

Finding Help in your Community

Let's get started...

Take a moment to think about one thing that you miss about your community in your country. Share your answer with your group.

New words and Idioms:

Community center, after-school program, day care, emergency care, fire department, free meal, handicapped services, homeless shelter, instructor, safe house, police department, provide, recreation, parks, service organization, non-profit, soup kitchen, summer program, volunteer, phone company, gas company, electric company, garbage company, recycle, post office, mail, postage, "give a helping hand," "help out," etc.

Background:

In the United States, many people rely on community services to provide help and security during difficult times. Today, we will be discussing the different kinds of community services that are available in our area.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

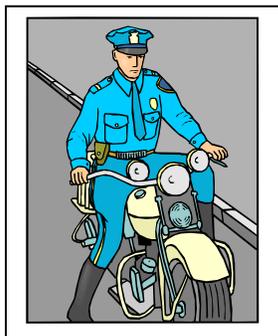
Take a look at these pictures.

What is happening in each scene? Describe what the people are doing.

What are the community services that are shown in each scene?

Whom does each community service help?

Which of these services use volunteer help?



Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

In your native country, what community services does the government provide?

What volunteer organizations are there in your country? Is it common for people to volunteer? Have you volunteered before? If yes, share a story about your experience as a volunteer.

In your native country, what services does the government provide for the homeless? Disabled? Elderly? What services do private organizations provide?

With a partner, try to make a list of as many types of community services as you can. Share your list with the rest of your group.

Who had the longest list?

Did you learn anything new about any community services?

Where can you go, or whom can you call if you need help ...

- buying groceries
- paying your rent
- finding an affordable doctor
- finding childcare
- learning English
- finding an apartment
- meeting people
- finding a dentist
- finding free classes
- mailing a letter
- _____
- _____

In pairs, make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of the following types of communication. When you are finished, compare your answers with the rest of your group.

- regular mail (snail mail)
- e-mail
- faxes
- instant messaging
- telephone
- cell phone
- in person

Which type of communication do you prefer? Why?

How do you prefer to contact community service organizations with questions or for help? Why?