

Stress Less for Better Health

How farmworkers can manage stress

Bassett Healthcare Network
New York Center for Agricultural
Medicine and Health

**NORTHEAST
CENTER**
FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

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Luis, feeling stressed is common. Stress is your body's physical and mental response to constantly worrying about something that will happen, having a lot on your mind, or being sick.



WORK
HEALTH
UNPAID BILLS
DEBTS

Stress turns into something negative when it's chronic and you can't "shut it off."



That's when it can cause health problems like:

DIABETES

HIGH BLOOD
PRESSURE

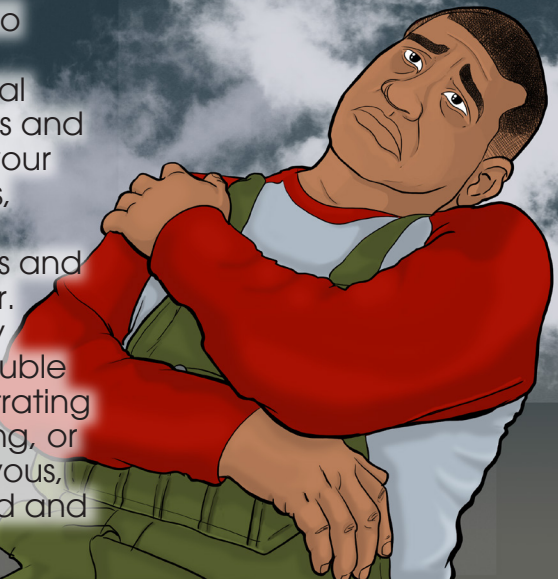
HEART DISEASE

OBESITY

STROKE



Stress also causes emotional problems and affects your thoughts, feelings, emotions and behavior. You may have trouble concentrating or relaxing, or feel nervous, frustrated and sad.

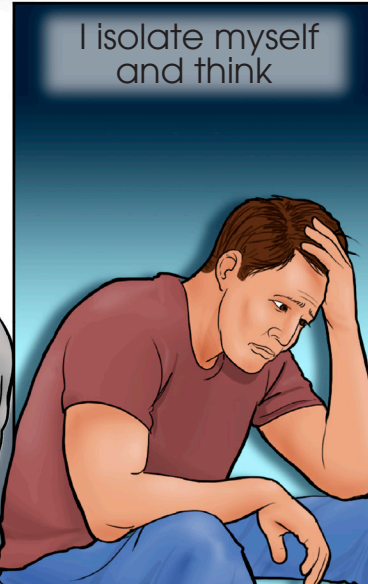
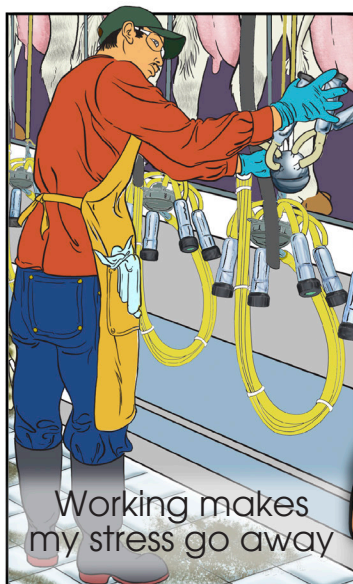
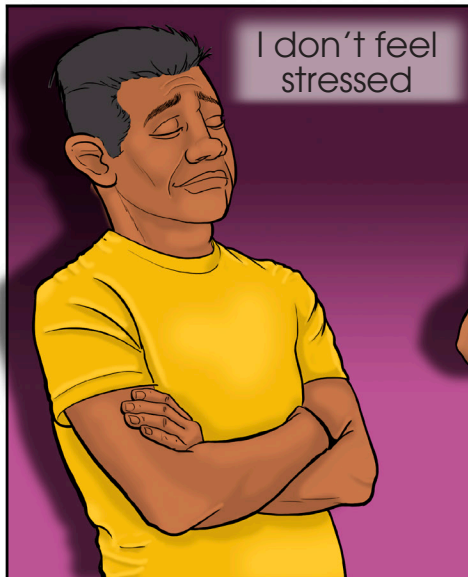


Stress changes what and how much you eat, and can cause stomach aches and back pain.





