Real estate agent and broker Todd Beardsley spends a lot of time with his children. As a public figure in his community, he believes in raising children by positive example to become active and caring community members. Here are a few easy ways to make a family volunteering experience less about donating time and more about making the most of it for all involved.

Make it fun: Choose activities your children are interested in, and don't commit too much time at first. Dog walking for elderly neighbors, working outdoors, and volunteering at an animal shelter are all likely candidates. When you have found something that your children are interested in getting involved with, find an activity that will be easy for them. Volunteering does not have to be difficult or boring. Demonstrating that to children makes them more eager to join up.

Make it regular: A family volunteer experience should be something the whole family can participate in, at least most of the time, so choose a day that will work for everyone. As a part of the commitment, volunteer as a family on a regular schedule, and stick to it. Whether you work once a week or once a month, the shared experience will provide relaxing quality time to bond with each other and create an event that children can look forward to, rather than worry about or dread.

Be a role model: Children admire and emulate their parents. Show your enthusiasm by being eager to start on each volunteer day, and show your generosity by regularly offering to go above and beyond what is asked of you without complaint. Talk with your children about the impact of the work you are doing together, and take them on occasional field trips to learn more about why your activities are important to community health.