

# PHP Book Recommendations for Children & Youth

## Books about Community Service

***The Kid's Guide to Service Projects: Over 500 Service Ideas for Young People Who Want to Make a Difference***, by Barbara A. Lewis and Pamela Espeland. This book provides a variety of topics and projects to help children make a difference in their community.

***160 Ways to Help the World: Community Service Projects for Young People***, by Linda Leeb Duper. Using the motto, "Think globally, act locally," this book provides young adults with a variety of projects and volunteer opportunities.

## Books about Advocacy

***The Kid's Guide to Social Action: How to Solve the Social Problems You Choose—and Turn Creative Thinking into Positive Action***, by Barbara A. Lewis, Pamela Espeland, and Caryn Perner. This book provides youth (age 10 and up) with inspiring stories of youth who made a difference in their community by taking action and the tools to take action, including step-by-step instructions for writing letters, making speeches, conducting interviews, and much more!

***Generation Fix: Young Ideas for a Better World***, by Elizabeth Rusch and Pamela Hobbs. An anthology of true stories about youth taking action to making their community a better place.

## Middle School Level

***The Double Life of Zoe Flynn***, by Janet Lee Carey. She used to live in California, in a big old house — the best house in the world really — at 18 Hawk Road. It rambled and creaked and was full of good hiding places. She used to have a best friend named Kellen who lived right down the road, and a dog named Merlin who loved to play with her. But now she lives in a little town in Oregon, and everything has changed.

***Esperanza Rising***, by Pam Munoz Ryan. Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California during the Great Depression.

***Darnell Rock Reporting***, by Walter Dean Myers. Things change when Darnell joins the school paper and writes an editorial suggesting the school use its empty parking lot as a garden for the local homeless.

***Leaves in October***, by Karen Ackerman. Nine year old Livvy tries to understand the turn of recent events that have occurred: her father loses his job, her mother leaves the family, and they are forced to live in a shelter.

***Ivy: A Tale of a Homeless Girl in San Francisco***, by Summer Brenner. Ivy finds herself homeless on the streets of San Francisco when she and her father are evicted from his loft. They soon are living outdoors because there are no adequate shelters for single fathers.

***A Kids' Guide to Hunger & Homelessness: How to Take Action!*** by Cathryn Berger Kaye, M.A. Kids explore what others in the world (including young people) have done and are doing to address the issues, find out what their community needs, and develop a service project. The workbook includes facts, quotations, real-life examples, write-on pages, resources, a note to adults—and a lot of inspiration to get out there and make a difference in the world. Includes exclusive interviews with author and activist Francis Moor Lappé, and Lindsey Lee Johnson, author of *Soul Moon Soup*, the story of a girl living on the streets with her mother.

## Elementary Level

***Maddi's Fridge***, by Lois Brandt. With humor and warmth, this children's picture book raises awareness about poverty and hunger. Best friends Sofia and Maddi live in the same neighborhood, go to the same school, and play in the same park.

***Sam and the Lucky Money***, by Karen Chinn. It's Chinese New Year and young Sam has four dollars of burning a hole in his pocket. As he and his mother are milling through the crowded streets — alive with firecrackers, lion dances, and shoppers — Sam accidentally steps on the foot of a homeless man who is buried in a pile of red paper. Flustered, Sam hurries back to his mother, and is soon distracted by the *char siu bao* and other sweets he might buy with his gift money. When he sees a reminder of the man again, Sam starts to think of his "lucky money" in a new light.

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***Stone Soup***, by Jon Muth. Three strangers, hungry and tired, pass through a village. Embittered and suspicious, the people hide their food and close their windows tight. That is, until the clever strangers suggest making a soup from stones. Intrigued by the idea, everyone brings what they have until— together, they have made a feast fit for a king! In this inspiring story about the strength people possess when they work together, Muth takes a simple, beloved tale and adds his own fresh twist.

***Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen***, by Dyanne Disalvo-Ryan. A little boy becomes interested in the people who live on the streets of New York City as he takes a stroll through them. Fortunately for him, his Uncle Willie volunteers at a local soup kitchen where he can get to know more about the homeless. Uncle Willie helps his nephew learn about the issues of hunger and homelessness as they work together at the soup kitchen.

***Those Shoes***, by Maribeth Boelts. All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. Though Jeremy's grandma says they don't have room for "want," just "need," when his old shoes fall apart at school, he is more determined than ever to have those shoes, even a thrift-shop pair that are much too small. But sore feet aren't much fun, and Jeremy soon sees that the things he has — warm boots, a loving grandma, and the chance to help a friend — are worth more than the things he wants.

***Someplace to Go***, by Maria Testa. Davey describes how he spends his time after school trying to keep safe and warm until he can meet his mom and brother at the local shelter.

***A Chance to Grow***, by E. Sandy Powell. Joe, his sister, and his mother are evicted from their apartment and are forced to live in shelters and on the streets.

***If the World Were A Village***, by David J. Smith. By exploring the lives of the 100 villagers, children will discover that life in other nations is often very different from their own. If the World Were a Village is part of CitizenKid: A collection of books that inform children about the world and inspire them to be better global citizens.