

# KEY SOLUTIONS

## KEY CLUB MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

### Service project ideas

Here are some ideas to get your club serving. Take a look at the service Key Clubs worldwide are doing through the Major Emphasis program and then spend some time reviewing all the club level service ideas. Remember to assess your community needs and member interests before selecting your next project. All projects need good planning, enthusiasm and club support.

### Global service

Every year Key Club members work together to make a global impact. The Major Emphasis Program is our way to provide service to children in need. The program has several opportunities to serve: three fundraising service partners and one service initiative, a hands-on child education campaign that changes every couple of years.

#### ***UNICEF: Service Partner***

[www.unicefusa.org/keyclub](http://www.unicefusa.org/keyclub)

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has empowered Key Clubbers to make lasting change in their global community by collecting donations on Halloween for UNICEF. Through Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, Kiwanis family members have raised more than \$5 million over the years, most recently raising more than \$3 million to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Key Club has pledged to raise \$1.5 million over the next two years to fund health and education programs for children in Uruguay. Today, 55 to 60 percent of the population of Uruguay lives in poverty. Related to the rise in poverty, there is also a sharp increase in school drop-out numbers and registered cases of neglect and abuse, leading to more street children and children who need UNICEF. The funds raised will allow UNICEF to help kids get back in school and stay in school, empower families to help take care of their children, and ensure access to health care. The impact of this program will help children get an education and develop a trade. It also gives them access to health care.

#### ***March of Dimes: Service Partner***

[www.marchofdimesyouth.com](http://www.marchofdimesyouth.com)

Key Club International began partnering with the March of Dimes in the 1960s by holding dances, car washes, and bake sales to raise funds to support medical research and help reduce birth defects. Key Club members around the world remember collecting dimes in hopes that someday children would be born free of birth defects. Today, Key Club members still collect change to support the March of Dimes. You can find out more on getting involved at [marchofdimes.com/youth](http://marchofdimes.com/youth).

March for Babies is the March of Dimes' largest fundraiser and typically takes place in late April. Visit [www.marchforbabies.org](http://www.marchforbabies.org) to sign up online and find the date and location in your area. On the site, you can register as a new or returning walker. Make sure you register as a Key Club team. If you cannot participate in a March of Dimes walk, contact your local hospital and find out how you can help your community prevent premature birth.

#### ***Children's Miracle Network: Service Partner***

[www.childrensmiracletnetwork.org](http://www.childrensmiracletnetwork.org)

In order to provide treatment, children's hospitals require funding. Children's Miracle Network is a nonprofit organization that raises money to benefit hospitalized kids and increases awareness of its member hospitals. All Children's Miracle Network contributions directly benefit children receiving treatment at member hospitals, helping to purchase up-to-date equipment, train staff, conduct life-saving research, implement outreach programs, and provide health care for children whose parents can't afford to pay.

In addition to raising funds, Key Club members can also participate in national events like "Dance Marathon" or in service projects at their local children's hospital. They can also work to provide toys and dolls for kids going

through trauma and help to support safety campaigns or parent education programs, just to name a few ideas. Contact your local children's' hospital to learn how you can make a difference.

## **Local service**

### **Adopt-a-beach/highway**

Locate a beach or highway that has been abandoned or is not kept up very well. Take monthly trips to keep it clean and beautiful.

### **Adopt-a-freshman**

Have upperclass members take a freshman under their wings. They can get them involved in Key Club and help them adjust to high school.

### **Adopt-a-grandparent**

Locate a nursing home in your community and pair "grandparents" with Key Club members. Make monthly visits to the elderly friends.

### **Adopt- a-Kiwanian**

To help with Kiwanis-family relations, assign each Key Club member to a Kiwanian. Throughout the year, have Key Club members do special things for or with "their" Kiwanian.

### **Anti-smoking campaign**

Present an anti-smoking campaign in cooperation with your local cancer society chapter. It provides literature and speakers while you provide the organization!

### **Anti-vandalism campaign**

Advertise your campaign throughout the city. Make signs decrying the destruction of the property and post them in businesses. Ask restaurants for permission to advertise with table tents. Clean up the vandalism around the city.

### **Appreciation day**

Parents, faculty and staff should be thanked for their support. Your Key Club could conduct an end-of-the-year buffet luncheon. Decorate the staff's lounge with balloons and crepe paper. Arrange to have several students dress as mimes and "aid" guests in getting through the line.

