

Interesting facts on volunteerism:

VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES, 2006 About 61.2 million people volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2005 and September 2006, the **Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor** reported.

The supplement was sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Volunteers are defined as persons who did unpaid work (except for expenses) through or for an organization. The CPS is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households that obtains information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian non-institutional population age 16 and over.

As in previous years, women volunteered at a higher rate than men across all age groups, educational levels, and other major characteristics. (See tables A and 1.) Persons age 35 to 54 continued to be the most likely to volunteer (31.2 percent), while persons in their early twenties were the least likely (17.8 percent).

While all age groups showed declines in volunteer rates from the prior year, the largest decline was among teenagers.

The volunteer rate for females age 16 to 19 fell from 33.5 to 28.8 percent, and the volunteer rate for males of that age fell from 27.4 to 24.1 percent. Whites continued to volunteer at a higher rate (28.3 percent) than blacks (19.2 percent) and Asians (18.5 percent). Among Hispanics or Latinos, 13.9 percent volunteered. Married persons volunteered at a higher rate (32.2 percent) than those who had never married (20.3 percent) and those with other marital statuses (21.3 percent).

Parents with children under age 18 were substantially more likely to volunteer than were persons without children of that age, 34.4 percent compared with 23.6 percent. Individuals with higher levels of educational attainment volunteered at higher rates than did those with less education. More than 4 in 10 college graduates volunteered, compared with about 2 in 10 high school graduates and less than 1 in 10 of those with less than a high school diploma. Among employed persons, 28.7 percent had volunteered during the year ended in September 2006.

Volunteers are donors, too. Households in which the respondent also volunteered gave substantially more than households in which the respondent did not volunteer. For giving households, the average contributions were \$2,295 from volunteers and \$1,009 from non-volunteers.

(Giving and Volunteering in the United States 2001, Independent Sector)

" Some of the most cost effective dollars we can invest may be in a volunteer manager, who can generate far more value from volunteer hours than we ever invested."

(Bruce Esterline, Vice President for Grants, The Meadows Foundation)

21st Annual Conference on Visiting the Sick ■ Sunday, November 9, 2008 @ UJA-Federation of New York

The Rabbi Isaac N. Trainin Bikur Cholim Coordinating Council/JBFCS

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Definition: making the most of every moment when in contact with volunteers and while in the office.

- **First training** must accomplish: personal attention and affection, appreciation for joining the program, talk about importance of volunteering for the cause, seriousness of commitment, discussion of real dilemmas that may arise, encourage them to be open with you (by being open with them), discuss any paper work they need to send back.
3 month follow up meeting should be scheduled at the initial training.
- **Respond** to their emails and reports back online.
- **Party** or get together 3 times a year. Try to give volunteers personal attention at the event.
- **Meet** for lunch or dinner when it works with both of your schedules.
- **Promote** a team feeling. Get volunteers to recruit other volunteers and give trainings.

“Charities that use volunteers to recruit other volunteers have higher retention rates. Having volunteers represent the charity implies trust, evidence of a positive organizational culture, and confidence that the charity provides a worthwhile experience for volunteers.”

-Urban Institute: USA Freedom Corps.

“Volunteer management capacity is a function of two things. One is staff support. The other is the adoption of relevant administrative practices necessary for the effective management of volunteers.”

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