First, identify the feelings and actions that are unhelpful



Connect with others

Learning a language



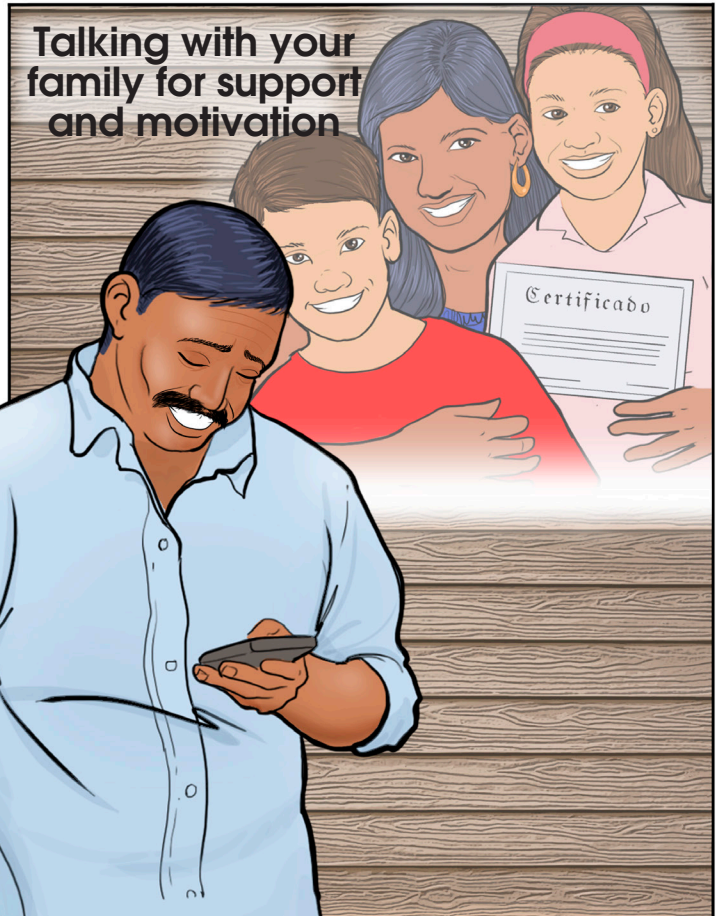
Playing a team sport



Spending quality time with coworkers



Talking with your family for support and motivation



Identify strategies for self-care. These could include:

