

## Shared Knowledge: Filling our Treasure Chest



Let's say you have an opportunity that could be filled by a volunteer. So you think about people you know. Who has the skills for this task? Who might enjoy it? Who is looking for something to do? That's a great way to recruit. But you're limited to the people you know.

**What if we all pooled our collective knowledge on people's skills, interests, and availability?** Imagine how many more prospects we'd have, how many more people we could invite into ministry, how that would grow our ministry.

**St. Peter's serving database is a "treasure chest,"** storage for our collective knowledge on peoples' gifts and interests and how they wish to share them. Everyone in the St. Peter family can view and edit their own serving info through the "My Impact" portal. As a leader, you can access all serving info through the administrative "Better Impact" portal. Ask Karen or Isabel for your initial username and password, and user guides.

**But what comes out is only as good as what goes in!**

**You have worthwhile information to contribute!** There are things you know, and things you pick up in everyday conversations, that relate to serving:

- Your colleague showed you something she made and you're blown away by her skill.
- Your friend talks about her father who just retired and is sitting at home with nothing to do.
- Your son just built an amazing model of a ship and you realize he's just discovered a new talent and a desire to develop it.
- A student's parents have an amazing story about their immigration to this country.
- A church friend tells you his wife's parents are unable to live on their own and just moved in with them.
- You asked Fred about a particular volunteer task. He said he'd be glad to help out.
- You asked Wilma about a different task. She said that wouldn't work for her, but told you the kind of thing that would work.

This type of info is super helpful when someone is searching for people with skills and availability. It's also helpful to know what doesn't work for people, and when there's a change in their circumstances.

**It's super easy to gather collective knowledge!**

- Listen. Keep your ears open for "this would be helpful serving info for others to know..." I call these 'serving comments.'
- Be respectful. "Is it okay if I share that with other leaders at church?"

- Share: “Sandra Smith told me that....” Let Isabel or me know however it’s easiest: leave a phone message (x137 or x157), text or email or whatever.
- Pat yourself on the back for adding to our collective knowledge and building our ministry.

### **What’s your Next Step?**

- Who do you know who’s really gifted in a certain area?
- Who recently commented to you regarding their preferences or availability?
- Add that serving comment to our treasure chest.

### **Also in this series:**

1. Powerful Partnerships: What Could the Right Volunteer Do for You?
2. Treasure Hunt: Finding the Right Volunteer
3. Winsome Words: Crafting Effective Recruitment Messages
4. Dig Into Data: How to Search for Volunteers’ Gifts in the Volunteer Impact Database
5. The Care and Feeding of Volunteers

**Let me know if you have questions or suggestions.**

**Thanks for helping us help people serve Jesus!**

### **Volunteer Engagement: We’re on the move!**

#### **From ...**

- Volunteering
- “Same old” volunteer roles
- Generalized recruitment
- Isolated knowledge of peoples’ gifts

#### **To ...**

- Serving everywhere
- Creative, flexible, customized roles
- Personalized recruitment
- Shared knowledge of peoples’ gifts

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