



2020 Fraternal Campaign

Together for Good: Connecting those with and without disabilities

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Overview

Every person has value. Yet sometimes people who seem “different” from us are overlooked as we go about the daily grind. Have you ever stopped to think of what life is like for someone with a disability – whether it’s a physical impairment, intellectual disability or another form of disability?

In 2020, Modern Woodmen’s Fraternal Dept. is sponsoring a campaign to bring awareness and assistance to people with disabilities. “Together for Good: Connecting those with and without disabilities” is meant to help all of us recognize the needs that exist in our local communities and take small or big steps to make sure people with disabilities feel included and supported.

From Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 2020, every chapter, Summit chapter and youth service club is encouraged to plan at least one activity that centers on supporting people with disabilities. There are many opportunities, from service projects to fundraisers to educational events, for chapters and youth clubs to provide much-needed awareness, friendship and assistance to our neighbors with disabilities. Members all across the country will come “together for good” and show people with disabilities they’re a valuable part of our communities.

Who are people with disabilities?

Disabilities come in all shapes and sizes. Some can be seen, and others can’t. These national statistics shed light on what’s considered a disability and why people with disabilities may need extra support: [Infographic](#).

What to do

- **Learn** about the people living with disabilities in your community. Who are they? What are their challenges or needs?
- **Look** for an individual or group you can support. How can your chapter or youth service club make their lives easier or brighter?
- **Mobilize** your chapter or youth club members into action. Plan to conduct at least one activity between Jan. 1 and Oct. 31, 2020 to support this cause. Select a service project to help people with disabilities. Organize an educational event to teach members about the needs in your community. Honor someone who advocates for people with disabilities, or someone who is accomplishing something amazing despite a disability. Raise money through a Matching Fund program to help support a local cause.

Note: Be sure to select the “Special Campaign” category when submitting a request for a Hometown Hero, Social Activity, or Service Project.

- **Post** about your activities in the [Modern Woodmen Fraternal Leaders](#) closed Facebook group to celebrate what your chapter/club did and inspire other chapters/clubs to do the same! Take photos of your chapter/club members holding the campaign poster to show you’re “Together for Good”!

Materials & resources

Project ideas

We've compiled a list of activities your chapter or youth club can do to support this campaign. Choose one of these – or come up with your own!

- **Service projects**
 - Volunteer with Meals on Wheels to make or deliver nutritious meals to seniors who are homebound. Or make a handmade gift to be dropped off with each meal.
 - Read books to people with visual impairments.
 - Volunteer at a center like Gigi's Playhouse, a Down Syndrome Achievement Center that offers special programming and support for individuals with Down syndrome.
 - Gather your tools to build a wheelchair ramp for a person in need.
 - Bring members together to do yard work or simple home maintenance for someone with a disability. Better yet – enlist the support of a lot of members so you can help multiple people around town!
 - Visit a local memory care facility and play games or just talk with residents.
 - Volunteer at a "Night to Shine" event – a prom experience for people with disabilities. Learn more at <https://www.timtebowfoundation.org/ministries/night-to-shine>.
 - Create a sensory garden for people who have disabilities.
 - Volunteer at a horse therapy program.
 - Have members volunteer at shop that donates funds to a nonprofit serving people with disabilities (resale shop) (DAV, Goodwill, etc.)
 - Volunteer at adaptive sporting group (wheelchair basketball, etc.)
 - Do spring cleanup at a camp for children with disabilities or volunteer to help at the camp.
 - Gather volunteers or racers for a local walk/run that benefits people with disabilities.
 - Make weighted blankets (<https://www.mamasmiles.com/sewing-tutorial-how-to-make-a-weighted-sensory-blanket/>) or sensory bins for children with autism and sensory sensitivities (<https://www.thechaosandtheclutter.com/archives/our-best-sensory-bins>).
- **Hometown Hero events**
 - Recognize a local person with a disability who has made an impact in the community.
 - Honor someone in your community who's made a major impact on a person(s) with a disability and/or their family.
 - Recognize the founder or leader of a local nonprofit organization that supports people with disabilities.
- **Educational events**
 - Bring in an expert to teach members the basics of American Sign Language.
 - Invite a representative from NAMI to speak at an event: signs of mental illness or how to speak to people with mental health issues.
 - Host an event to educate parents or adults on how to speak to children about people with disabilities.
- **Social activities (chapters & Summit chapters only)**
 - If your area has a restaurant or business who specifically hires people with disabilities, host your social activity there.
 - Support a local inclusive school-based cheerleading or dance team at a football or basketball game, or another sporting event. Visit www.thesparkleeffect.org to find a local team in your area.

- **Matching Fund projects**

- Host a fundraiser to help a person with a disability obtain a guide dog or therapy animal.
- Gather a team of members to do the Polar Plunge, raising money for the Special Olympics.
- Raise money to start an inclusive school-based cheerleading or dance team. Visit www.thesparkleeffect.org for more information.
- Raise funds to help a person in your community obtain assistive technology for their disability (e.g. text-to-speech or dictation devices).
- Host a fundraiser to help a disability-related nonprofit or group to upgrade their facilities (e.g. installing an automatic door opener).
- Raise money for a veterans' adaptive sports program in your area. Visit https://www.va.gov/adaptivesports/va_clubFinder.asp to find a sports club near you.
- Raise funds to send children with disabilities to camp.

Campaign graphics

Want materials to enhance your campaign projects? Here are special campaign materials for you to use:

- "Together for Good" campaign poster (Link to order form on MAI site.)
- "Together for Good" logo files
 - [General logo](#)
 - [Logo for T-shirt](#)

Campaign post for your chapter/youth club closed Facebook group

Directions: Copy the message below (and update as needed) and add the logo as a photo in your post.

In 2020, we are coming "Together for Good" to bring awareness and needed assistance to people with disabilities! This year's fraternal campaign is meant to help all of us recognize the needs that exist in our community and take small or big steps to make sure people with disabilities, whether physical, mental, or intellectual, feel included and supported.

From Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 2020, we will have activities that center on supporting people with disabilities. If you have any activity ideas you would like us to consider doing or causes you would like us to consider supporting, please share in the comments!

How to refer and talk to people with disabilities

It may be difficult to know what to say to people with disabilities, or how to refer to them. Check out these online resources to help:

- https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/pdf/disabilityposter_photos.pdf
- <http://www.unitedspinal.org/disability-etiquette>
- <https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-disabilities-4142349>
- <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=32276>
- https://www.disability-rights.org/?page_id=20
- <https://nami.org/Get-Involved/NAMI-FaithNet/Tips-For-How-to-Help-a-Person-with-Mental-Illness>

Incentive

Two hundred will receive a free Modern Woodmen-branded apparel item their choice when they meet the following qualifications:

- The leader's chapter/youth club must earn premier status in 2020
- The chapter/youth club must have held at least 2 activities in support of Together for Good.
 - The activities must be from two different activity categories (Ex. one service project, one social activity).
 - The activity requests for both activities must clearly indicate the project is part of the Together for Good campaign.

Once the qualifications are met, you must complete the online request form, which will be sent out in the fall when the premier-earning period has ended. You will not be able to complete the request until then. The first 200 leaders who submit the request are guaranteed to receive a shirt.

Note: A leader may only request/receive one shirt, regardless of how many chapters/youth clubs he/she leads.