same per pound, and \$10 per television. Old paint will not be accepted in its liquid form, so you will need to purchase Krud Kutter Waste Paint Hardener from your local hardware store ahead of time. Money is available through Good Neighbor Grants and during Good Neighbor Weekend to cover costs associated with batteries, lightbulbs, electronics and paint hardener.

## STEP 2: GET THE WORD OUT

**The sooner you can tell your community, the better!** Some ways you can do this include:

- **Distribute a flyer:** Put flyers on your neighbors' mailboxes with the day, time and items you are collecting. Explain how you will be collecting items, where they will be going, and the heart behind Good Neighbor Weekend.
- **Word of mouth:** Go for walk and tell those you see along the way, call/email your neighborhood association or go door-to-door. A lot of people need a personal invite to participate for them to believe in the cause and believe they can make a difference.
- **Social Media:** Post on your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. the details about your collection. Look to see if your neighborhood has a Facebook page that you can post to, and ask your neighbors to share it on their Facebook walls.

# THROW IT OUT

## STEP 3: GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY!

**You have a couple options of how to collect items on the day of.** One way is to have a drop-off location in your neighborhood. This could be someone's home, a clubhouse/pool house, park, etc. Have all who are recycling bring their items to the specified location. Your Life Group would be there to organize items and mingle with those dropping off. You could also provide snacks or refreshments for your neighborhood to create a space for people to gather in community.

Another option is for your Life Group to go around to the houses in the neighborhood and collect items from them. You could cover a lot of ground this way and likely get more of the neighborhood involved. If a family will not be home to recycle, they could leave their items by their front door for you to collect.

## STEP 4: DELIVER THE GOODS

**Pick a day that works best for your Life Group to dispose of the items.** Numerous recycling locations are open on Saturdays from 8 or 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and closed on Sundays. We recommend planning to make sure your chosen time aligns with these hours. Celebrate afterward by going out to ice cream!

# MEALS ON THE GO

Create 10 meals in under two hours by combining a variety of produce, proteins and spice blends. Families can freeze the meals you make to save for later to be enjoyed on a busy night.

## STEP 1: GET ORGANIZED

We recommend you begin this project by choosing a local organization, ministry or family who would benefit from a meal. Some examples to brainstorm through include: new parents, post-surgery patients, grieving families, elderly neighbors, foster families and families dealing with extended illness.

## STEP 2: CREATE A MENU

Your next step is to pick the meals you want to prepare. The attached document contains 10 possible frozen meal recipes and ingredients needed to complete each meal. Please feel free to choose your own family recipes and/or adapt recipes based on dietary needs/restrictions of the individuals/families receiving the meals. Buy the ingredients ahead of time.

## STEP 3: PLAY IT SAFE

You will have to prep each meal at a “Creation Station” of your own making. Simply put, a “Creation Station” includes the following items to adhere to safety regulations.

- Gallon sized freezer bags
- Black Sharpie markers
- Measuring Cups & Spoons
- Cutting Board & Chopping Knife
- Latex Gloves
- Clorox Wipes
- Paper Towels

Follow instructions for each recipe, making sure to adhere to safe food prep standards. (washing hands, cleaning surfaces, wearing plastic gloves, etc.)

## STEP 4: GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY!

Choose the home that would best accommodate (counter space will be important!) and gather together with all your items already purchased. Depending on the groups size, set up 3 to 5 “Creation Stations” where meals can be prepped. Get each member involved in any way they can, whether that’s measuring foods, distributing spices, or cleanup after each meal. Have fun and be willing to get a little messy!

# MEALS ON THE GO

## STEP 5: DELIVER THE GOODS

The next chance your Life Group gets, go together to donate the meals you prepped. This is a great opportunity for children to participate and see the difference serving can make. Go out for ice cream afterward to celebrate!

### Chicken Tortellini

- 1 pkg cheese tortellini (cook at meal prep time)
- 1 pkg alfredo sauce
- 1 pkg Caesar Salad Mix
- 1 box Garlic Texas Toast
- 1 -2 lb diced raw chicken
- 2 tbsp olive or grapeseed oil
- 2 tbsp garlic salt blend
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/2 tsp dried parsley

### Jamaican Jerk Chicken

- 1 pkg microwave rice

#### Bag 1:

- Zucchini & Yellow Squash cubed
- 1 tbsp olive or grapeseed oil
- 2 tbsp garlic salt blend
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper

#### Bag 2:

- 1 - 2 lb raw chicken cuts (thighs or legs)
- 2 tbsp olive or grapeseed oil
- Jamaican Jerk Seasoning
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- \*Can squeeze fresh lime juice in to enhance flavor

