



# Community Concerns

## Simple Ways To Make A Difference

(NAPSA)—Finding ways to “give back” to the community can be relatively easy, even when the economy is not the strongest.

That may be why Volunteering InAmerica.gov, a Web site of the Corporation for National and Community Service, reports the formal volunteering rate in the U.S. has remained relatively stable—even as many families face hard financial times.

Indeed, something as simple as doing business with companies that give back to the community can make a difference, while often not costing consumers extra cash. Just look for companies that donate a percentage of proceeds to an important cause. With a little research, you’ll likely find businesses with a corporate culture that constantly promotes the betterment of their community. For example, Subaru of America has donated new vehicles to local Red Cross chapters, given used vehicles to high-school automotive education classes and donated mountain bikes to local police departments.

This year, the company will once again run its unique “Share the Love” campaign, during which anyone who buys or leases one of its new vehicles can select one of five charities to receive a \$250



**Shopping at businesses that donate to charities could help make a difference in the community.**

donation from the automaker. Last year, the company donated \$4.6 million as a result. More information on the program can be found at [www.subaru.com](http://www.subaru.com).

You might also consider donating your old car or extra vehicle—especially one that doesn’t get driven often or that is not in need of repairs—to charity. Many groups will either sell the vehicle for profit or use it for operations. Since vehicle donations are often tax-deductible, seek tips and guidance from a qualified source, such as Charity Navigator ([www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)), when donating a vehicle, boat or RV.

However you’d like to contribute, you should bear in mind that the smallest efforts can provide the biggest results for those in need.