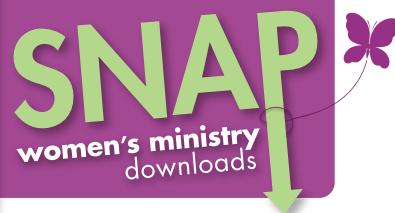


**Group**



WEAR YOUR  
**HEART**  
ON YOUR **SLEEVE**

**GIVEBACK EVENT**

**Purpose:** Connect women through community service projects for an evening of fun with a purpose!

# Wear Your Heart On Your Sleeve: A Giveback Event

It's time to let your love show!

In John 13:35, Jesus said "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." He didn't say we'd be known as his followers by our words, our church buildings, or our fabulous programs...but by our love. So it's time to wear our hearts on our sleeves and spread the love of Jesus through this fun-filled, outreach-themed event.

This gathering is designed to be a meaningful get-together that focuses on sharing the love of Jesus through service to the community. The women in your church will experience how rewarding and fun serving can be. This is a perfect event to have annually to engage more women in your church in service activities and to bless your community.

## Before Your Event

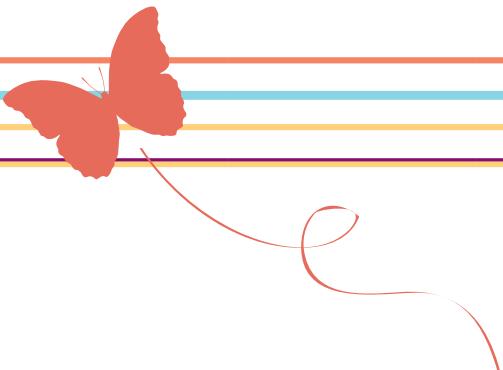
Review this guide with your leadership team and decide what kind of give-back project you want to focus on. This resource gives ideas for an event that could be held out in your community or in your church. Consider the options and what will work best for your group. Adapt the invitation to this event to reflect what you'll be doing. If you are planning to connect with a local non-profit or other ministry that you'll be providing support for, be sure to talk to their staff as soon as possible to make sure your efforts meet their needs.

## Promoting Your Event

Put this blurb in your church bulletin, on your website, in an email, and in flyers (along with the details for when and where your event will take place).

*Wear Your Heart On Your Sleeve!*

*It's time to let your love show.  
Jesus said the world would know  
we're Christians by our love. So  
it's time to wear our hearts on our  
sleeves and spread the love of Jesus  
throughout our community.*



Invite several women from your team to be at a registration table before and after church services to answer questions and encourage women to attend. If you are partnering with a local non-profit or other organization you might want to invite a representative from that group to be at your registration table as well to answer any additional questions.

## Options for Your Event

Feel free to use these ideas or add your own touches to make this outreach event as life-changing as possible.

- **Hearty Greetings** As women arrive be sure they're greeted warmly and given a nametag. If you're inviting guests from your community, be sure to recognize and personally escort them to the special activities you've designed for them. If you hope they'll come back to your church be sure they feel loved—and also be sure you have information to share with them about your upcoming gatherings.
- **Happy Heart Decorations** Use hearts of all colors to decorate your areas. For added fun give each woman a small felt or paper heart to wear on her sleeve as she arrives. Have fun finding heart-themed napkins, plates, and other items to use. If you plan ahead you can buy a lot of heart-themed items on clearance after Valentine's Day and save it for your event no matter what time of year you gather!

- **Hearty Snacks** Keep it simple for this event with finger snacks like veggies and dip, crackers and cheese, and heart-shaped cookies picked up at the local bakery.

- **Service Fair** Set up your area with multiple service stations featuring different activities or local organizations where women might be interested in volunteering at a later date. Give women a roster of the activities so they can move freely through the activities as they wish. Create small signs for each table or area using a heart design and the name of the service activity or organization. Be sure to provide informational fliers and contact information for any of the organizations.

- **Single Moms Outreach** Target your service to a group of single moms in your community who may not even come to your church. For example, you could throw a pampering party for single moms and hold this in a community center or at your church. While one group of women are pampering the single moms with facials and hand massages, others can prepare a take-home meal for each mom, and another group can play games with their children so they don't have to worry about childcare.



- **Joy in a Jar** Service Station Here you'll create soup or brownie mixes in a jar or resealable plastic bag that can be given to individuals or groups in your community. Set up an assembly line for women to put together the ingredients for a brownie mix, or try this easy and yummy soup mix:

### Creamy Potato Soup

Supplies needed for every 4 jars:

4 pint size Mason jars and lids  
(or use resealable plastic bags as a low-cost option)

3 cups dried potato flakes

2½ cups dried milk powder

½ cup powdered coffee creamer

4 tablespoons chicken bouillon granules

4 teaspoons dried minced onion

2 teaspoons dried parsley

½ teaspoon white pepper

½ teaspoon dried thyme

3 teaspoons salt

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl with a wire whisk. Divide the mix evenly into four jars or bags. Attach the directions to a piece of ribbon and tie around lid.



**Directions:** For each serving, mix ½ cup dry mix with 1 cup of boiling water and stir until smooth and creamy.



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- **Tickled Pink Service Station** We all know laughter is the best medicine, so design this station to raise money for those in medical need. Get various volunteers from your church to take turns sitting in this booth. The challenge for everyone else is to make the person sitting there laugh—but they'll have to pay a dollar for the privilege! So if Linda is sitting in the booth, Jennifer can pay a dollar and then tell Linda a joke, make a silly face, or do whatever it takes to get Linda to laugh. Have a sign telling what organization will receive the proceeds from this station. Every laugh heals and helps!



- **Creative Heart Service Station** This service station can be organized by women in your group that sew or do crafts. Ask them to bring a sewing project that's easy for other women to help with. Offer a button-sewing service for seniors or disabled members of your community. Make fleece blankets for shelters, personalized book bags for students, Tshirts for a local charity, or blessing baskets for those in need.

- **Collection Corner** Set aside one area to collect donations. Determine one or two types of donation items (such as canned food, clothing, baby products, office or school supplies) that you will deliver to a local charity after your event. You may also want to have a place for women who want to go along when these items are delivered to sign up.

- **Coin Toss** Set up a coin toss game where women try to toss their extra change into cups or jars set on the floor. For added fun, make them use their less coordinated hand, toss it backwards over their head, have their eyes closed, or balance on one foot while doing their best Elvis impersonation! Donate the money to a local charity, and give red lollipops for prizes.

- **Heartfelt Conversations** Copy these conversation starters and scatter them around the room to get women chatting. Or add one to each heart you pin on a woman's sleeve as she comes into your event and have women connect with three other women during the event and share their answers to the questions pinned on each one's sleeve.

What does it mean to "wear your heart on your sleeve?"



Describe a time when you were in need and someone reached out to lend you a helping hand.

How can showing love on the outside help us grow on the inside?

What's the most fun you've ever had serving a good cause?

If laughter is the best medicine, how many laughs a day will keep the doctor away? See if you can get your friends to laugh right now!

Jesus said the world would know we're Christians by our love for each other. What does that mean to you?

Love makes the world go round...so spread the love! Grab someone nearby, give her a hug and an encouraging word. Then tell her to pass it on!



This resource is part of the SNAP series, which provides women's ministry downloads at your fingertips. For more women's ministry resources go to [group.com/women](http://group.com/women).

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