Eating and sleeping well



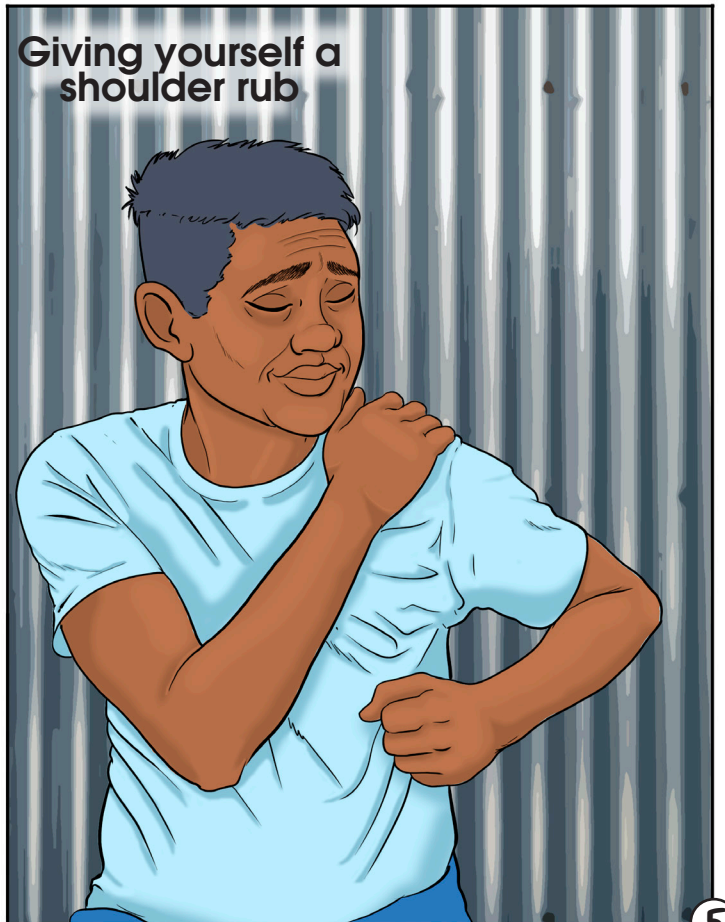
Drinking more water



Taking a hot shower

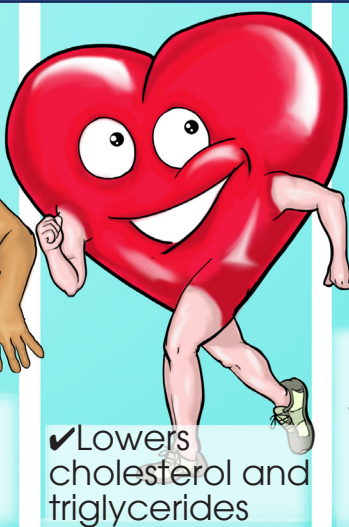
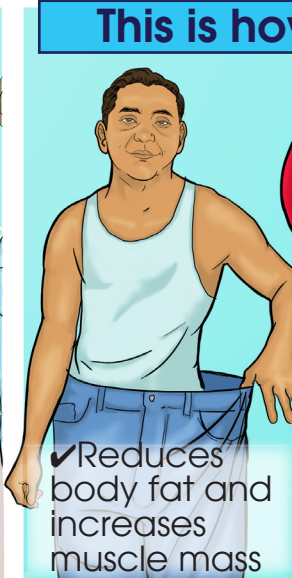
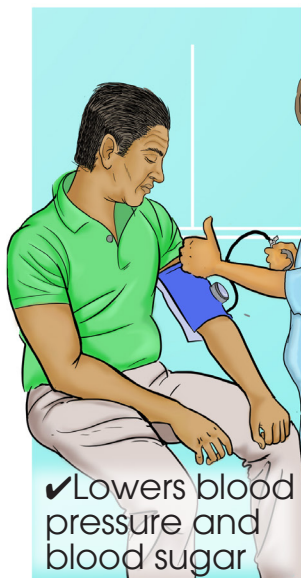


Giving yourself a shoulder rub

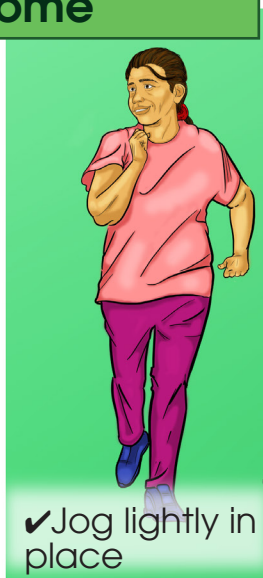
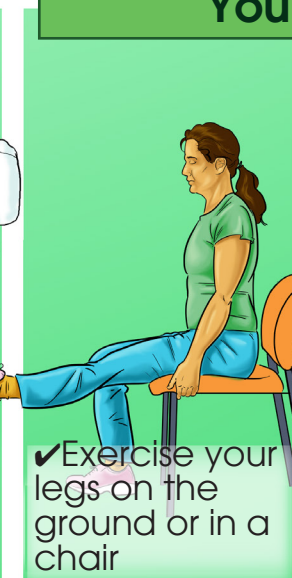


Your self-care should also include exercise for your well-being

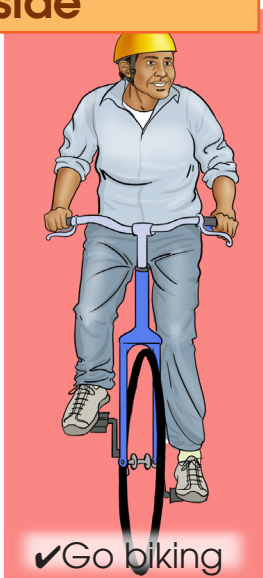
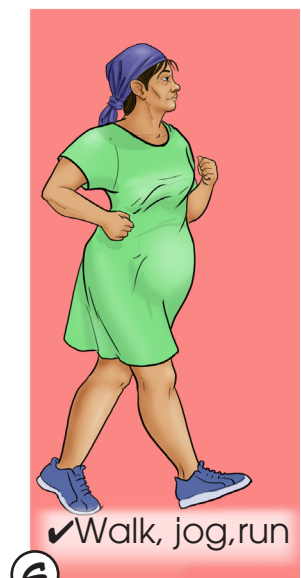
This is how exercise benefits you



