

# The Time Is Now...

Albinism Fellowship of Australia

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The time is  
now...  
to change  
the  
perceptions  
of fully sighted  
people





...to share  
with others  
the fun of  
being who  
you are



...to share  
the joy of  
seeing  
double



Time to share Connie  
Chiu...first albino  
fashion model



...and Nastya Kiki  
Zhidkova



...and Shaun  
Ross





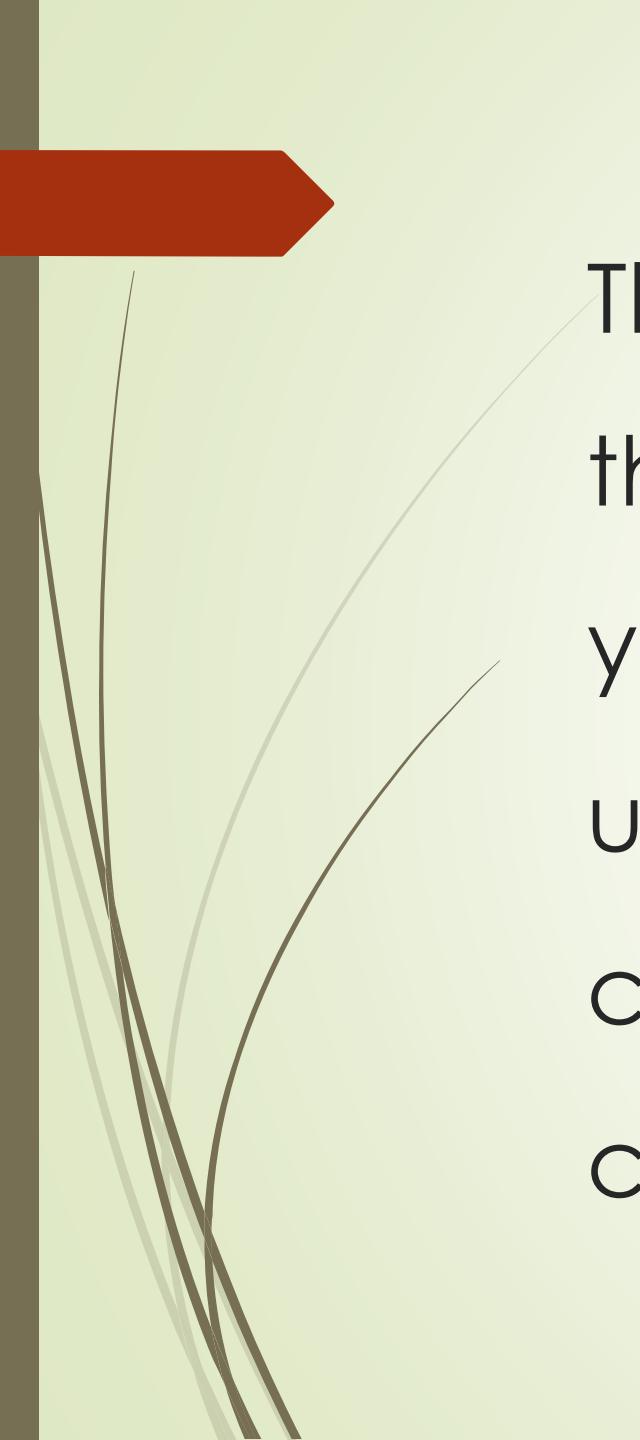
Time to  
share...positive  
images



Time to share  
...beautiful  
images

It's also time to  
...change  
expectations





There is a critical need to articulate the expectation that children and youth with albinism can and will grow up to live happily ever after and contribute to their families and community.



# Preparation for life starts at home...

- ▶ Teach them basic independent living skills and then insist they do such things
- ▶ Give them chores to do
- ▶ Expect them to perform their chores
- ▶ Do not do for them anything that they can do for themselves!

