# ENGAGE SMALL GROUPS

Your church can have a greater SERVE Day impact by empowering your small groups to take ownership in the event. We do this at Highlands by asking every small group to adopt a project where each small group participant can have a role in serving. This is also one more way to promote being in a small group.

We also encourage those not in a small group to find one and join them on their SERVE Day project. Individuals can access our small group directory to find a group to join.

The following is a list of the steps we take and resources we provide to engage our small group leaders in being a part of SERVE Day.

Steps for Engaging Small Groups:

1. **Communication:** Each week of the summer semester an email is sent to small group leaders. The emails serve several functions. (See Sample Emails)
	* Encouragement – words to help them lead their group
	* Informational – details about SERVE Day
	* Directional – what they need them to do in preparation for SERVE Day
2. **Project Ideas:** Encourage groups to find someone around them in need that they can serve. Make a list of project ideas available to small group leaders for inspiration. (See Sample Project Ideas List & Suggested Readings)

Ask you Small Groups to consider these three questions.

* Who in your neighborhood has a need?
* What business or organization within your sphere of influence could use a blessing?
* What project types best suit your group’s ages and abilities? (prayer, construction, cleaning, etc.)
1. **Partnerships:** Contact local ministries and organizations in the community ahead of time and determine their needs and opportunities for members to serve them on SERVE Day. Provide the list of partnerships for small groups and individuals to contact directly(See Sample List of Partnerships)
	* Establish a point of contact with each partnership for small groups or members to contact for how and where to serve.
	* Provide Partner List to small groups and members. Include Contact information and a description of serve opportunities.
2. **Project Registration:** Ask small groups to submit their projects either on your website or via email. We use a survey system called Wufoo that allows us to email them a link to complete the survey electronically. (See Sample Project Registration Form)
	* Helps with tracking the number of projects taking place on SERVE Day and the approximate number of people serving.
	* Allows you to plan for teams to be on site to capture video and testimonies. Use this as an opportunity to develop individuals with creative video and photography skills to serve in this role ongoing.