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## Becoming a Member of a Community Organization

### TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will learn vocabulary and read a story about civic duty.

### RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

It is important to take part in the community. One important way is to belong to a community club or organization.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

### ❑ STEP 1: Update Journal

Joining a club is . . .

### ❑ STEP 2: Convene Roundtable

"One team or club I am interested in is \_\_\_\_."

### ❑ STEP 3: Advance Organizer

"Today you will learn how to participate in school and community organizations."

of the vocabulary list. Participating in elections by voting is a civic duty. Distribute the handout **Civic Duty Word List**. Using examples, go over the vocabulary words with the students, matching the words with the definitions. Circulate through the room to offer assistance and encouragement.

### ❑ STEP 5: Activity - 20 Minutes

Read or have a student read the story **A Helping Hand** to the class. Discuss student reactions to the story.

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CAREER MANAGEMENT: Unit 4 LESSON 4

### CIVIC DUTY WORD LIST

citizen	poll	president
community	nominating	candidate
charity	platform	volunteer
donation	voter	voter registration
club/organization	election	majority

\_\_\_\_\_ The top leader of an organization, company or country.

\_\_\_\_\_ Over 50% of the population who participate in an election.

\_\_\_\_\_ A legal member of a country.

\_\_\_\_\_ The place where a person votes.

\_\_\_\_\_ Helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

\_\_\_\_\_ Making your choice by using a ballot on election day.

\_\_\_\_\_ The things a candidate promises to do if elected.

\_\_\_\_\_ Applying to vote in an election.

\_\_\_\_\_ The process of voting for candidates who are in an election.

\_\_\_\_\_ Selecting a person to run for a leadership position.

\_\_\_\_\_ Someone who is running for an elected office (president).

\_\_\_\_\_ The area or group of people who live in an area.

\_\_\_\_\_ A group which forms to complete a goal or task.

\_\_\_\_\_ Giving one's time for free to help others.

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### ❑ STEP 4: Activity - 25 Minutes

Tell students they will be involved with an election during the next week. Before the election process starts, it is important for everyone to understand the vocabulary that will be used. **Civic Duty** is the focus

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CAREER MANAGEMENT: Unit 4 LESSON 4

### A Helping Hand

Recently Edith Watson, a seventy-five year old lady asked her city for help. Her house was old, in great need of repair, and had been condemned. Her house was going to be torn down in two weeks and she was told to move. Edith had lived in that house all her life. She had raised foster children there for over 20 years. Edith did not have any family to help her. Some of her neighbors formed a community group to help. They began to raise funds and gather materials to fix the house.

Her story was printed in the newspaper, and soon other people offered to help. A construction company donated time and materials to fix her roof, doors and windows. A local paint store donated paint and equipment. Appliances and drapes were donated by a large department store. A local home improvement store gave plants, flowers and a picket fence.

Many people donated their time to do the repairs. When the job was finished, over 50 people gathered for a picnic in Edith's back yard. It was a wonderful party for Edith and the community; everyone was proud of the work they had done. They were happy that Edith would now have a clean, comfortable and safe place to live. Edith was overwhelmed with the generosity of her community. She cried when a reporter asked her how she felt about what had happened. She told the reporter, "I feel truly blessed that so many good people would help me. I am thankful there is so much goodness in the world."

1. What are some of the ways people from Edith's community became involved?
2. Why did this group want to repair her house?
3. Why is it important for us to become involved the way the people did in this community?
4. How do you think everyone felt as part of that group?
5. How would you have felt if you had been part of this project?
6. What or who could use this kind of help in your community?

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Ask students to raise their hands if they are a member of a team or club, then have them name their group. Mention several community and school organizations:

Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, PTA, sports teams, Spanish Club and Sierra Club. Describe the activities and positive results or contributions of these groups. Ask students why people become involved in organizations (group membership, business associations and belief in the activities of the organization). Discuss how organizations can help others, such as feeding the hungry, supporting people who are ill, working with children and preserving nature.

#### ❑ STEP 6: Evaluate Outcomes

Belonging to an organization is important because "\_\_\_\_\_."

#### ❑ STEP 7: Connecting Activity

Students use the phone book to find an interesting community organization.

Have students watch a show about helping others such as "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." Generate a short discussion about the merits of donating time and resources to people in need.

### KEY WORDS

**citizen  
candidate  
vote**

**poll  
charity  
voter registration**

**President  
platform  
club  
majority**

**community  
volunteer  
organization**

**nomination  
donation  
election**

### MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handouts: **Civic Duty Word List**, page 186; **A Helping Hand** page 187.
- Prepare for vocabulary activity.
- Prepare to talk about the importance of helping by belonging to a club or organization that provides a community service.

### SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening
- Thinking Skills: Creative Thinking, Problem Solving
- Personal Qualities: Responsibility, Sociability, Integrity/Honesty