

# Kristin Ford **A Mom and The Mouse**



## Volunteering Disney-style is fun, easy for families with young kids

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Volunteers made 'cheer cards' as part of the 'Give a Day. Get a Disney Day' program. (Kristin Ford/Orlando Sentinel)

My family volunteered at a community service event recently as part of the “Give a Day. Get a Disney Day” program, and we were pleasantly surprised at how well-organized and fun it was for everyone.

Our job during the two-hour window was to create “cheer cards” — cards that would make recipients smile. The finished artwork is going to be distributed to residents of homeless shelters and low-income nursing homes — people who probably don’t have extended support systems.

At our session, the second of the day, participants filled two rooms at the Orange County Extension Center. Though we were told to work at our own pace and not be concerned about quantity, just quality, our group made so many cards we ran out of paper and stickers. Together, both sessions created more than 1,500 cards.

The cards will be screened by Hands On Orlando, which worked with Orange County 4-H for this event, to make sure all images and messages are appropriate before they are distributed. Hands On Orlando, which has 10 years experience organizing volunteer efforts in the area, was chosen by Disney to implement its plan locally to encourage people to volunteer in their communities.

This service project was perfect for families with young children, and it seemed that almost all the volunteers were just that. My prince and princess, like most kids ages 5 and 7, love to draw and color and had no shortage of ideas to get down on paper. (Disney’s program requires a minimum age of 6 to receive a free theme park ticket, but my daughter was allowed to volunteer with us for the fun of it.) Even my artistic husband got into the spirit of the event.

Registration for the “Give a Day. Get a Disney Day” program has ended because the company reached its goal of 1 million volunteers. If you have already signed up and follow through, you still will receive your theme park ticket.

<http://thedailydisney.com/blog/2010/04/volunteering-disney-style-was-fun-easy-for-families-with-young-kids/>