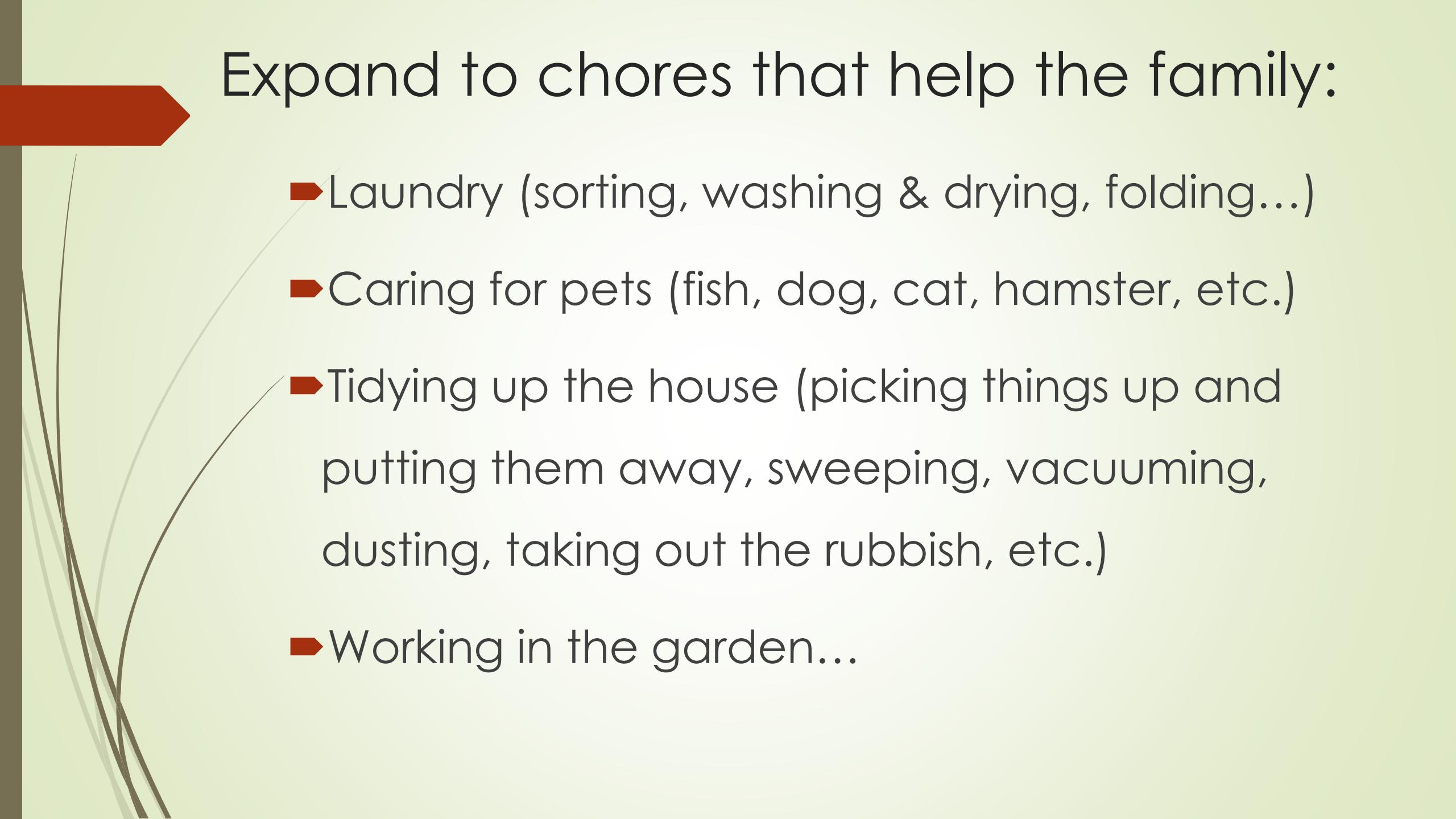
# Independent living skills

## Personal management skills:

- ▶ Grooming and hygiene tasks (brushing teeth, caring for hair, bathing, shaving, etc.)

## Home management skills:

- ▶ Bedroom (organising and putting away toys, clothes, etc.; making the bed, vacuuming, etc.)
- ▶ Kitchen (snacks, meal preparation, setting table, washing dishes, etc.)



