New Jersey District of Circle K International
2020-2021 Remote Service Guide
Dear New Jersey District of Circle K International,

As all of you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has left many people across the world and across the state of New Jersey sick, panicked, or feeling hopeless. These extraordinary circumstances have thrown our lives to a halt - including the great work we do as members of CKI. While we can’t do physical service initiatives during this time, our communities need our positive impact now more than ever.

First, we need to take care of the members within our CKI communities. I implore everyone to reach out to their club members, faculty advisors, and Kiwanis Family members to make sure they are taken care of during this difficult time. We are all leaders in this organization, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure all members have the support they need in the face of adversity.

Then, we can look to continue our service within our state and national communities. Due to the nature of COVID-19, these service initiatives will most likely need to be remote and done online. **This does not make the service any less impactful.** These are projects that we would otherwise overlook, but now have the chance to complete and serve new communities and organizations and spread the positivity of a New Jersey CKI member.

This guide is intended to provide service opportunities and ideas for all members to pursue during this time. The guide is broken down by category of project (i.e. education, health, etc.). This guide is not final - if you have a suggestion for a project or cause that members can complete remotely, please contact me at kylelank.cki@gmail.com and we will add it to the guide.

I know service is not necessarily a main focus right now, but it is our obligation to step up during this extraordinary time. Even if you can only give an hour, any small and positive action will make an impact. These initiatives will not directly impact the COVID-19 outbreak or those suffering from it, but they will inevitably make our communities better.

If you have any questions or need **anything** from me, do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to overcoming this challenge with you all. Be safe and stay healthy!

Yours in Service, Leadership, and Fellowship,

*Kyle Lank*

Kyle Lank
2020 - 2021 District Governor
Online Service Databases

- **Catchafire** - Catchafire is an online database made specifically for matching volunteers with nonprofit organizations who need online help. Not a tech wizard? A lot of these jobs require little tech experience. All you have to do is go on catchafire.org, use their search tool, and find an opportunity that matches your skills and interests. An example project that can be found on Catchafire is virtually teaching Microsoft Excel to disadvantaged communities.

  **Note:** In looking around to create this guide, I can say that this is the best resource to find online service! You can get started at: catchafire.org

- **United Nations Volunteers** - The UN Volunteers database is another great tool to find online service projects. Similar to Catchafire, this program allows you to be matched with nonprofit organizations to achieve their missions virtually. The cool thing about this service, however, is that it allows you to see which of the United Nations’ sustainable development goals your project is helping to achieve. It is a little more overwhelming than Catchafire, but there are a lot of opportunities available for all skills! Get started at: onlinevolunteering.org/en

- **ForGood** - ForGood is another online database to try if the other two do not offer projects that entice you. This database is out of South Africa and they focus on projects based there, but they have a good online volunteering tool we can utilize. Get started at: forgood.co.za
Education

- **Digital Smithsonian Volunteer** - From the Smithsonian website: “The Smithsonian benefits from the work of thousands of passionate volunteers who support the organization on-site in our museums, zoo, and other facilities. ‘Digital Volunteers’ can now take on important assignments to expand access to the Smithsonian's massive collections, and can participate in a variety of research programs. Some roles require special knowledge or skill, but many do not.” Available projects include transcribing primary artifacts and contributing to Wikipedia on Smithsonian information. Get started at: [si.edu/volunteers/digitalvolunteers](http://si.edu/volunteers/digitalvolunteers)

- **Project Gutenberg** - Project Gutenberg is an online database with over 60,000 ebooks. Started in 1971, they are committed to creating the largest online library. The free books provide educational materials to those unable to access a regular library. Projects include: proofreading ebooks, procuring eligible paper books, and burning CD’s and DVD’s for those without internet access. Get started at: [gutenberg.org](http://gutenberg.org)

- **Love Letters for Literacy** - An oldie, but a goodie. Love Letters for Literacy provides handmade packets of 26 alphabet letters to pre-readers to promote early childhood literacy in at-risk neighborhoods. How can you get involved at home? Create themed alphabet cards - all you need are index cards, art supplies, and a good attitude! It is the perfect way to pass some time at home. Reach out to District Governor Kyle Lank at [kylelank.cki@gmail.com](mailto:kylelank.cki@gmail.com) for more information on the collection process or some cute theme ideas!
Health

Note: Due to the nature of healthcare-related service, some of these require an application and/or training to get started.

- **VocalID** - VocalID is a program where volunteers lend their voice to be used for text-to-speech software. This allows individuals to choose unique voices to use for their respective softwares - giving those without speech a sense of identity. Providing your voice also helps perfect voice technology for those who need it most. Learn more and get started at: [vocalid.ai/voicebank](vocalid.ai/voicebank)

- **Chemo Angels** - Chemo Angels is a program that matches chemotherapy patients (children and adults) to a volunteer who will provide support throughout their treatment. There are different types of volunteers depending on how involved you are willing to get. This project is a longer process, but a rewarding experience nonetheless. Get started at: [chemoangels.com](chemoangels.com)

- **Crisis Text Line** - From the Crisis Text Line: “Crisis Text Line is the free, 24/7 text line for people in crisis in the United States. The service is powered by volunteer Crisis Counselors who work remotely — anywhere with a computer and secure internet connection.” You will receive free training from this program on how to handle crisis and be an effective volunteer. This is another longer commitment, but if this something that entices you do not hesitate! Get started at: [crisistextline.org/volunteer](crisistextline.org/volunteer)
Human Rights

- **Between the Bars** - Between the Bars is a blog platform for people in prison, through which these individuals can have their stories heard. Because people in prison are routinely denied access to the internet, these stories are conveyed through handwritten letters which are scanned and transcribed on this website. Volunteers are tasked with interacting with these stories and transcribing letters to be posted on their website. Get started at: betweenthebars.org/about

- **Translators Without Borders** - Are you fluent in another language that is not your native language? Translators Without Borders is a volunteer-based program that translates essential information. Volunteers are tasked to read crisis or medical information and translate them to be understood by professionals. Even if you are not fluent in another language, you can still volunteer with Translators Without Borders as a graphic designer or project manager. Get started here: translatorswithoutborders.org/volunteer

- **Amnesty Decoders** - From the Amnesty International website: “Amnesty Decoders is an innovative platform for volunteers around the world to use their computers or phones to help our researchers sift through pictures, information and documents.” This program conducts research essential to securing human rights for individuals around the world. Get started and learn more information here: decoders.amnesty.org
Miscellaneous

- **Zooniverse** - Zooniverse is a platform for people-powered research that literally wouldn’t be possible (or practical) without the help of online volunteers. Spend as much or as little time as you’d like identifying endangered animals, classifying galaxy systems, or transcribing Shakespearean manuscripts. There are a lot of interesting topics to be researched on Zooniverse. Get started here: [zooniverse.org](http://zooniverse.org)

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**Guidelines for Additional Projects**

- **Be considerate about fundraising** - We understand that we are in the midst of March Water Madness and that a lot of you are actively fundraising for WASH. Don’t stop, but be considerate about fundraising. This is a difficult time both mentally and financially for all of us, so if people are not willing to donate anymore, do not take it personally.

- **Do remote service with friends** - Think that doing an online service project will be boring? Hop on a call with friends and do projects together! Zoom or Facetime are great tools for this. Doing service with friends will help us maintain fellowship in a time when we’re all scattered across the state and country.

- **Above all, stay safe!** - If you still want to or are able to do an in-person service project, that’s great! Just be safe. Community service is important, but your safety is our main priority. Wash your hands diligently and often!

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for new projects please reach out to District Governor Kyle Lank at kylelank.cki@gmail.com.