

# 56 Awesome Kindness Ideas Anyone Can Do

IDEA	CONCEPT	EQUIPMENT	PEOPLE NEEDED	COST	WEATHER
Single Moms Free Oil Change	Most single moms have car problems regularly.	cards*, filters, oil	5 or more	About \$6 to \$15 per car. Need to give advance notice.	Any weather except extreme cold
Neighborhood Windshield Washing	Going door-to-door washing windshields in driveways	cards, squeegees, squirt bottles, cleaner, shop rags	2 or more	minimal	cool to warm, but not hot
Mother's Day Carnation Giveaway	Set up outside grocery store on Saturday before Mother's Day.	cards, table, "Free Carnations" sign, cards explaining Mother's Day outreach	5 or more	If you order carnations in advance, you will save significantly.	not a factor
Sunday Morning Paper and Coffee Giveaway	Going door-to-door in the morning to houses without a paper in the driveway	cards, Sunday papers, coffee, cups	2 or more	Papers in bulk cost about \$1.00 each.	any weather but rain
Snow Removal from Driveways and Sidewalks	Help people dig out of the snow.	cards, shovels, coffee, cups	4 or more	minimal	snow
Pulling out Cars Stuck in the Snow	Rescue people from ditches.	cards	2 or more	none	snow
Empty Garbage Can from Street	Bring cans back to people's house or garages.	cards	2 or more	none	any weather

Kitchen Cleanup	Humbling but powerful service	cards, basic cleaning equipment	2 or more	minimal	any weather
Food Delivery to Shut-Ins	Delivering food	cards	2 or more	none	any weather
Car Drying at Self-Serve Car Washes	Help dry off cars after they have been washed.	cards, towels, or a couple of good chamois	2 or more	minimal	car-washing weather
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Leaf Raking	Who likes to rake leaves? We do it for them.	cards, rakes, bags. Blowers work well, but are more expensive.	As few as 2—the more the merrier and easier. Ten people can rake a lawn in minutes	Minimal—you can own your own rake for \$5.	Almost any type, but it's tough raking leaves in wet weather.
Christmas Gift Wrap	Everyone needs his or her Christmas gift wrapped. Do it at the mall for free!	cards, wrapping paper, tape, scissors. Build simple kiosk or booth.	Lots of people needed. Depending on mall traffic, you will need a variety. Use 3 to 10 people per shift.	It can cost as little as \$.10 per gift with the right suppliers.	If wrapping at an inside location, weather is not a problem.
Lawn Care	Find unkempt lawns and go for it.	cards; can do basic mowing or more, depending on your desire (edging, trimming etc.)	2 or more	cost of gasoline, oil and bags	It's easier to mow dry grass than wet grass.
Coke Giveaway	On a hot day, nothing refreshes like a cold drink in Jesus' name.	cards, drinks, ice, clean plastic trash cans for storing cans on ice, table	minimum of 10	Can lower cost to about \$.10 per unit buying in bulk. We gave out 400+ drinks. Ice varies.	warm or hot weather
Free Coffee	Set up tables at store exits or sporting events and serve hot coffee on cold days.	cards, table, 2 or 3 Igloos® (5 gal.) of coffee, creamers, sugar, stirrers, cups, sign that says "Free Coffee"	3 or more	minimal	cool or cold weather

