



Community: Making a Difference

You can make a difference in your community. Our neighbor Margie always sends cards to all the neighbors for all different occasions. It's her way of showing her kindness and fondness for her neighborhood. Jan visits people from his church while they are in the hospital. He may be one of the few visitors they see while in the hospital. Another example of people making a difference are the high school students involved with the Assisteens® of Huntington Beach, an auxiliary of the Assistance League® of Huntington Beach (714-596-9935) who volunteer their time with a variety of groups to help children and seniors including work with Rodger's Senior Center, Project Self-Sufficiency (714-536-5439) and Operation School Bell®.

As professionals, we can also make a difference by volunteering and donating our time and talents to a variety of projects ranging from Rebuilding Together™ Orange County (714-667-8174) to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life (949-567-0625). For Rebuilding Together™, you could use your construction skills to help out repairing a home for an elderly person in need. For the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, you could use your talents in public relations/marketing or fundraising.

I feel fortunate to have been able to donate my services as a professional photographer to non-profit organizations such as

these. My experience has always been positive and rewarding. I make a difference. So can you!

In her book "And One More Thing Before You Go...", Maria Shriver writes that "every one of us can make a difference. Every one can be the difference in the lives of someone else. And when we are - trust me, it feels like a million bucks." She went on to write that "being of service is a gift you can give yourselves."

Think about how good it could feel to help out in your community. There are so many ways - big and small - that you can make a difference. Start with your neighbors, your church and go from there. Help out for a day with a project or do something that is ongoing - challenge yourself to make a difference in the life of someone else! You CAN make a difference. **HB**

Sloan Gallipeo is the award-winning owner of Summer Photography. Her studio is located at 12666 Hoover Street in the Garden Grove Business Park. She works by appointment only, so you never feel rushed. Sloan specializes in studio portrait work, product shoots and commercial work for businesses looking to update their websites or advertising. Sloan lives in Huntington Beach with her husband. They enjoy traveling, training for marathons, and volunteering in the community. Sloan can be reached at 714-330-3772 or visit www.gosummerphotography.com

