

VOLUNTEER DAY - DECEMBER 5



"If every American donated five hours a week, it would equal the labor of twenty million full-time volunteers."
-- Whoopi Goldberg

Some people are fortunate enough to earn their livelihoods in jobs that directly help to create a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. But much of the efforts to make life better for our communities and our world are done by volunteers -- people who work for a better world without pay.

Around the world, hundreds of millions of people volunteer - nearly 65 million volunteer in America! American volunteers do the equivalent work of over 9 million fulltime employees!

Recognizing the importance of volunteers, the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) works with a network of over 20,000 organizations to use International Volunteer Day on December 5 as an opportunity to celebrate the important contribution volunteers make and as a launching point to inspire year-round volunteer involvement.

Many nations have national networks of volunteer organizations. In the US these include Youth Service America; the Points of Light Foundation which connects 2.5 million volunteers who provide services for 170 million people; and Action Without Borders, which links volunteers to 50,000 organizations in 165 countries. US Government agencies promoting volunteerism include AmeriCorps, which provides money for college tuition for youth volunteers; SeniorCorps which connects those over 55 to volunteer opportunities, and the Peace Corps for helping in other countries.

Volunteers ARE creating a better world, one person and one act of kindness at a time.

Be A Hero For A Better World!

1. Find out more about how volunteers are making a difference in your community
2. Volunteer 5 hours a week
3. Plan an event to promote volunteerism
4. Support organizations that promote volunteering

Volunteer Links

- Action Without Borders (idealist.org)
- AmeriCorps (americorps.gov)
- PeaceCorps (peacecorps.gov)
- Points of Light Foundation (pointsoflight.org)
- SeniorCorps (seniorcorps.gov)
- Service For Peace (serviceforpeace.org)
- Volunteers of America (volunteersofamerica.org)
- World Volunteer Web (worldvolunteerweb.org)
- Youth Service America (youthserviceamerica.org)

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