

Volunteering; More Than Helping Others

By: Kilee Roser



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Volunteering

As defined in the dictionary, to volunteer means to give or offer something of your own accord, without being asked or forced to. Anyone can give their time no matter their age or status. When children volunteer, it gives them many opportunities along with having a feeling of helping someone. Volunteering provides leadership skills, communication skills, and compassion for others. It is like an universal key, it opens the doors to so many possibilities and opportunities.



Volunteering Gives Values



The values that come with volunteering don't just help you at that time, they last forever. According to *Volunteering to Help in Your Neighborhood* by Claudia Isler, "These opportunities also teach students useful skills and important lessons they can use later in life." "You will learn how to solve problems, organize events, budget your time, and work with others," writes Michael A. Black in *Volunteering to Help Kids*. Volunteering also builds skills you already possess, along with giving new skills. As it states on UnCollege.org, "Alternatively, you can take time to enhance skills you already have by spending more time actively using them."





Local student council group volunteering at a Ronald McDonald House.

Getting Involved

There are many ways a person can become involved in volunteering. Some of these include, helping animals, helping in the environment, volunteering for a political campaign, helping kids, helping neighborhoods, giving aid to senior citizens, and so much more. Many volunteer for things that interests them, or something they are passionate about. Most communities have groups such as, 4-H, student council, and/or a book club, that volunteer places. A local adult leader can also help anyone get involved in a volunteer project.

Thinking For the Future



As previously stated, volunteering can help later in life. This can be in college or beyond. Doing volunteer work can even help get into college. According to, Volunteering to Help Kids, “College admissions departments like to accept candidates who have this kind of extracurricular (outside of class) experience.” If you aren’t planning to go to college, volunteering might encourage you to. “Though you may not have any idea what you want to pursue now, volunteering can help you solidify your interests,” according to UnCollege.org.



What Others Say About Volunteering

“I know my life would be different today if it weren’t for 4-H. I learned values that helped me succeed even as an adult,” said Jennifer Nettles, country music star, and alumni 4-H member for an interview with the 4-H organization.

“It’s showed me that not everyone’s families are the same. Volunteering gave me an opportunity to help these families and kids that are less fortunate. I have gained empathy for these situations,” said Kellyn Sirach, English teacher.

“Volunteering showed me what the work atmosphere would be like,” says Haylee McPeak, fellow volunteer.

“Volunteering has shown me why we help others before we help ourselves,” Stevey Ukena, science teacher, stated.

“Because our business is so tied to our local communities we prefer to hire individuals who are committed to giving back to their communities through volunteer work,” says Nikki Roser, EVP, First Bank.

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In Conclusion

Volunteering can be done by anyone willing to give their time. The opportunities you receive while volunteering can be hard to achieve without volunteer experience. There are many ways to get involved in volunteering in order to have these opportunities. Although the possibilities and values may take a while to get used, you can still enhance the skills and values you already possess when being a volunteer. Even though there are so many things you can get from volunteering, you can give so much more. A volunteer can impact another person's life that may be less fortunate. Gayla LeMaire once stated, "Volunteers are paid in six figures... S-M-I-L-E-S."



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- Student Council at a food pantry (page 12): Picture provided by Stevey Ukena

If you've had the good
fortune to be able to
help others...

GIVE BACK

Student Council volunteering at a food pantry.

