



## IDEAS FOR CHARITY - MINUS THE \$CHECKS

Sometimes, one of the hardest parts of volunteering can be finding a volunteering opportunity that fits your personality. We created this comprehensive list to help you find the perfect match whether you are a child, adult, or senior citizen. There is much work to be done in many areas. You will make an impact on someone's life, including your own, by helping others.

### **Homeless Shelters**

You might:

- help prepare or distribute meals, collect clothes for residents
- work behind the scenes in the business office, help organize a food drive to stock the pantry

### **Tutoring & Mentoring**

The limited resources of many public schools, especially those in urban areas, results in inadequate education for many children. You can:

- adopt a school and tutor students in math or reading
- don't forget about children in shelters who may have missed a lot of school
- set up an online tutoring program with a local district or classroom
- become a classroom contact. Provide online email assistance to kids.
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters Of America** is dedicated to mentoring youth. You can make a huge difference in a child's life just by being a Big Brother or Big Sister.

### **Animal Issues**

The myriad of organizations welcome volunteers to help in a number of ways:

- volunteer at your local humane society -- walk dogs, socialize cats, help with adoptions, keep facilities clean, work with the public, provide humane education, and assist with general office support. etc.
- lobby for animals. Join the [Humane Activist Network](#) and help pass protection laws

### **Special Olympics**

They offer a number of different volunteer activities, including

- sports training and competition planning
- administrative help

### **Senior Citizens**

If you would like working with senior citizens, call a senior citizen center in your neighborhood and see what kinds of volunteer programs they have available. Some ideas are:

- do yard work at an elderly person's home, play checkers or other games with them
- lead activities such as free weights and exercise, stretching, or yoga at a senior center.

**Other Organizations that could use your help include: Boys & Girls Clubs Environmental Organizations, Parks & Outdoor Areas, Childrens Wish Foundation, Food Banks, and many more.**

A couple more safe, online methods of contributing to the less fortunate include:

### **Using the right internet search engines to make free donations**

Imagine making a small charity donation for free every time you search the web with a search engine - well now you can. Many search engines are willing to take a portion of their revenue and give it to sites which host their search box and give them "searches".

You can choose a search to donate site according to which search engine you wish to use. Currently you can choose from the following: Google, Yahoo, Ask Jeeves, Lycos and Mirago.

- <http://www.searchkindly.org> - Google (100% donated)
- <http://www.charitycafe.com> - Ask Jeeves and Lycos (100% donated)
- <http://www.theenvironmentsite.org> - Mirago (100% donated)
- <http://www.goodsearch.com> - Yahoo (50% donated)

*Brian Ortiz*  
*Real Estate Broker*

**"B SQUARE REAL ESTATE IS STRIVING TO BUILD A GREAT REPUTATION, NOT FOCUSING ON A HUGE PROFIT."**

**What's Inside:**

- Ideas For Charity... 1
- B<sup>2</sup> Mission 1
- Ideas For Charity...cont. 2
- Stop and Think 2
- Thought of the Month 2
- Real Estate Question 2
- Now Open in Las Cruces! 3
- B Square Bonus Fund 4
- Real Estate Tip 5
- Comedy Corner 5
- Did you Know? 5
- Real Estate Stats 5
- Thank You 6

Continued from Pg. 1

**THOUGHT OF THE MONTH**

"What we give to the poor is what we carry with us when we die."

Peter Marin

**Are you thinking about buying a home or investing? Or do you know someone who is? We provide a FREE, Comparative Market Analysis to help determine the value of a home, all you have to do is call.**

**REAL ESTATE QUESTION**

**Q:** Have you heard of straw buying and if so is it legal?

**A:** Straw buying is a practice where an individual will step in for the purposes of financing a home. The 'straw-buyer' is a person who has the credit/income/asset position to help obtain financing where the actual buyer doesn't have the credit. This practice is not allowed by lenders. The mortgage application specifically asks if the person (straw) buying the home will occupy the home as a primary residence, if they answer 'yes' then they have committed fraud.

**Do you have a question about Real Estate?**

**If you have a question please feel free to call us at (866) 821-0852**

**Use a free web based email and save Amazon rainforest with every email**

There are several companies offering free web based email accounts (like Hotmail and Yahoo!), but only few which donate a portion of their revenue to charity. So far I have found three of these: [Planet-Save](#), [EcologyFund](#), [Care2](#)

For more info on these online contributions visit [easydonations.net](#)

One other way to contribute that is catching on quickly is to add a charity to your wedding, or any other gift registry. Whatever you decide to do to help those less fortunate will help save lives.

**STOP AND THINK****Trying to be "Ugly"**

Everyone in the apartment complex I lived in knew who Ugly was. Ugly was the resident tomcat.

Ugly loved three things in this world: fighting, eating garbage, and, shall we say, love. The combination of these things combined with a life spent outside had their effect on Ugly. To start with, he had only one eye and where the other should have been was a gaping hole. He was also missing his ear on the same side, his left foot appeared to have been badly broken at one time, and had healed at an unnatural angle, making him look like he was always turning the corner. His tail has long ago been lost, leaving only the smallest stub, which he would constantly jerk and twitch. Ugly would have been a dark grey tabby, striped-type, except for the sores covering his head, neck, even his shoulders with thick, yellowing scabs. Every time someone saw Ugly there was the same reaction. "That's one UGLY cat!!"