### **Appreciating teachers**

For each holiday, find new ways to show teachers they are appreciated. On Thanksgiving Day, give candy; for Christmas, give ornaments; and at the end of the school year, treat the teachers to an ice cream social. Give teachers birthday cards on their birthdays too.

### **Around the world in a day**

Encourage participation of all school clubs. Set up booths featuring different countries. Each booth sports that country's flag and food. The clubs also provide students with information about their activities. Have dancers represent various cultures to keep the hour-long lunch-time activity festive.

### **Assisting shut-ins**

Do yard work or other small chores for the elderly who are confined to their homes. Offer to clip trees, pull weeds, care for plants, rake leaves, and do other tasks. This can brighten someone's day by letting them know you care.

### **Athletic events**

Work as announcers for athletic events, work on the scoreboard, take tickets at the gate, and generally help your school's athletic department to make sports programs run more smoothly. This includes acting as coaches and referees of intramural teams, equipment managers and team managers. Contact coaches to see how your club can help. Similarly, work as minor officials for inter-school games or meets.

### **Athletic skill not needed**

Organize a "Wacky Olympics" for the entire school or just the club. Include events such as flipper race, spoon thread, diaper race, ball squeeze, obstacle course, tennis racket race, shoe search, hula-hoop and other crazy games. Have faculty and students judge each event. Conclude the festivities with an awards ceremony.

**Awards assembly reception**

Serve refreshments to the seniors and their families after the senior awards assembly.

**Awareness week**

Sponsor daily seminars concerning social and health-related topics. Topics include drug and alcohol abuse, suicide and depression.

**Big brother/big sister program**

Organize basketball tournaments (and other sports tournaments) for youngsters who are on the waiting list for the local Big Brother/Big Sister Program. Offer to serve as Big Brothers or Sisters for the day.

**Bingo**

Once a month, go to a local nursing home and help the residents play bingo.

**Blood drives**

Offer to help the Red Cross during a blood donors clinic at local churches, libraries and municipal buildings. Key Club members can set up chairs, beds and partitions, and assist with any other needs of the blood bank. This is especially helpful in the winter months when emergencies requiring blood supplies are more common.

**Bring Up Grades (B.U.G.)**

Challenge students at the end of the quarter to raise their grades 0.5 or more by the next quarter. Students who meet the challenge are invited to an ice cream party, pizza party, or barbecue. They are excused from class to attend these parties.

**Canned food drive**

A food drive begins with committee members talking to homerooms and sending notes home. The two-week campaign could begin immediately after Thanksgiving Day. Key Club members collect cans in their homerooms each morning and put them in the hall. The collection crew uses a library cart to pick up and deliver the cans to the "collection" center. Tally boards are updated each morning. At the end of the campaign, the boxed goods are loaded on a truck and taken to the community collection center. Videotape this project and interview the students who make the largest donations. Don't forget to contact the news media!

**Career seminars**

A program of career seminars can be started early in the year and continued for several weeks after that. Schedule a program after school every week. Invite a speaker, a guidance counselor and a Key Club representative. After a short speech by the invited guest and perhaps a film, a question-and-answer period can be held.

**Celebrate your club's birthday**

A good promotional event, host a birthday party for your club to honor its many years of service. Involve past club members, faculty and administrators, as well as the entire student body.

**Christmas tree decoration**

Offer to decorate your city's Christmas tree. The city will supply the decorations; you only have to supply the volunteers.

**Cleanup and fix-up campaign**

As part of a "cleanup and fix-up" campaign, paint some of the older and larger houses in a rundown area of the city. Set an example for other citizens to follow.

**Cleanup campaign**

Your Key Club could invite all clubs and organizations to participate in a citywide cleanup campaign. The city is divided into sections for each club. Solicit food donations from area pizza restaurants to feed the volunteers.

**Clean the statues**

Offer to help the fire fighters – or whoever is in charge of taking care of your city's monuments – to clean them up.

**Clothing drive**

Solicit donations and place donation bins around town so people can donate their used clothing. Once clothing is collected, take it to a local church group or to another community-service group or shelter.

**Clowning around**

Arrange to make, buy, or rent some clown suits and nominate club members to be clowns. Take the whole Key Club to a hospital with balloons for sick children.

**College information**

Set up or update college information in school counseling office. Request information from colleges.

**Community day**

Key Club members bring a community guest to the school. A program could include the principal providing an overview of the school, students speaking about the various aspects of student life, and the choir singing. Students take their guests to their classes and tour the building.

