

April



From Your Local  
*Real Estate Expert*

## 6 Family-Friendly Ways to Volunteer In Your Community

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

...that the first story of a rabbit (which will be later known as the "Easter Bunny") laying eggs in a garden was published in 1680.



Volunteering your time and energy to help benefit your community is a great way to give back. Plus, it's an excellent opportunity for everyone in the family to learn valuable skills and build relationships.

- 1) Participate in Local Charities and Fundraisers** - Many organizations host annual fundraisers as a way of raising money for their operations and programs. From car washes and bake sales to silent auctions and 5K races, there are all kinds of events that need volunteers.
- 2) Clean Up Your Neighborhood** - Grab some work gloves, trash bags, and brooms, and spend a few hours cleaning up your neighborhood streets or parks. This is a great way to teach kids about taking care of their environment while also engaging with other members of the community who may be helping out as well.
- 3) Serve Meals at Soup Kitchens** - Another great way to educate kids on how fortunate they are is by having them serve meals at soup kitchens or food banks. Most places will welcome the extra help, and it's a great opportunity for families to bond while doing something good for those less fortunate than themselves.
- 4) Visit Nursing Homes** - Spending time with elderly people is a wonderful experience that teaches children compassion, patience, respect, and understanding—all qualities that will be beneficial throughout their lives.
- 5) Help out at Animal Shelters and Rescue Organizations** - Animal shelters are constantly looking for extra help with walking dogs, cleaning cages, bathing animals, etc., so if your family loves animals, this could be an ideal activity for you!
- 6) Donate Items from Around the House that You Don't Need Anymore** - Donate old clothes, books, toys, etc.. Lots of charities accept donations like these, which are then given away to people who really need them, especially during times when natural disasters strike.



## Top 10 Weird (but Awesome) Gardening Hacks

1. Place the handle of plastic forks into the ground around your plants with the prongs up to scare away animals.
2. Use packing peanuts in the bottoms of your planters and pots to help with drainage without adding any weight.
3. Glue pennies (no spaces) to the rims of your pots to prevent slugs and snails from going in. (TIP: pennies made before 1982 have more copper).
4. Use crushed eggshells in your soil and use water from making hardboiled eggs to water with, giving your plants a calcium-rich treat.
5. Shave scented bars of soap (i.e., Irish Spring) around your plants to keep the deer away, as they dislike the smell.
6. Sprinkle cinnamon (naturally anti-microbial) in soil to treat and prevent mold from forming.
7. Place diapers in the bottom of plant pots to keep the plant moist for longer and reduce topsoil.
8. Bury a container in the soil so the rim is ground level, then fill it with beer to attract (and drown) slugs and snails, who are attracted to the scent.
9. Recycle old wine or beer bottles to use as slow-watering vessels for plants. Fill with water and turn upside down, sticking the neck into the soil.
10. Prevent creeping and spreading plants from wandering too far by planting them in a container, then burying the container in the ground.

## Fun Fact!

In 1953, it took 27 hours to create one PEEPS Marshmallow Chick. The same process takes six minutes today.



Ron Spencer Real Estate  
419-228-8899/[www.rsre.com](http://www.rsre.com)