



Raising our children to be civic -minded

Not only is it important, it's critical. It's literally the heart-beat of our democracy. Without an engaged and informed citizenry, willing to work cooperatively for the common good of Rockwall, we leave those less fortunate behind.

That being said, it's hard. It's hard to raise kids to be civically engaged. For one, parents are busy. There's a lot to cram into a day and volunteering in the community doesn't always make the list. Getting kids to care and getting them engaged often means encouragement from their parents and it certainly doesn't happen all at once.

Where to start

Start talking to kids early and often about the issues that matter to your family and about ways to make connections that effect change in the community.

The easiest way to get our kids engaged is to start simple – take them with you when you volunteer.

Whether its hunger, poverty or homelessness, everybody has an issue that they care about and it's pretty easy to tap into issues that kids care about.

Talk about Helping Hands and research what can be done locally to help. Pick one of those things, whether it's a clothing drive at school or donating money, and then do it as a family.

The idea is to get kids to understand that they are part of something larger than themselves —their community, their city, their county— and that they can do things to make a difference in someone else's life.

It's important that our kids have a stake in their Rockwall community and understand how different issues affect not only them, but their family, friends and neighbors.

**Learn more about the agency at Rockwallhelpinghands.com and follow us on social media for current needs and opportunities to get involved.*