**Coordinated activities**

Your Key Club could organize a panel of area high school representatives. Include activities directors, athletic directors, principals and counselors who will coordinate student activities, share ideas, arrange competitions and organize conferences. The directors meet for two days during the summer and conduct monthly meetings during the school year to plan activities.

**Decorate nursing home**

Decorate a nursing home for the holidays. After you finish, entertain the residents by singing or playing games.

**Decorate pumpkins**

Decorate pumpkins for Halloween and distribute them to nursing homes.

**Decorate teachers' doors**

For the Christmas holiday, "wrap" teachers' doors like Christmas presents.

**Do the zoo**

Spend a day at a zoo with needy children. Maybe bring sack lunches and surprise them with a prize in the lunch bag. Contact the zoo for its assistance.

**Earth Day sponsor**

Host an Earth Day to help students learn how to conserve energy and natural resources. The theme of the day is "The 3 R's: Recycle, Reuse and Reduce." Activities could include a picnic, speakers from the water and electrical departments, can-smashing contests and a poster and essay contest. Students could plant trees and grass, and collect and separate trash.

**Easter egg hunt**

Have your members help to hide eggs and goodies, and then help little children find them. Contact local shelters or agencies to find a needy group.

**Elementary field day**

During the school year, invite elementary school students to a field day, but don't limit it just to track and field. Instead, conduct math contests, art shows, spelling bees, reading contests, etc. Your Key Club can donate trophies for the winners. No money needs to be charged, just let the kids have fun!

**Energy committee**

Sponsor projects that include rain forest conservation efforts, recycling and an energy-awareness program.

**Environmental awareness**

Take part in public awareness activities, fund-raisers, school wide recycling, workshops and Earth Week events. Invite speakers to campus, sponsor school cleanup days, plant trees and conduct group nature walks.

**Fire hydrant painting**

Get permission from your city council to decorate hydrants. Sponsor a contest with prizes for the best fire hydrant.

**Flags**

Have Key Club members hang your nations' flags throughout the school, making sure they are correctly hung.

**Flowers**

Bring flowers to a nursing home to brighten the atmosphere.

**Food bank**

Contact a food bank to make it aware of your Key Club's available assistance. Providing service by stocking shelves, delivering food and soliciting donations would be beneficial.

**Food basket distribution**

Contact a low-income housing association and work out a schedule to distribute hand out food baskets to low-income families in your community.

**Food drives**

Post signs around the city to make sure you advertise well. Set up food cans in grocery stores and have Key Club members go door-to-door asking for canned foods. Once food is collected, take it to a food bank, a homeless mission, or to the Salvation Army facility.

**Foreign exchange dinner**

Before school starts, have a barbecue so foreign exchange students can meet students their own age. It's also a great way to get new members.

**Free gift wrapping**

Around the holiday season, set up a booth in a mall and wrap presents for free. Promote your club's name so patrons know who is providing the service.

**Graffiti cleanup**

Take your club into the school washrooms to clean up the various writings that have accumulated. Repaint the walls if necessary, and encourage the student body to refrain from that kind of vandalism.

**Halloween insurance**

Before Halloween, sell "cleanup insurance" to the residents of the community. Clubs should state that all damage would be cleaned up, but that repairs would not be paid by the club. There may be ordinances in some areas that prevent this project. You should obtain permission from the city beforehand.

**Holiday basket competition**

Conduct a "Christmas Basket Competition" within the school. Each school club, along with homerooms, can participate. Every entry should decorate a basket depicting a Yuletide theme; then, hold drives for food, clothing and toys to fill the basket. Judge the entries, and then send them to an orphanage or agency for distribution. Donate prizes to the winners of the competition.

Similarly, a drive can be initiated for Thanksgiving Day. Instead of having several entries, make arrangements with the school administration for a central place to collect materials. The piles of collected goods, for example, can be displayed in the main foyer of your school to show what a unified effort can produce.

**Homecoming bonfire**

Set up a bonfire before your homecoming football game. Lead a snake dance all the way to the stadium, allowing the cheerleaders to lead the way. After the entire parade has reached the stadium, make a circle and light your fire.

**Improve those relationships**

Improve student/teacher relationships. Send students on a scavenger hunt to find teachers who fit descriptions such as: 1. Name the teacher whose favorite rock singer in the '60s was Elvis Presley. 2. Name the teacher whose first car was a Mercury Comet. 3. Name the teacher who was head cheerleader at her high school in Indiana, etc. Students can only find the answers by conversing with their teachers.