Popsicle Giveaway	Set up tables at store exits or sporting events and serve popsicles on warm days.	cards, table, 2 to 3 Igloos®, ice, sign, popsicles	3 or more	minimal	warm weather
Windshield Washing	Hit every car in the lot at stores and shopping centers.	squeegees, squirt bottles with window cleaner, red shop rags, cards**	One or more—it's more fun with more people.	minimal	Does not work well in weather over 75°—the liquid evaporates too quickly.
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Grocery Store Bag Packing	Go to a self-bagging grocery store and help people bag their groceries.	cards, maybe matching aprons, button that says "Just Because"	2 or more	no cost	good inclement-weather project
Pictionary™ in the Park	Start playing Pictionary™ and strangers just show up.	cards, whiteboard and markers, Pictionary™ cards	5 or more	minimal	warm weather—spring or summer
Balloon Giveaway	Go to a park and give balloons and cards to children with parents.	cards, helium tanks, balloons	2 or more	Balloons and helium are about \$.10 to \$.15 per child.	any weather when people are at the park
Free Bird Feeders to Convalescent Hospitals	Share God's love with shut ins.	cards, bird feeders, birdseed	2 or more	birdseed, initial investment in feeders	any weather—greatest appeal in winter
Free House-Number Painting on Curbs	Address numbers painted on the curb	cards, stencils, spray paint	2 or more	\$1 to \$2 per house	dry and warm
Free Community Dinner	Throw a party for the neighborhood.	cards, food	15 or more	depending on meal choice, \$2 to \$5 per person	any weather

Coffee Giveaway at a Major Bus Stop	On cold days, people enjoy hot coffee.	cards, coffee, cups, 2 Igloos®, condiments	5 or more	minimal	cool or cold weather
Shopping Assistance for Shut-ins	Shop for those who can't get out on their own.	cards, vehicles	2 or more	minimal	any weather
Collect Trees after Christmas	Meet a practical cleanup need.	cards, vehicles	2 or more	none	any weather
Doggie Dirt Cleanup of Neighborhood Yards	Clean up doggie mess.	cards, pooper scooper (or use plastic bags over hands), bags	2 or more	minimal	any weather, very cold is easiest
Shoe shining Service	Free shoe shining at stores, malls, and other public places	cards, shoe polish, rags (kits are great)	2 or more	initial investment minimal	not a factor if done indoors
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Feeding Parking Meters	Find expired parking meters before cars are ticketed and leave a note of explanation.	cards, lots of change	2 or more	You can feed a lot of parking meters for \$20.	not a factor except for extreme conditions
Light Bulb Service	Go door-to-door with light bulbs offering to change burned-out bulbs.	supply of 60-watt light bulbs, cards, step ladder	teams of 2	Light bulbs are 30 to 50 cents apiece.	not a factor
Laundromat Outreach	Pay for washing machines and dryers at local laundromats.	cards, rolls of dimes or quarters	Teams of 2—women do best at this. It can be intimidating to have more than a few people.	at least \$1.50 per wash, \$1.00 per dryer	not a factor

Blood Pressure Screening	Check people's blood pressure at public places.	cards, stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers	Teams of 2 to 4 work well.	Initial investment necessary. Many nurses have own equipment	not a factor
Car Safety Light Check	Replace burned-out bulbs in cars.	cards, variety of spare bulbs to replace burnouts, screwdrivers	teams of 2 to 4	Replacement bulbs vary in price.	Dry weather works best.
Killing Weeds	Spray for weeds and poison ivy on sidewalks and driveways.	cards, weed killer, sprayers, gloves, masks	teams of 2 to 4	Weed killer varies. It is least expensive in gallons and diluted into sprayers.	warm, dry, ideally in summer
Seal Blacktop Driveways	Help homeowners seal driveways—best to use flyers to stimulate interest.	cards, sealer, sealer brooms	teams of 4 to 6	cost varies	any weather
House-Gutter Cleaning	Clean gutters on houses to remove leaves, sticks, and debris.	cards, gloves, ladders, trash bags	teams of 2 to 4 Everyone needs a ladder	plastic bags ongoing purchase after ladders are bought	Dry weather works best.
Birthday Party Organizing	Organize and run parties for children—advertise in local papers.	cards, music for party	2 to 4 clowns	parents pay for supplies, ads placed in free and local papers are best	any weather
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Door-to-Door Food Collection for the Poor	Post flyers door-to-door and return a week later to pick up donations and deliver to poor.	cards, bags given out	teams of 2	Purchase bags.	not a factor
Car Interior Vacuuming	Set up in mall parking lot or at a gas station and vacuum cars.	cards, several canister vacuums, several hand-held vacuums	teams of 4 or more	nothing to purchase if using home vacuum cleaners	Dry weather works best.

