

10 Ways to Show Up Locally When National Politics Feels Hopeless

A Community Power Guide by Chasity Wells-Armstrong



When national headlines feel like a nightmare and federal systems keep failing us, it's easy to feel powerless. But you're not.

The real power is local.

And it starts with showing up - - on purpose, in partnership, and without apology.

Use this guide to lead right where you are today.



1. Pick Up a Few Extra Supplies

- Next time you're at the store, grab an extra box of tissues, crayons, or disinfectant wipes.
- Drop them off at a school, shelter, or resource center.
- Small items. Big impact.

2. Volunteer Once This Month

• Just two hours at a food pantry, local campaign, or domestic violence shelter can change someone's week, and remind you that you're not powerless.

3. Ask One Leader What They Need

- Reach out to a principal, librarian, youth worker, or elected official in your area.
- Ask: "What's missing that I can help with at this time?"

4. Donate Locally, Even If It's \$5

- Forget national organizations for a second.
- Local groups know what your community actually needs.
- Send \$5. Send \$50. Either way, it moves the mission.

5. Show Up Where Decisions Are Made

- Attend one city council, school board, or township meeting.
- Don't speak; listen. Learn where the gaps are. Then strategize how you can fill them.





6. Tell the Truth (Out Loud)

- Use your platform: social media, team meetings, church groups, etc... to name what's happening.
- Not everyone has your courage. Give them permission to care.

7. Join or Start a Care Pod

- Find (or form) a group of 3–5 people committed to watching out for one another and for neighbors who are struggling.
- Leadership isn't always public. Sometimes it's quiet, intentional care.

8. Drop Off a Meal

- Cook a double portion of dinner and deliver it to a single parent, overworked nurse, or elder nearby.
- This is community resilience in motion.

9. Talk to Young People About What's Going On

- Don't hide the hard stuff.
- Equip them. Ask what they're seeing and what they want to do about it.
- They don't need saviors. They need truth, and tools.

10. Fuel the Bench

- Encourage one person to run, apply, or show up in leadership and offer to help.
- The next generation of leaders won't rise if they don't feel backed. Be the one who backs them.

SPARKS OF INSIGHT

- You don't need permission.
- You need commitment.
- This is how we build real power: local, intentional, and together.