**Immersion campaign**

Feature one ethnic group (Native American, Hispanic American, or African American) each month at your high school. Organize a multicultural committee, and have members make posters for the lobby showcase and give daily announcements to educate students about the featured ethnic group.

**Junior high assembly**

In cooperation with the school board and public health officials, present an assembly to junior high students explaining the dangers of drugs, drinking, smoking and other bad habits.

**Leadership week**

Nominate students and faculty members who demonstrate leadership qualities. Nominations should be accompanied by a recommendation. Organize a committee of students, faculty and administrators to select those nominees who will be recognized. The selected leaders are announced in front of the student body and invited to attend a social.

**Library cleanup**

Help librarians keep the library clean. Set up a schedule for club members to fill on a rotating basis.

**Library volunteer**

Members can help the librarians, especially during inventory at the end of the year.

**Locker repair**

During the summer, empty lockers can be repaired and painted.

**Mail reading**

Read mail to the elderly. Contact nursing homes and retirement villages.

**May Day**

Make May Day baskets for sick children in the hospital.

**Marquee**

Put messages on the school marquee each week. Contact the school's administration to provide assistance in this service.

**Operation clean sweep**

Club members sweep, clean and pick up trash in the downtown area. Have Kiwanians supervise the event. Solicit gloves and trash bags. At the end of the day, all volunteers receive refreshments.

**Orphanages**

Visit an orphanage and entertain the youngsters with a Christmas party. Take them small gifts, play games for entertainment, show them a movie or a cartoon and serve refreshments.

**Outdoor education**

Work with the wildlife and game commission and the county soil conservation agency to build an outdoor education park. The project could include developing a walking/jogging trail, a bird study area, an amphitheater for outdoor classes, a soil erosion study area, a rock study area, a small pond for fish study, picnic area with gazebo, vegetable garden, tree orchard and a wildlife habitat study area. Club members organize work days for students who want to help build this park.

**Paint the school**

With your school administrator's approval, repaint the gymnasium walls during the summer months. Ask the school board to supply the paint and Kiwanians to supply the brushes and volunteers.

**Paint trash barrels**

In line with a cleanup campaign, paint all the campus trash barrels in the school's colors and print the name of your school Key Club on it.

**Paper product drive**

Collect paper products, such as tissues, paper towels and diapers, to aid a child crisis center. Homeroom competitions motivate students to participate in the project. Award-winning homerooms in each grade win a free movie and popcorn party.

**Pat parents on the back**

Present parents of any student who receives an award during the year with a flower and a pin that says, "I am the parent of a (school name) winner."

**Players' family night**

Invite all junior and senior varsity basketball players' families to a basketball game. They should be admitted free and be given nametags; provide corsages for the mothers; escort both parents onto the court at halftime to be introduced.

**Pool party**

Kick off or close out the school year with a club or school-wide swimming party. Contact local pools to check into costs, availability and catering possibilities.

**Project bootstrap**

Offer assistance to younger elementary-level students with school problems—from arithmetic to discipline—for an hour a week.

**Rake 'n run**

To help senior citizens winterize their yards, work on a Saturday in late October, raking and bagging leaves. Bring your own rakes and shovels and let the club provide trash bags. Have senior citizens sign up for this service through their church, the city, or the school. Ask parents to serve as team leaders, driving students to their work sites and supervising them. At the end of the day, everyone regroups at the school for a pizza party.

**Read to children**

Set up a space in a shopping mall or library and read books to children. Contact the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program for additional opportunities.

**Reception for new students**

Hold a reception for all new students. It will make them feel more at home in a new town.

**Recognize responsibility**

Have school staff members nominate up to ten students weekly who have demonstrated positive acts, such as helping an injured student on crutches; taking homework home to a student who is sick; volunteering time; improving attitude, conduct, attendance, or grades; providing leadership; or encouraging school spirit. A staff committee reviews all nominations and selects up to ten students to receive recognition. Each Monday, the winners are announced over the PA system.

**Recycling**

Set up collection sites around the school and in each room for paper and aluminum cans. Collect paper weekly for re-use, then for recycling. Check with recyclers to find out what they will accept. Arrange to have the recyclables transported regularly.

**Refinish desks**

A little bit of elbow grease on the part of Key Club members will soon refinish tables in study halls and school rooms and will make the members appreciate the fact that the tables are not scribbling boards.

**Repaint basketball court**

Arrange with the school administration to repaint the lines on the school's basketball court, and top it off by painting your school mascot in the center.

**Respect for law campaign**

Use the booklet "You and the Law" to launch a 30-minute panel discussion, allowing ten minutes afterward for questions. Invite your local police chief. At the end of the program, distribute the booklet to students.

