



20 Things YOU Can Do to Make Your Neighborhood Safer for Everyone

1. **Say 'Hello':** When out walking your dog, going to the mailbox, passing people on the street or in the hallway, make eye contact and say hello. This communicates to them that you are a safe, approachable person.
2. **Welcome new neighbors:** When you see the moving van, stop by to introduce yourself and get to know your new neighbors. Bonus if you take cookies or a small gift!
3. **Remember names:** As you learn your neighbors' names, jot them down, along with any important details to help you remember them: "DeAnna Jones, Apt 4. Originally from MI! Cute dog, Patches." Next time, you can greet them (and their pooch) by name.
4. **Use public spaces:** Go out to the local park, library, City pool, the Rec Room in your apt complex, or use the BBQ grills at picnic areas. Get outside your own four walls to meet your neighbors and build community.
5. **Notice who might need your help or support:** The older person living alone, the single parent with small children, the person in a wheelchair navigating the curb.
6. **Connect and communicate:** Start a neighborhood text thread, Signal, or WhatsApp.
7. **Make "Blessing Bags":** Fill 1 gallon ziploc bags with a reusable water bottle (buy at your local thrift store), pair of clean socks, travel size toiletries (soap, hand sanitizer, deodorant, toothpaste), bandaids and alcohol wipes, chapstick, and a healthy/nutritious snack and distribute to unhoused people at intersections.
8. **Organize a neighborhood workday:** Clean up trash and weeds from streets and alleys, offer to help a neighbor with minor repairs or yard work, or paint over graffiti.
9. **Plant a tree:** [TEP](#) and [Trees for Tucson](#) offer free or low-cost native trees to provide curb-appeal, habitat for birds, and help reduce heat on our streets and sidewalks.
10. **Organize a neighborhood get-together:** Game night, movie night, BBQ's or potlucks, or a rummage sale. Holiday cookie exchanges are also a great option.
11. **Carry and distribute naloxone:** Naloxone (Narcan) is a medication that can reverse overdose from opioids and prescription pain relievers (including Fentanyl). It is FREE and available to anyone. Keep some on hand or distribute in parks, at bus stops, or anywhere you suspect people are at risk of overdose. <https://spwaz.org/arizonanaloxone/>
12. **Create a Skillshare Board:** What knowledge or skills do you have that others might benefit from? Come together with your neighbors to create a directory of community members who can help each other. Examples: Home repair, dog walking, pet sitting, yard

work/landscaping, gardening, homework help/tutoring, sewing, shopping/pickup/driving for those without transportation.

13. **Set up a “Free Stuff” table:** Kind of like an ongoing rummage sale, a Free Stuff table is a centrally located and accessible place for neighbors to share with those in need. Possible items include: Clothing, shoes, kitchen items, linens and towels, tools and household appliances, non-perishable food, books, toys and kids items—basically anything that would otherwise go to a thrift store. Also a great spot for gardeners with excess veggies or citrus from trees!
14. **Collaborate with other parents on an afterschool childcare co-op:** Each family takes turns having the kids over after school once a week. This allows parents (especially those with 9-5 jobs) some flexibility and saves money on childcare or other afterschool programs. Obviously, this one will depend on the level of trust in your relationships, and requires very clear guidelines from all participants.
15. **Share books:** Create a [Little Free Library](#) or just put some books out in a box or on a chair for neighbors to help themselves. This is especially great for children’s books. You can include magazines and comics. Bonus for including books in Spanish and those that reflect the diversity of people in your neighborhood.
16. **Feed a friend:** Double a meal you’re making and drop it off to someone. Whether friend, family, or random community member in need, a fresh meal cooked by someone else is always welcome.
17. **Engage in Mutual Aid:** Mutual aid is voluntary exchange of resources and services between community members to provide support for those who need it. You can support existing Mutual Aid networks in Tucson like [Community on Wheels](#) or [Tucson Food Share](#), or [start your own](#).
18. **Join or start a community garden:** Grow your own healthy food alongside your neighbors. Share seeds, swap recipes, and distribute the harvest. [Community Gardens of Tucson](#) has a list of over 20 gardens. Many TUSD schools also have gardens and are always in need of volunteers to help maintain them. The [City of Tucson](#) offers discount water rates and other resources to get started.
19. **Work with Just Communities Arizona:** Talk to us about starting a [Community Safety Incubator Project](#) in your neighborhood or volunteering to help out with projects around town.
20. **Donate to JCA:** You can help create a safer, more connected Tucson! Your gift supports community-based programs in under-resourced neighborhoods to build cohesion, belonging, and holistic safety for all! [Give now](#).

Just Communities Arizona

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