All the children were warned not to touch him, the adults threw rocks at him, hosed him down, squirted him when he tried to come in their homes, or shut his paws in the door when he would not leave. Ugly always had the same reaction. If you turned the hose on him, he would stand there, getting soaked until you gave up and quit. If you threw things at him, he would curl his lanky body around feet in forgiveness.

Whenever he spied children, he would come running, meowing frantically and bump his head against their hands, begging for their love. If you ever picked him, up he would immediately begin suckling on your shirt, earrings, whatever he could find.

One day Ugly shared his love with the neighbor's huskies. They did not respond kindly, and Ugly was badly mauled. From my apartment I could hear his screams, and I tried to rush to his aid. By the time I got to where he was laying, it was apparent Ugly's sad life was almost at an end.

Ugly lay in a wet circle, his back legs and lower back twisted grossly out of shape, a gaping tear in the white strip of fur that ran down his front. As I picked him up and tried to carry him home, I could hear him wheezing and gasping, and could feel him struggling.

It must be hurting him terribly, I thought.

Then I felt a familiar tugging, sucking sensation on my ear. Ugly, in so much pain, suffering and obviously dying, was trying to suckle my ear. I pulled him closer to me, and he bumped the palm of my hand with his head, then he turned his one golden eye towards me, and I could hear the distinct sound of purring. Even in the greatest pain, that ugly battled-scarred cat was asking only for a little affection, perhaps some compassion.

At that moment I thought Ugly was the most beautiful, loving creature I had ever seen. Never once did he try to bite or scratch me, or even try to get away from me, or struggle in any way. Ugly just looked up at me completely trusting in me to relieve his pain.

Ugly died in my arms before I could get inside, but I sat and held him for a long time afterwards, thinking about how one scarred, deformed little stray could so alter my opinion about what it means to have true pureness of spirit, to love so totally and truly. Ugly taught me more about giving and compassion than a thousand books, lectures, or talk show specials ever could, and for that I will always be thankful. He had been scarred on the outside, but I was scarred on the inside, and it was time for me to move on and learn to love truly and deeply. To give my total to those I cared for.

Many people want to be richer, more successful, well liked, beautiful, but for me,

I will always try to be Ugly.

~Author Unknown

**We  
sincerely  
value our  
clients and  
we would  
like to let  
you know  
that we  
greatly  
appreciate  
your  
business.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Leonardo da Vinci could write  
with the one hand and draw

## REAL ESTATE STATS FOR THE ALBUQUERQUE METRO AREA

For the Month of: April

Homes sold: 912

Homes listed: 2451

Average price of home sold:

\$235,133

Average days on the Market:

39

Compared to previous  
month:

For the Month of: March

Homes sold: 884

Homes listed: 2,527

Average price of home sold:

\$230,916

Average days on the Market:

42

## REAL ESTATE TIP

### What is a Short Sale?

A short sale means the seller's lender is accepting a discounted payoff to release an existing mortgage. Just because a property is listed with short sale terms does not mean the *lender* will accept your offer, even if the *seller* accepts it.

Be aware that the seller will need to be in default, to have stopped making mortgage payments, before a lender will consider a short sale. Also, the seller might have over-encumbered, owe more than the home is worth, so a discounted price might bring the price in line with market value, not below it. Check with your realtor to be safe.

## COMEDY CORNER

On the outskirts of town there was a cemetery. Near the cemetery gate there was a huge old pecan tree that had dropped loads of pecans. One day two kids gathered up a bucketful of nuts and sat down behind the huge tree's base that covered them from sight, and began dividing their harvest. One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me," said the boy. Several were dropped and rolled down toward the gate.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me."

He just knew what it was. "Oh my," he shuddered, "it's Satan and the Lord dividing the souls at the cemetery." He jumped back on his bike and hurried off. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along. "Come here quick," said the boy, "you won't believe what I heard. Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls!" The man said, "Beat it, kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk?" When the boy insisted, the man hobbled to the cemetery.

Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me." The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been tellin' the truth, let's see if we can see the devil himself." Shaking with fear, they peered through the gate, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the gate tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of Satan. At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. And one last one for you. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts over by the gate, and we'll be done."

They say, the old guy dropped his cane and made it back to town before the boy!

**Brian Ortiz**  
**B<sup>2</sup> Real Estate**  
**6739 Academy Rd NE Suite 140**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87109**

TO OUR VALUED CLIENT

**B<sup>2</sup> NEWSLETTER**

Page 6 of 6

***IF YOU, OR  
SOMEONE YOU  
KNOW, IS  
THINKING ABOUT  
BUYING, SELLING,  
INVESTING IN, OR  
REFINANCING  
REAL ESTATE, WE  
WOULD LOVE TO  
BE THE ONES YOU  
CALL.***

Toll free  
(866) 821-0852

Check out valuable  
information at  
[www.bsquarerealestate.com](http://www.bsquarerealestate.com)

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Thanks for all the great referrals you have given us this past month. We feel it is our obligation to provide customers with the BEST Real Estate service from the BEST Real Estate Company in the nation. We would like to personally thank those of you who have supported B Square Real Estate. It is wonderful people like you who we build our business upon. We just couldn't do it without you.