



Love By The Month

Julie Carobini, Discipleship Journal 2000



Our small group — all moms — thrived on park dates, poolside fellowship, the occasional girls' night out, and other bonding activities. After a while, however, we experienced a greater desire: We wanted to give a touch of love to those who needed it. We discovered that acts of charity brought us closer to each other and, even more important, humbled us before God's throne of grace. Below is a year's worth of ideas your group could do, adapt to the needs you see in your neighbourhood.

January

Look for a family in need because of job loss, medical crisis, or other circumstances. On occasion take them dinner and offer encouragement.



February

Bake or buy valentine cookies (with or without sugar), and take them to a convalescent home. Call ahead for an appointment, and make sure to set aside plenty of time to visit.

March

Throw a baby shower for the local crisis pregnancy centre.

April

Give the gift of spring cleaning or house repairs to an elderly friend.



May

Plant a vegetable garden, and make a list of local nonprofit food organizations that will receive your bounty at harvest time. Schedule delivery with these groups for sometime during the summer.

June

Volunteer to handle one area — such as snacks, games, or story time — for a vacation Bible school outreach.





July

Hold a backyard barbecue and invite the neighbours. Groups that meet in a church can throw an open house for neighbouring businesses or residents.



August

Adopt a missionary. Pray at each meeting this month for a missionary (and family, if applicable). Mail them a box of treats such as magazines, gourmet chocolates, and toiletries. let them know your group has prayed for them all during the month.



September

Drop off a large box of doughnuts to the teachers' lounge at a local school. Leave a note telling the staff members you are praying they will have a fantastic year.



October

No tricks, just treats! Purchase high-quality sweets/candies, label them with personal notes such as "Jesus loves you" or a Scripture verse, and deliver them to neighbourhood kids.

November

Volunteer to serve dinner at a local rescue mission the weekend after Thanksgiving, once all the holiday helpers have gone home.

December

During the Christmas season, wearing Santa hats, deliver to needy families boxes of non-perishable food and gifts collected/donated by your Church.