You can do it at home

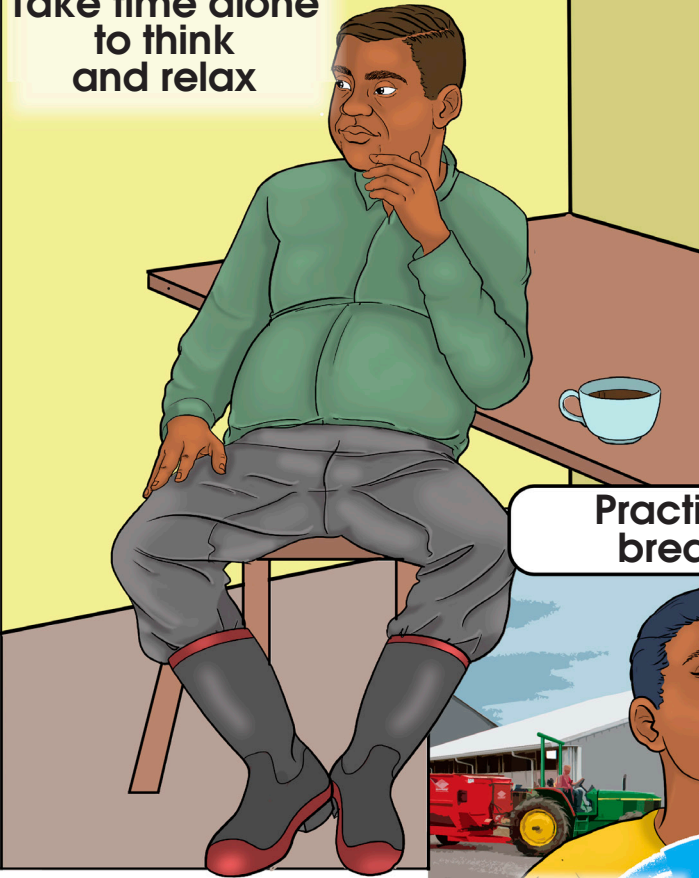


You can do it outside



Mindfulness

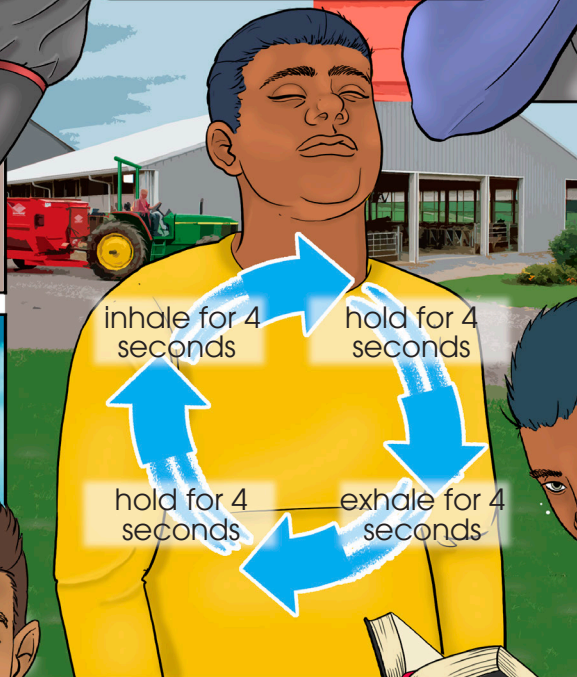
Take time alone
to think
and relax



Focus your mind



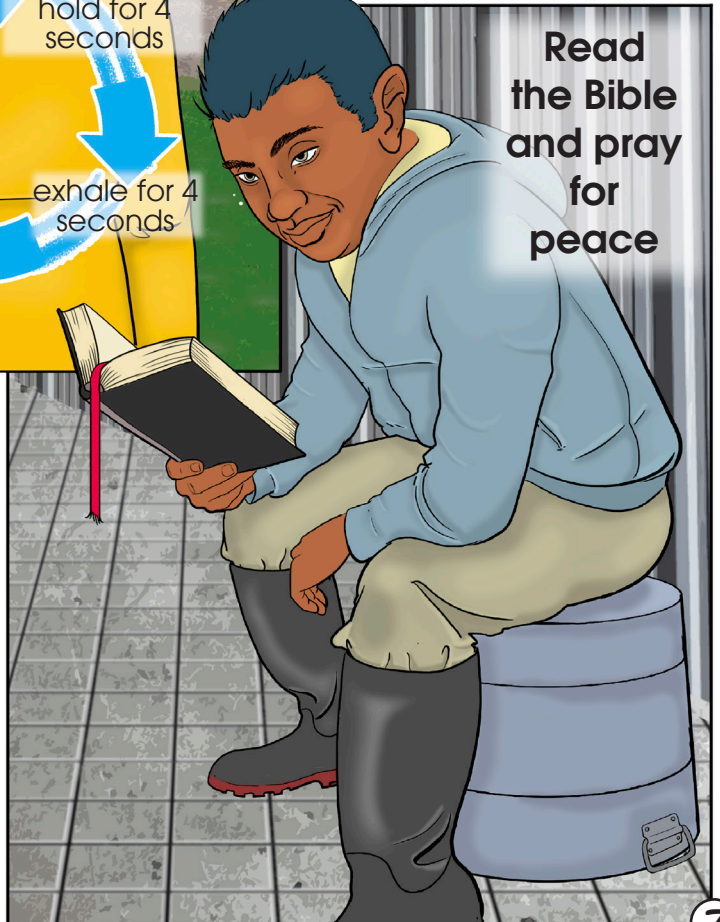
Practice box
breathing:



