

Volunteer Together!

Marriage boosters sometimes come from traveling down unexpected avenues.

If you've tried hundreds of tips and tricks to strengthen your marriage, here's a potent one you might have overlooked. Try teaming up to make an impact – on the environment, for victims of disasters, or on the fight against global hunger. Pick something that you both care about, and get busy! By joining the fight together, not only will you make a difference in the world around you, you might just see a big difference under your own roof!

Whether you are rich or poor, everyone has some talent or resource that can make a positive impact. You don't have to pledge \$10,000 or agree to sell all of your worldly possessions and move into the rainforest. You just need the passion and dedication to do whatever you can. Regardless of how large or small the contribution may seem.

There are plenty of places that you and your spouse can lend a hand. You can think locally or globally. You can consider volunteering your time or your checkbook. You can donate specific items, or agree to volunteer to work the phone lines in a Telethon. But whatever you decide to do, agree to do it together. Not only will you benefit from the time together, you'll be more likely to stay motivated to stick to it!

If you're having trouble deciding on how you plan to volunteer your time, talents and/or services, here are a few ideas. You could...

Spend one weekend a month volunteering your time and service at your local soup kitchen.

Donate some maternity/infant items to your local Crisis Pregnancy Care Center.

You could volunteer to call potential sponsors for a local charitable event.

You could work together to coordinate a fundraising event for one of your favorite causes or charities.

The two of you could adopt a highway. Not only will you spend time together improving nature, you'll also get some good exercise. Consider sponsoring a child together. This idea is especially appealing if you have children. The kids will love getting the monthly letters and pictures from the child you decide to sponsor.

Think about sponsoring the ministry of your church's missionary. This can include care packages, letters, financial contributions, etc.

Do you have a particular charity or organization in mind, but you aren't sure how you guys can help? Pick up the telephone and give them a call. Let them know your strengths and see what they have for you to do!

It shouldn't take very long before you start to notice some positive changes around the house. This is especially true if you have children who decide to get involved in your charity or volunteer time. Together, your entire family can strive to make a difference in the world. In turn, you just might find your volunteering has made a world of difference right at home!

Kathy Stafford, Relationship Coach

"I show singles how to get married and couples how to STAY married"

Do you want more from your relationship? Go to <http://www.dearkathy.com> for relationship articles, advice, and programs.

Do you go from one failed relationship to another? Do you want to find that special life partner? Get Kathy's new book, "Relationship Remorse: Mistakes Women Make When Shopping for a Man." and learn the right way to find a loving and committed life-partner. Order the book at <http://www.relationshipremorse.com>

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