

Why Should We Care?

What appears to be a requirement to receive a high school diploma is much more than what it is perceived to be. 40 is not just a number of hours that we spend for the community's development. It is not something that ends after high school - it is volunteering.

Do not let your minds limit you into thinking that volunteering is only an act of contributing to an event or organization. Volunteering can mean giving up a seat on the bus for the elderly who cannot withstand the pain in their knees. Volunteering can mean picking up a piece of garbage from the ground for the common good without being told to. Volunteering is when teachers stay back after school to assist students with their work, knowing that at the end of the day, the extra assistance that they are offering does not result in increased salaries. Despite the fact that the impact created by these acts seem microscopic, they have a powerful impact that contributes to the world's improving development. However, if it is possible to ignore the old man or woman that is anticipating an offer to be seated, neglect the piece of garbage on the ground, and advise students to find out the answer to a difficult question by themselves, then why should we volunteer?

Every morning, I see a woman picking up the little bits and pieces of garbage others leave behind. Despite the agony she experiences, she bends to clean up the earth beneath her feet. It is people like her that keep our mother earth a little safer to breathe and live in. We must recognize this hidden hero whose positive spirit encourages her to purify the earth's surface. She may choose to let the filth remain on the ground but why is it that she chooses to volunteer to pick it up on a daily basis?

At the tender age of 8, I often tripped and tumbled over the edges of the mat after entering school through the massive blue doors. All it took for a young little man to volunteer to hold the door open every single morning until everyone went in, were eyes - eyes, both on the inside and out. From

the first to the last day, this classmate of mine held the door open, hearing "Thank-you" and "You're so kind" but never a gift or a toy in return for his pure heart. He could have laughed while watching others trip over the edge of the mat every day, but why did he choose to volunteer in this way? Why should people volunteer?

It is due to volunteering that we live in a community where there is peace, diversity, respect, compassion and countless other qualities. We all are interconnected due to the small acts of kindness that we do which helps this society remain united. Mankind's thoughtful leading acts of altruism began a ripple effect. This ripple effect is what inspires many to volunteer, be it for an organization or on a daily basis. Without these acts that are inspired by altruism, our society - this community of Peel - would be an atrocious community to live in as I would imagine. In Peel, volunteering builds a sense of love for the environment and most importantly, the citizens that live within the community. Countless students and adults participate in the marathons that are held annually to support cancer research or women empowerment for their brothers and sisters in the community. To briefly say, there is no number that shows how many times people have volunteered to make a positive impact on the surrounding community.

Volunteerism builds character as we develop our social skills when we interact with others. Taking a look back into history, we can see that what citizens from across the world have learned from volunteering is not equivalent to what they learn from books. When people went back home from helping in Haiti after the detrimental natural disaster, they informed others that they became much more grateful for what they had - seeing the new, yet tragic, life of those in Haiti, the value of the facilities that they had been gifted with, in their life, dramatically increased for volunteers. The learning aspect from volunteering is of great importance as that is what makes the world an extraordinary home,

however, this thought often dissolves in our mind. Thus, we do not feel the immediate need to help others though we should.

There is an endless supply of stories that beautifully elaborate how something as simple as lending a hand to those in need, transforms this world into one large home. Even in a home as grand as this one, everyone has the equal ability and right to volunteer. That is to say, anyone can volunteer and anyone can be a hero.