

Community Service & Volunteering

- ▶ Have you ever performed a task for someone out of the “goodness of your heart,” for free or for minimal reward, just because you wanted to or felt that you had to do so?
- ▶ Have you ever helped a neighbor, donated food to a local food pantry, served your church or religious organization in some capacity?
- ▶ Did you know that no matter how small the task, how short the assignment, or how many people you helped, it is all volunteering?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you probably know that **volunteering and serving your community gives your life meaning and purpose**. It also **promotes civic and social responsibility**, helps you **clarify your career interests**, and **helps you develop transferrable work skills** such as communication, problem solving and leadership skills. While serving your community, you can also meet some great people and may even qualify for scholarships. **It also looks great on your resume!**

How can you get in on the action? Once you have assessed your interests, strengths, and abilities, finding a suitable opportunity is just a few clicks away. Here are a few resources for your consideration:

- ➔ **Idealist:** Idealist (formerly VolunteerMatch) is the web’s largest volunteer engagement network with more than 13 million visitors annually; it’s a service that brings good people and good causes together. A user-friendly website offering a seemingly endless number of [volunteer opportunities](#) that can be [searched online](#) by interest area, type (on-location or virtual), skill sets, and more.
- ➔ **Engage:** Points of Light Engage pulls volunteer opportunities from sites around the web to provide the most comprehensive database of volunteer opportunities around the world. Individuals can search for volunteer projects, nonprofits can post and manage event sign-ups, and visitors are invited to start projects of their own – all in one place. A quick search will reveal opportunities and organizations that need your time, talent and passion and other ways to help in your communities.
- ➔ **American Red Cross:** American Red Cross (ARC) is one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world. ARC offers numerous [volunteer opportunities for teens](#) or for [youth](#) where you can make a positive impact on your peers and in your community.
- ➔ **Habitat for Humanity:** With an aim to instill a love of volunteering from an early age, Habitat for Humanity’s Youth Programs are “the intersection of aspiration and action.”
- ➔ **211:** 211 is a free, confidential information and referral service that connects people to essential services 24 hours a day, seven days a week online and over the phone. Type in “volunteer opportunities” to find a wide range of positions and locations to help your community.