Filling Windshield Washing Fluid in Cars	Refill washer reserves in cars and clean off wiper blades.	cards, washer fluid, signs, table	teams of 4 to 10	Fluid commonly costs about \$1.00 per gallon.	any weather
Cleaning Fireplaces	Remove ashes from fireplaces.	cards, small brooms, small flat shovels	teams of 2	Purchase trash bags—possible initial investment on tools	usually a cool-weather project
Checking Air in Tires	See if tires are properly inflated—adjust pressure if necessary.	cards, compressor or portable air “bubbles,” air pressure gauges	teams of 4 to 6	Pressure gauges not much; borrow compressors or air tanks.	Almost any weather, but people are more concerned in summer.
Memorial Service	Advertise complimentary memorial service in newspaper or telephone books	cards	pastor and others to set up and take down	advertising	not a factor
Radon Detectors	Give out complimentary detectors in areas where radon is a concern. Return in a few days.	cards, detectors	teams of 2	In quantity, these cost \$10 each.	not a factor
Carbon Monoxide Detectors	Give out complimentary carbon monoxide detectors. Come back in a few days to check.	cards, detectors	teams of 2	In quantity, these cost about \$3.50 each.	usually a winter project
Smoke Detector Batteries	Give out complimentary smoke detector batteries for refills.	cards, reminders with date, batteries	teams of 2	In quantity, these cost about \$1.25 per battery.	any weather
Toilet Cleaning	Clean toilets of restaurants and stores.	cards, urinal screens, cleaning supplies	teams of 2	Supply costs vary, but minimal.	any weather
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Outdoor Window Washing	Wash first-floor windows.	cards, professional squeegees and cleaner, short ladder, buckets	2 or more	one-time purchase of squeegees (not too expensive)	50 degrees or warmer

Yard Cleanup	Look for messy yards.	cards, trash bags, rakes	2 or more	minimal	any weather
Easter Basket Giveaway	Every child wants an Easter Basket	cards, baskets. We put in candy, Christian literature, and once even Christian tapes	2 or more	Costs vary from \$3 to \$5 per basket.	not a factor
Rainy Day Grocery Escort	Help shoppers with packages to their car.	cards, golf umbrellas	2 or more	minimal	rainy days
Windshield Washing at Self-Serve Gas Station	Revive the practice of free windshield washing with fill-up.	cards, squeegees, squirt bottles, red rags, cleaner	2 or more	initial purchase of equipment (minimal)	Works best in clear weather. If it's too hot, the cleaner will evaporate.
House/Apartment Repair	Fix broken things. Limit repairs to your capabilities.	cards, basic tool kit	2 or more capable repair people. Don't send unskilled workers—they can make things worse.	Limit your work to your budget. We did a lot of winterizing at a low cost.	not a factor
House/Apartment/Dorm Cleaning	Who doesn't need housework help?	cards, vacuum cleaners, brooms, trash bags	2 or more	minimal	Any weather—may need to call ahead or work from referrals.
Winter Car Wash	Spray off salt and road grime.	Ccrds, coffee supplies, wands to spray off underside of cars	10 or more	minimal	Don't attempt this in weather below 20 degrees—could freeze door locks.
Summer Car Wash	Free car wash! We used banners that said "Free Car Wash—No Kidding!"	cards, basic wash equipment, banners. Can also serve drinks, play music and provide lawn chairs	Minimum of 12 but 25 to 30 preferred. We did 2 to 3 cars at once. Designate an "evangelist" to talk to people.	Minimal. We often used a sports bar's parking lot and paid for the water.	above 60 degrees. Overcast days don't work well. People won't stop if it looks like it may rain.

\* Cards have name and pertinent info regarding group. \*\* This card reads: "While you were away from your car, people from the \_\_\_ church washed your windshield."