

# 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](http://idealist.org))
- AmeriCorps ([americorps.gov](http://americorps.gov))
- PeaceCorps ([peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov))
- Points of Light Foundation ([pointsoflight.org](http://pointsoflight.org))
- SeniorCorps ([seniorcorps.gov](http://seniorcorps.gov))
- Service For Peace ([serviceforpeace.org](http://serviceforpeace.org))
- Volunteers of America ([volunteersofamerica.org](http://volunteersofamerica.org))
- World Volunteer Web ([worldvolunteerweb.org](http://worldvolunteerweb.org))
- Youth Service America ([youthserviceamerica.org](http://youthserviceamerica.org))

For more information: [www.betterworldcalendar.com/volunteerday.htm](http://www.betterworldcalendar.com/volunteerday.htm)

## BetterWorldCalendar.com

...every act of compassion makes a difference...every day counts for a better world...

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