

# child

## 10 KID-ORIENTED CAUSES

"Your own enthusiasm plays a big role in how children view volunteering," says Jenny Friedman, the Minneapolis-based author of *The Busy Family's Guide to Volunteering*. Another key is working with organizations tailored to children and families. Check out these 10 especially worthy ones:

**THE BOX PROJECT** Sponsor an impoverished rural family by sending monthly gift boxes (see one at right) filled with clothing, food, and more. 800-268-9928; [www.boxproject.org](http://www.boxproject.org)

**CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE** Help raise and train a puppy that will eventually assist children and adults with physical disabilities. 866-CCI-DOGS; [www.caninecompanions.org](http://www.caninecompanions.org)

**HEIFER INTERNATIONAL** Donate money for a farm animal (or a share of one), a package including honeybees and a hive to keep them in, or other agricultural supplies that will help a struggling family provide its own food. 800-422-0474; [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

**KID'S STUFF USA: SHOE BOX GIFTS** Decorate a shoe box, then fill it with toys, school supplies, and other items for disadvantaged children. 866-543-7269; [www.feedthechildren.org](http://www.feedthechildren.org) (click on United States Programs, then Kid's Stuff USA)

**LOCKS OF LOVE** Donate your (or your child's) just-cut hair (10-inch minimum) to help create quality hairpieces for children who suffer from the hair loss that can be brought on by a variety of long-term medical illnesses. 888-896-1588; [www.locksoflove.org](http://www.locksoflove.org)

**NATIONAL HUNGER CLEARINGHOUSE** Collect food for soup kitchens, childcare centers, homeless shelters, food banks, and food pantries. 800-GLEAN-IT; [www.worldhungeryear.org/nhc](http://www.worldhungeryear.org/nhc)

**PETER PAN CHILDREN'S FUND** Join the Peter Pan Birthday Club and help raise money for the children's hospital of your choice. 914-764-9585; [www.peterpanchildrensfund.org](http://www.peterpanchildrensfund.org)

### AN EARLY START

Boys and girls and their parents are a great way to get your young child involved in charity.



**PINWHEEL PROJECT** Donate children's books, art supplies, videos and DVDs, and nonperishable foods to comfort children's-hospital patients and their families. 914-273-7330

**PROJECT LINUS** Become a "blanketeer" with your child by working to create a handmade blanket for abused and chronically ill children. 309-664-7814; [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org)

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS** Help out at competitions by pitching in with food service or by presenting awards to athletes, all of whom are disabled. 202-628-3630; [www.spectololympics.org](http://www.spectololympics.org) —Rachel Arnhoffer