### Perfect Roast Chicken

- Microwave mashed potatoes
- 1 pkg biscuits
- Bone in Chicken breast, half or full chicken
- 2 tbsp olive or grapeseed oil
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1 tbsp pepper
- 1 tbsp garlic blend
- 1 tbsp onion powder

### Lemon Rosemary Pork

- French loaf

#### Bag 1:

- Red potatoes (cubed)
- 1 tbsp olive or grapeseed oil
- 2 tbsp French onion powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper

#### Bag 2:

- Pork (tenderloin or bone-in chops)
- 2 tbsp olive oil or grapeseed oil
- 1 tbsp lemon pepper
- 1 tbsp rosemary
- 1/2 tsp salt
- \*Can squeeze fresh lemon juice in as well to enhance flavor

# MEALS ON THE GO!

## Hearty Meat Loaf

- Microwave broccoli
- Microwave mashed potatoes
- 2 lb ground beef
- 1 cup frozen diced onions
- 2 tbsp worcestershire sauce
- 2 tbsp ketchup
- 1 tbsp garlic blend
- 1/2 tbsp salt
- 1/2 tbsp pepper
- 1 egg

## Chipotle Lime Chicken

- microwave rice
- tortilla wraps
- chips & salsa
- 1-2 lbs chicken tenders (raw chicken, not breaded)
- 2 tbsp olive or grapeseed oil
- 2 tbsp chipotle seasoning
- 1/2 cup frozen diced onions
- \*fresh lime juice to enhance flavor

## Adobo Chicken

- boxed scalloped potatoes
- tossed salad
- 1-2 lbs chicken tenders (raw, not breaded)
- 2 tbsp olive oil or grapeseed oil

- 2 tbsp adobo seasoning

## Asian Flank Steak

- rice/noodles
- egg rolls/dumplings
- flank steak
- 2 tbsp olive oil or grapeseed oil
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp sesame oil
- 1 tbsp garlic blend
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper

## Jambalaya

- cornbread
- 3/4 cups white rice (Add to bag at cook time)
- 2 cups chicken broth (Add to bag at cook time)
- 1 link of kilbasa sliced
- 1 raw tail-off shrimp
- 1 lb diced raw chicken
- 1 can rotel (mild)
- 3-4 tbsp cajun seasoning
- 1 tbsp garlic blend

# ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD DRIVE

A neighborhood drive is a great opportunity for families and life groups that live in neighborhoods or subdivisions. There is some prep before the day of Good Neighbor Weekend.

## STEP 1: GET ORGANIZED

The first decision you must make is to what organization you would like to donate. A few that we recommend include Circle City Relief, Lambs Wear, Kingdom's Closet and Horizon House.

Once you choose one, you will be able to specify the type of drive you want to do for the ministry you are helping. It is best if you can identify the needs of the ministry you are donating to and base your drive around that. Here are some ideas of different drives you could do:

*Sock Drive / Hygiene Drive / Clothing Drive / Food Drive / Book Drive*

## STEP 2: GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY

It will help your neighborhood if you let them know about the drive in advance. Here are some fun ideas of how you can do that:

- **Distribute a flyer:** Put flyers on your neighbors' mailboxes with the day, time and type of drive you are doing. Explain how you will be collecting items, where they will be going and the heart behind Good Neighbor Weekend.
- **Word of mouth:** Go for walk and tell those you see along the way, call/e-mail your neighborhood association or go door-to-door. A lot of people need a personal invite to participate for them to believe in the cause and believe they can make a difference.
- **Social Media:** Post on your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. the details about your drive. Look to see if your neighborhood has a Facebook page that you can post to and ask your neighbors to share it on their Facebook walls.

## STEP 3: PLAY IT SAFE

You have a couple options of how to collect items on the day of. One way is to have a drop-off location in your neighborhood. This could be someone's home, a clubhouse/poolhouse, park, etc. Have all who are participating in the drive bring their goods to the specified location. Your Life Group would be there to organize items and mingle with those dropping off. You could also provide snacks or refreshments for your neighborhood to create a space for people to gather in community.

Another option is for your Life Group to go around to the houses in the neighborhood and collect the items from them. You could cover a lot of ground this way and likely get more of the neighborhood involved. If a family will not be home to donate, they could leave their items by their front door for you to collect.

# ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD DRIVE!

## STEP 4: DELIVER THE GOODS

The next chance your Life Group gets, go together to donate the items you collected. Don't forget to include items from your own home! This is a great opportunity for children to participate and see the difference serving can make. Go out for ice cream afterwards to celebrate!