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### Volunteers: Instruments of Selflessness

It takes a certain degree of selflessness for people to truly call themselves volunteers. This key characteristic is the core of volunteering and is a trait people should desire to embody at all times. First, without right and unselfish intentions behind motives to volunteer, there will be nothing to gain emotionally from the experience. Additionally, there must be a sacrifice of personal time where personal schedules are put aside in order to fully dedicate to the volunteer cause. Finally, without an overall willingness to put forward an astounding effort to ensure that the job is done to the best ability, people cannot even begin to imagine bearing the title of "Volunteer." Thus, these characteristics that fantasy superheroes all seem to have in common are the same characteristics that make volunteers heroes among the public.

First of all, the volunteer must not have any greedy intentions in order to gain long term moral benefits from volunteer work. If people volunteer with an expectation that they will receive some sort of reward from the organizer at the end, the job cannot be classified as volunteer work. One's reward will satisfy a person's desires for a short time but there will be a lasting emptiness in terms of the person's morals and conscience. There must be a sincere motive behind the reason for volunteering because it is sincerity that makes volunteers respected by peers and appreciated for their work. For example, if one were to sign up for a volunteer position

at a child's day care because that person genuinely loves supervising children, the workers at the day care will recognize the sincerity and will offer an actual paid work position as a result.

Volunteering allows people to discover feelings of satisfaction and pride when they give time and effort away generously towards a volunteer project. This discovery is what separates common members of society from those who strive for citizenship. Those who strive for citizenship encourage others to pursue the same emotional benefits by taking up volunteer opportunities. Therefore, volunteers serve as moral role models with their selfless motives that are comparable to any hero.

Furthermore, sacrifice of personal time is a trait that volunteers and fictional and non-fictional heroes have in common. Volunteering takes time and dedication and should not be considered an easy task. Heroes in movies are nearly always seen having to leave their families or work behind in order to save an innocent citizen from danger. Similarly, volunteers have to make time in their personal schedules, especially youth volunteers who have to juggle volunteer work between school work and extracurricular activities. This scheduling can be difficult to manage but eventually everything works out and the emotional benefits such as internal pride in knowing that a job was well done will be gained in the end. For instance, I had to give up some well deserved leisure time in the summer in order to volunteer at a summer camp that run from seven in the morning to six in the afternoon for a whole week. Although it was tedious to wake up early every morning for five days straight, the benefits gained from the experience massively outweighed the sacrifices that were required. Hence, the forfeit of leisure time in order to engage in community service and providing aid for others should be considered an act of heroism.

Lastly, willingness to perform to the best of one's ability is a trait that volunteers do not lack. True volunteers always give their maximum effort to the cause because they recognize the

importance of the cause and have dedicated themselves to seeing that their volunteer experience ends with success. They completely engage themselves in the cause because they know that there is no point in doing volunteer work half-heartedly. When volunteer work is done half-heartedly, the work cannot be considered as volunteering. There will be nothing to gain in the end but empty satisfaction that was created by laziness and unwillingness. Movie superheroes and everyday heroes such as firefighters are always willing to risk their lives if it means that another person would be able to survive. The same principle applies to volunteer work. Volunteers have a willingness to work so that people who can't accomplish the work by themselves will be able to partake in the satisfaction of a job well done and will forever appreciate the effort and help. Thus, volunteers have an immeasurable degree of willpower that makes them admirable for their heroic actions.

Overall, volunteers are citizens in common disguises among society. Volunteers encompass genuine intentions, sacrifice personal time and embody admirable willingness that makes them comparable to any hero. Therefore, volunteers serve as models to the rest of society, especially youth. Everyone should aspire to become a volunteer at some point in their lifetime.