Express gratitude



Read
the Bible
and pray
for
peace



Connect with nature

Working in the
garden or patio

Go for a walk
in a park or
at the lake

Hug a cow

Spend time with
animals

Go for a
long bike
ride

Taking part in creative activities helps to reduce your stress level. Find an activity that helps you to relax and see things in a more positive light.



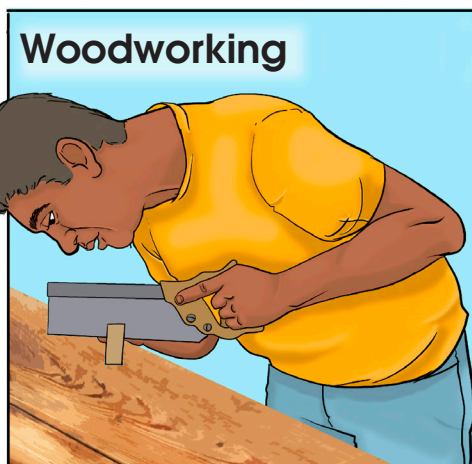
Creativity



Play an instrument or listen to music



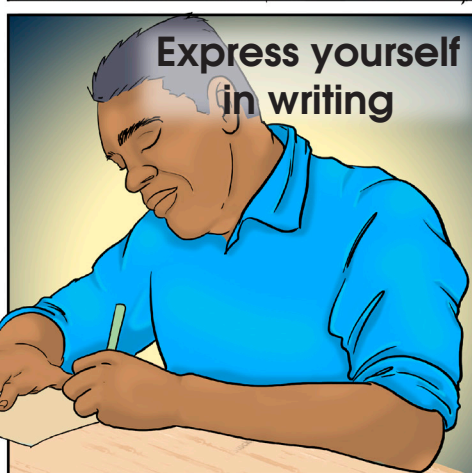
Fix things around the house



Woodworking



Drawing or coloring



Express yourself in writing

Take advantage of the fact that stress can make you feel more lively and energetic in order to tackle daily life. This positive stress doesn't cause adverse health effects. On the other hand, avoid letting situations that cause negative stress overwhelm you.



