

# VOLUNTEERING OFFLINE AND ONLINE

## A brief look at online volunteering



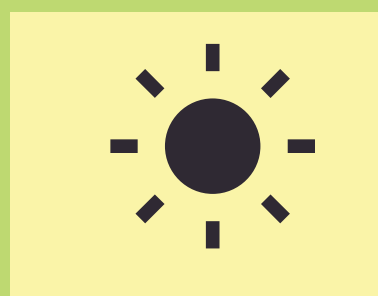
There is limited research on the impact of online volunteering (virtual volunteering), despite its huge growth in the past decade. One study found that **34% of people found volunteer opportunities online in 2006 vs 67% in 2014**. That number is likely much bigger today. A survey of adults 40 years of age and older revealed that:

**21%**  
would download an app to find local volunteer opportunities

**30%**  
and more would go online to find volunteer opportunities or join an online group about an important cause

**24%**  
(nearly 1/4) would volunteer online

## Rewards of Volunteering



Parts of the U.S. with greater volunteer participation handle disaster better; communities with more volunteers enjoy less crime; older adults experience improved health; there are better employment opportunities, less mental illness and higher academic achievement for kids.

- less crime
- prepared for disaster
- better health
- academic achievement
- less mental illness
- employment opportunities

## STATISTICS

Volunteers are worth approximately \$24 an hour

Volunteers spend 50 hours per year donating their time to the greater good

Only 55% of nonprofit organizations assess the impact of their volunteers

## Volunteering in the US

**22.6%** of volunteers are 24 years of age and younger

**35-44** 35-44 year olds. This age group volunteered the most

**18-24** 18-24 year olds attending college volunteered more than twice as much as those not attending college

**>80 hours** Volunteers 65 years of age and older had most annual volunteer hours

## Volunteers in the US

**25%** of people in the US volunteer annually

**\$184 billion** worth of work is annually contributed by volunteers

**8 billion** hours annually are contributed by volunteers

**62.5%** of those surveyed engage in informal volunteering, which might include helping a neighbor, housesitting, etc.

## MORE STATS

- Unemployed volunteers have 27% better odds of finding employment than non-volunteers, increasing to over 50% for rural volunteers and volunteers that did not graduate high school
- 89% of professionals volunteered, but only 45% included it on their resume, even though 60% of hiring managers considered volunteer activity an important hiring factor
- 92% of human resource executives agree that volunteering improves leadership skills

## Mind and Body

United Health Group Survey Results

**78%**

Volunteering lowers my stress

**94%**

Volunteering improves my mood

**76%**

Volunteering improves my health

**96%**

Volunteering enriches my sense of purpose

## Volunteer experience

**41%**

of employers considered volunteer work equally as valuable as paid

**73%**

of employers would choose someone with volunteer experience over a candidate without experience

**41%**

of hiring managers consider volunteer experience equally valuable as paid work

**94%**

of employers believed that volunteering helps increase job skills

**#1**

Food preparation and distribution is the most popular, common volunteer activity

**1/5**

Hiring managers in the U.S. agree they have hired someone because they have volunteered

## References

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