

NOVEMBER 2015

DEAR DR. ROBYN

CITIZENSHIP



Young students: I am a helpful member of my community!

Older students/teens/adults: Being an active, caring and responsible member of our community.

Dear Dr. Robyn,

I'd like to teach my children how to help the community on a local scale beyond just giving money. What are some great ideas?

-- Jacquie N., Charlotte, NC

Dear Jacquie,

It's a good idea to get your children involved with citizenship projects early on in life so that community involvement becomes a habit. Here are some ways to get started:

• **Recycle:** If it's not already part of your local community law, teach your children that your home and your business are involved with recycling. The children can help categorize the recycled goods or even bring boxes and other recyclables to the local recycling center.

• **Clean up:** Is your local park dirty, messy or in need of new paint? Are your children great at fixing, painting or planting? Ask your local government if you can spruce it up along with the help of your children.

• **Help a needy neighbor:** When a neighbor's house burned down,

many members of our community pitched in to ensure that the family had what they needed. Sometimes people who live right near by could use your help.

• **Contribute time to a local animal shelter:** Many local shelters don't have enough people to help care for the animals in their care. Children can collect goods such as leashes or food or they can assist in caring for the animals themselves.

• **Participate in money- raising events:** Children can participate in local walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, kick-a-thons, dance-a-thons or swim-a-thons! Talk about how the raised money will be used and why it would be helpful to get involved. They can even choose to get involved with the ones they feel are most important!

• **Entertain those in need:** Whether it's using one's talents to

**POWERFUL
WORDS**
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

<< Paraphrased from a message; with permission

read to someone who is blind, sing for those in elderly care, play the saxophone for those who are sick or perform for those with special needs, there are many ways children can help brighten the days of nearby neighbors.

Talk to your children about what types of citizenship projects speak to them and help them to get involved!

Here's to your success!

