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# Me? A Volunteer?

*The highest reward for a person's work  
is not what they get for it,  
but what they become because of it.*

- John Ruskin

Volunteer. That very word makes me wonder- Do I have to give up doing the things I love most? Does it mean that I have less time for my family and friends? Will I be able to discontinue volunteering when I want to? These crossed my mind when the bug to do something meaningful bit me.

I decided it was now or never. So I gathered as much information on the topic as possible. Some of these are given here for the benefit of readers.

## When you Decide to Volunteer

Choose a cause that you're passionate about.

Find an opportunity that matches your skills, interests, and schedule.

Write up your volunteer resume to introduce yourself and highlight your skills and areas of interest to the organization you'd like to volunteer with.

## Be a Great Volunteer

Having a meaningful volunteer experience depends on your ability to be a great volunteer.

Three basic principles to keep in mind are

- (i) to be professional,
- (ii) to honour your volunteer commitments and
- (iii) to extend gratitude to the organization concerned for any training or professional development you receive while volunteering.





## 10 Great Reasons to Volunteer

There may be numerous reasons why people may want to volunteer. I feel that the best reasons are the ones that make you go that extra mile.

- Help others
- Make a difference
- Find purpose
- Enjoy a meaningful conversation
- Connect with your community
- Feel involved
- Contribute to a cause that you care about
- Use your skills in a productive way
- Develop new skills
- Meet new people

## Where can I Volunteer?

Many community groups are looking for volunteers. Most of us know that hospitals and libraries use volunteers for much of their work, but here are some volunteer opportunities that may not have crossed your mind:

- Day Care Centers, Neighborhood Watch, Schools and Colleges
- Halfway Houses, Community Theaters, Drug Rehabilitation Centers
- Retirement Centers and Homes for the Elderly
- Places of Worship
- Museums, Art Galleries, and Monuments
- Community Choirs, Bands and Orchestras
- Prisons, Neighbourhood Parks, Youth Organizations, Sports Teams

For information on volunteer opportunities with the Hindu Endowments Board, please refer to our website:  
<http://www.heb.gov.sg/outreach.html>