**Retired persons gathering**

Host get-togethers for retired adults on Saturdays and on special occasions. Play checkers, cards, etc. with them and serve refreshments. Whenever possible, as a change, invite speakers to the gatherings.

**Salvation Army**

Several ideas can be carried out with the Salvation Army, including packing bags of candy and fruit and staffing the Christmas kettle.

**School bleachers**

Paint and stencil numbers for school bleachers. Finish off the stands, making sure you are well within the specifications set by the fire marshal. Consult your school's maintenance supervisor for guidance.

**School parking lot**

Regulate the school parking lot. During the summer, Key Club members can paint numbers and lines in the parking area. Then, during the first two weeks of school, assign a number to every interested student; with any luck at all, you will be able to rid a lot of the traffic chaos every morning.

**School supplies**

Conduct a school supplies and pencil drive in the school. All types of supplies are desperately needed by students worldwide. When all collections have been made, you can contact a local agency for information about shipping the materials.

**Secret teachers**

Assign each member to a teacher. The Key Club members can surprise "their" teacher with little gifts throughout the year.

**Senior citizens prom**

Work with nursing homes, your sponsoring Kiwanis club and the school administration. Key Club members can sponsor a dance, serve refreshments and provide the music and entertainment.

**Sledding party**

Take underprivileged children sledding or tobogganing at a nearby hill. Treat them to dinner afterwards.

**Special Olympics**

Work with persons with disabilities who are training and preparing for special events. Encourage disabled persons handicapped to participate in such activities. Have rewards for achieving their goals.

**Spirit days**

For each of the five Fridays before spring vacation, "Show Your Spirit Day" could be celebrated. These dress-up days are used to liven up the long stretch from winter to spring. Each homeroom teacher counts the students who dress according to that day's theme. The winning homeroom in each grade celebrates with a pizza party.

**Sponsor a nursing home party**

Work with a nursing home to host a party. Contact a nursing home to see what date would be appropriate. Provide a theme, refreshments and entertainment.

**Stomp out the doldrums**

The next time your school's spirit is in a slump, try this idea. "Footloose" is an opportunity for faculty members to show just how creative and crazy they can be. Teachers are asked to dress up their feet using items such as wild-colored socks, boots, leg warmers, polka-dot sheets, or panda bear slippers. Pictures are taken of participating feet and displayed on a bulletin board. Students and teachers then vote for the most unique pair of feet. A prize is given to the winning teacher.



**Take pride in activities**

Your Key Club could sponsor a pride week to highlight student achievement and encourage participation. The week's activities could include an inter-school basketball game, a concert, a talent show and an open house for the community.

**Talk to your teachers**

To improve students' relationship with faculty members, send teachers a calendar each month that highlights special student activities. The calendar keeps teachers aware of what's going on. Doing it on a monthly basis keeps the information from becoming overwhelming.

**Teacher of the month competition**

Sponsor a "Teacher-of-the-Month" competition. During each month of the school year, cite outstanding teachers for special activities, particularly their participation in extracurricular events.

**Therapeutic riding**

Offer to help disabled students ride horseback.

**Time for caring and sharing**

For your holiday community-service project, stage a variety show at a nursing home. Schedule a second performance at a school for youngsters with disabilities.

**Toy dance**

At Christmastime, host a dance at your school or community hall to which the only admission is a new or used toy. Donate the toys to needy children.

**Trick-or-Treat for cans**

Have your Key Club members dress up in costumes, and instead of trick-or-treating for candy, have them ask for donations or canned goods. Deliver the "treats" to a food pantry or homeless shelter.

**Trophy case**

Buy or build a trophy case for the school.

**Tutoring**

Tutor youngsters from area elementary schools. Contact churches to see if they know of youngsters in need of tutoring. Key Club members can help the students develop reading skills through after-school practice in the church.

**Vacation day care**

Plan activities for young children during their breaks from school. Suggestions include movies, game day and a day at the park.

**Valentines for vets**

Get several members together and make valentines cards for war veterans.

**Valet parking**

Park cars at all school activities, including proms, variety nights and talent shows. Make sure that a suitable system for parking is devised by the Key Club members.

**Welcome sign**

Often, a visitor's first impression of a town is its welcome sign. Students can design signs for each entrance to their towns and have them made by the vocational agriculture or shop classes.



**Kiwanis**  
Service Leadership Programs

[www.keyclub.org](http://www.keyclub.org)