Frustration
Fear
Physical pain
Emotional pain
Low self-esteem

Distraction

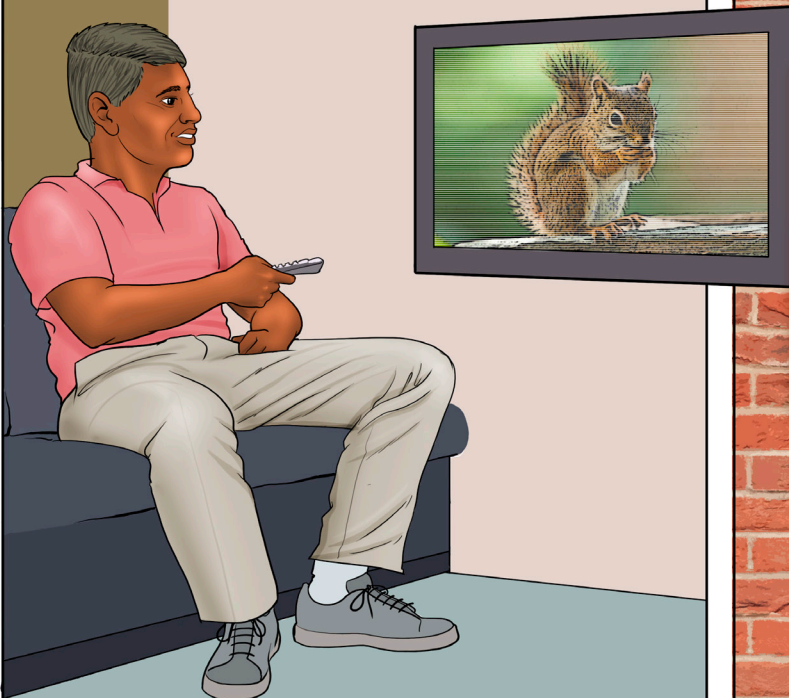
Cleaning the house



Doing laundry



Watching movies or documentaries



Playing video games



There are always things you can do to feel better

Accept what
you feel



Stay in touch
with those
you left behind

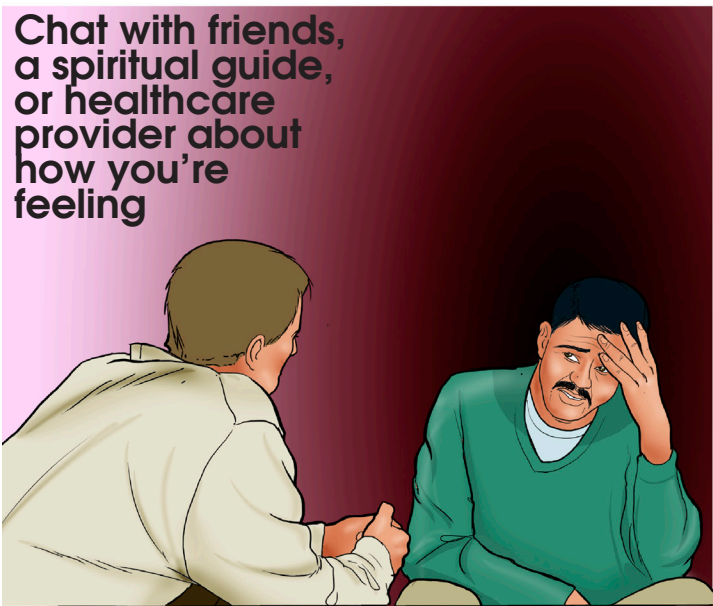
Improve relationships
with those you live with
here and now



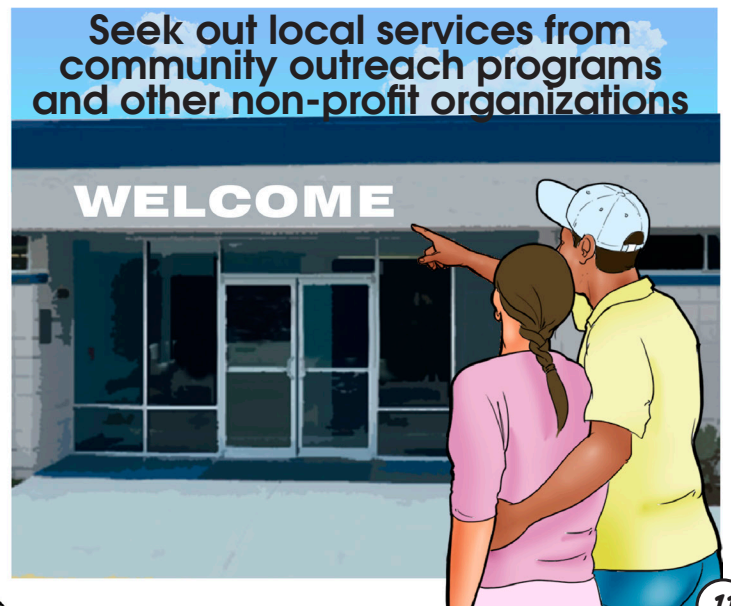
Build a new world,
new friends and
acquaintances



Chat with friends,
a spiritual guide,
or healthcare
provider about
how you're
feeling



Seek out local services from
community outreach programs
and other non-profit organizations



It feels more comfortable not to take action, but stress can build up. It is better to do something to control it. Stress has a solution!



Stress can help us to take on our problems. We may:

- ✓ Realize that we have resources to deal with our problems
- ✓ Make progress and confront situations that we are worrying about



Friendship
Rest
Diet
Reading
Laughter
Meditation
Exercise

Write down three things that you can do to improve your stress

1.-

2.-

3.-