

# Examples of Ways Towns Help Citizens with Special Needs

## Corpus Christi

When you give your report, take turns talking so that each one of you has something to say.

This is what your group can tell the class about Corpus Christi.

- Show the class where Corpus Christi is on the Texas wall map.
- Corpus Christi has a program called Neighborhood Services. The purpose of this program is to protect and improve the quality of life, health, and welfare of Corpus Christi citizens by assisting in the maintenance and development of safe neighborhoods.
- Being on the coast, Corpus Christi is sometimes hit by hurricanes. One of the ways the Neighborhood Services program helps is by providing shelters for people during storms.
- One of the ways Corpus Christi helps children is through their Latchkey Program. In this program, students have a safe place to stay after school. People provide activities such as art, drama, and games for the children in the Latchkey Program. Students can also go to tutoring classes.
- There is a charge for children in the Latchkey Program, but if the parents are unable to pay the fee, they can apply for a special scholarship, and the fee will be paid for them.
- Show the class the logo for the Latchkey Program.



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## **San Antonio**

When you give your report, take turns talking so that each one of you has something to say.

This is what your group can tell the class about San Antonio.

- Show the class where San Antonio is on the Texas wall map.
- San Antonio has a strong volunteer program. Volunteers are people who give their time to help people. Volunteers do not receive money for the work they do. They want to help other people.
- One way that volunteers help in San Antonio is to work on keeping city parks in good shape. Volunteers can pick up trash, trim bushes, spread mulch on flowerbeds, and paint buildings and park benches. The Parks Department of San Antonio will furnish the tools and supplies.
- Volunteers can also help children with the sports they play in the city's recreational programs.
- Volunteers help in San Antonio's community centers. For example, in a center to help senior citizens, some of the elderly people make crafts such as Christmas ornaments and baskets. Volunteers work in a store to sell these crafts for the seniors.

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### **Copperas Cove**

When you give your report, take turns talking so that each one of you has something to say.

This is what your group can tell the class about Copperas Cove.

- Show the class where Copperas Cove is on the Texas Wall Map
- Many of the churches in Copperas Cove and many agencies offer services to the citizens. Some of these services include free food, clothing, medical prescriptions and emergency shelter to those in need.
- These groups also help people pay their rent and utility bills. One center provides housing for low-income families, the elderly, and the homeless.
- One apartment complex provides units especially designed for people who are physically, sight, or hearing impaired.
- Copperas Cove has many volunteers to help with the large number of services that groups in the town provide.
- The Fire Department of Copperas Cove also helps people. They provide free fire safety materials and inspections. They provide child safety seat inspections and instructions and give free immunizations to children.

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### United Way

When you give your report, take turns talking so that each one of you has something to say.

This is what your group can tell the class about the United Way.

- Show the class the United Way logo:



- United Way is a program that helps people across the United States. Over 1,400 towns participate in the program. Many of them are Texas towns.
- The idea of United Way is for a town to collect money from its citizens and place the money in a special fund. Then a group of people in the town examines community organizations that help people. The group decides how much of the money collected from the citizens will go to each helping organization.
- One helping organization might need more money than another because they serve more people or more money is needed to operate their services.
- Some examples of helping organizations in a town include day care centers, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, support groups for people in trouble, YMCA, YWCA, and groups that build homes for low-income families.

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### America's Promise

When you give your report, take turns talking so that each one of you has something to say.

This is what your group can tell the class about America's Promise:

- Show the class America's Promise Logo:



- America's Promise is an organization that helps young people from birth to 20 years old across the towns of the United States. Colin Powell and his wife, Alma Powell are the chairmen of the agency.
- Show the class the towns on the Texas wall map that participate in America's Promise. Those towns include Abilene, Amarillo, Arlington, Austin, Baytown, Copperas Cove, Dallas, Fort Worth, Georgetown, Houston, Huntsville, Killeen, Midland, San Marcos, San Antonio, The Woodlands, Victoria, and Whitesboro.
- An example of one town's participation in America's Promise is Arlington. In one of their activities, they hosted a back-to-school fair giving information and help about school related issues to the students and parents. They gave free school supplies to more than 700 children whose parents could not afford to buy supplies. They also held drawings and gave away school bags, lunch boxes, backpacks, and other school items.