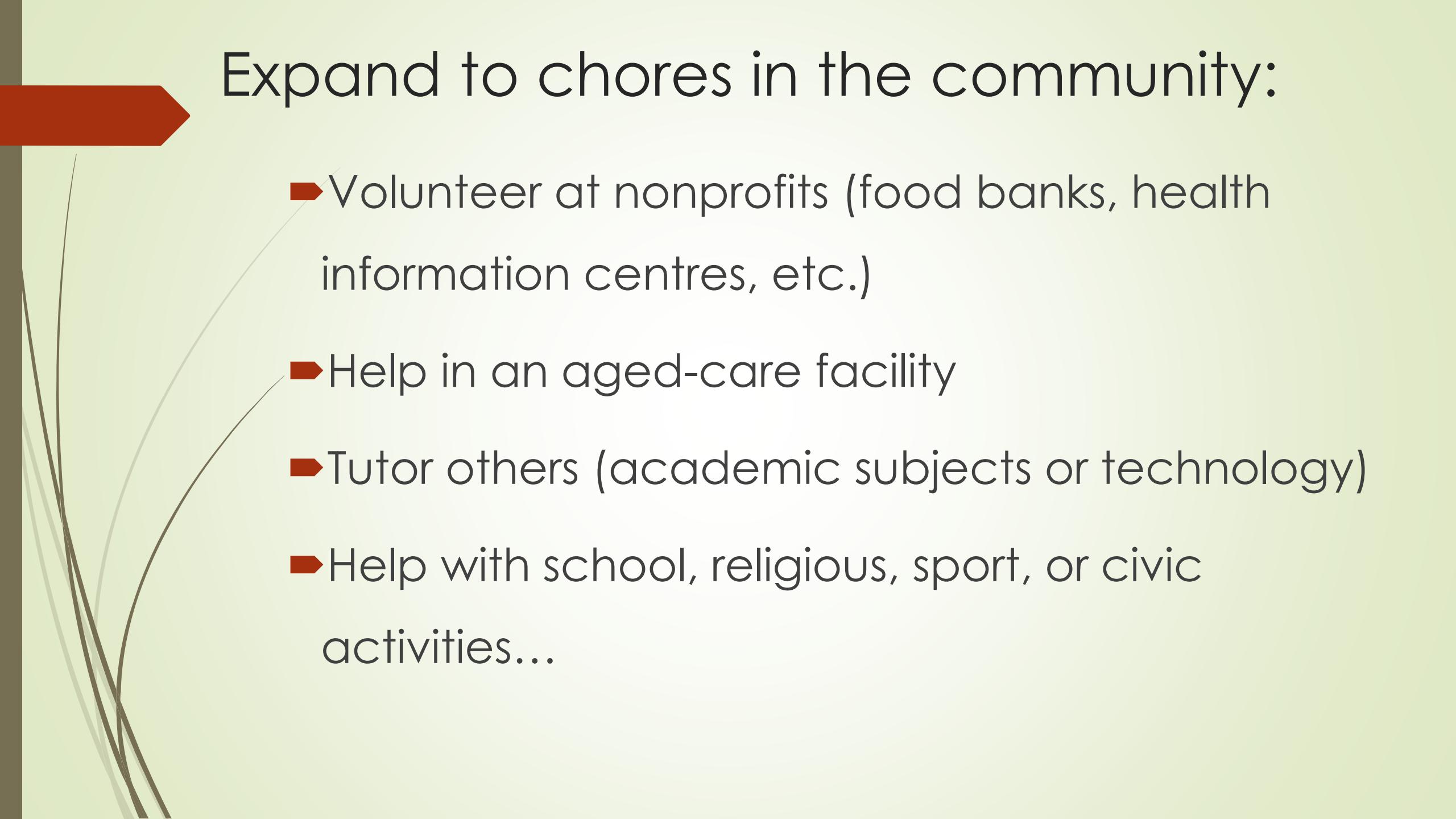
# Expand to chores that help the family:

- ▶ Laundry (sorting, washing & drying, folding...)
- ▶ Caring for pets (fish, dog, cat, hamster, etc.)
- ▶ Tidying up the house (picking things up and putting them away, sweeping, vacuuming, dusting, taking out the rubbish, etc.)
- ▶ Working in the garden...

# Life prep continues at school...

Prepare children by:

- ▶ Making sure they are doing the same work as their fully sighted classmates
- ▶ Expecting them to socialise with others
- ▶ By not doing for them anything that they can do for themselves



# Expand to chores in the community:

- ▶ Volunteer at nonprofits (food banks, health information centres, etc.)
- ▶ Help in an aged-care facility
- ▶ Tutor others (academic subjects or technology)
- ▶ Help with school, religious, sport, or civic activities...



Life prep  
culminates  
at work  
and with  
adult  
responsi-  
bilities

Provide

Career exploration and teach soft skills throughout early childhood

Ask

Young people to apply what they've learned

Give

People feedback – how well are they performing in comparison to others?



# People with albinism need to:

- ▶ Hear that they are expected to perform well and in a timely fashion!
- ▶ Do the same amount of work as others!
- ▶ Receive the same rewards and punishments as others!



# What adults with albinism contribute:

1

Mentor young  
people with  
albinism

2

Demonstrate  
competencies in  
society

3

Challenge the  
thinking of others  
about albinism



Now is  
the time  
to...

- ▶ Connect, engage, and share with others
- ▶ Set goals and develop plans to achieve them
- ▶ Act on your dreams!



Thank you for attending!

If I can be of assistance in the future,  
write to me at:

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