

Powerful Partnerships:

What Could the Right Volunteer Do for You?



What do volunteers do?

When you picture a volunteer, do you picture someone stuffing envelopes?

Actually, volunteers do just about anything you can imagine, including:

- Serving on the board of a large organization (like St. Peter)
- Rescuing people in burning buildings (volunteer fire department)
- Serving as Mascot surgeon ([at a UK charity hosting 'world's largest mascot race'](#))
- Performing surgery (Doctors Without Borders)

What do volunteers want to do?

If you could volunteer for any task anywhere, what would you do?

(Did that task come to mind when you first thought of 'what volunteers do'?)

The bad news about volunteers: People are busy, and have many options for their free time.

The good news: They care deeply about many things and they do make time for what's important to them.

The more we move from "same old" volunteer roles to customized roles that are creative, flexible and impactful, the more volunteers we'll attract!

Why go to the bother of creating new volunteer opportunities?

1. A healthy staff/volunteer partnership benefits both you and the volunteer.
2. Each person God brought here was designed by him to use their gifts for the good of others. Many don't have opportunity to use those gifts.
3. Powerful staff/volunteer partnerships multiply opportunities for ministry.

How can a volunteer partner with me? Use these three steps to identify opportunities.

1. Write a "Let-Go" list: Tasks I need to do in my ministry but don't enjoy or I'm not very good at.
2. Create a "Dream" List: Things I'd love to do in my ministry but don't have time for.
3. Which of these tasks might I give to a volunteer to allow me more time to enhance my ministry?

What's your next step?:

1. Pray about the partnership with volunteers you already have and pray about growing a new opportunity.
2. Share your "let go" and "dream" lists with a colleague and get their input on where a volunteer might partner with you.
3. Contact Karen Kogler for personal help.

A Powerful Partnership Story

After I first created a Volunteer Handbook, I knew it was important to keep it updated. But even though updating it was regularly scheduled, and I wanted to do it, I regularly never got around to it! So I recruited a volunteer, someone reliable and well organized, to read through it once every three months and to let me know what she felt needed an update. Because it was the only thing she was doing for me, she took it seriously and faithfully contacted me every three months. Because she had made a point to review it, I always followed up on her suggestions, and also made my own scan of the document to note changes she wouldn't be aware of. Problem solved!

Also in this series:

1. Treasure Hunt: Finding the Right Volunteer
2. Winsome Words: Crafting Effective Recruitment Messages
3. Dig Into Data: How to Search for Volunteers' Gifts in the Volunteer Impact Database
4. The Care and Feeding of Volunteers
5. Shared Knowledge: Filling our Treasure Chest

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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January 2024



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