


News Service

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Reference Center on Volunteering | Centro de Voluntariado
Centre d'information sur le volontariat | مركز معلومات عن التطوع


1 Virtual Volunteering Resources

Virtual volunteering means volunteer tasks completed, in whole or in part, via the Internet and a home or work computer. It's also known as online volunteering, cyber service, online mentoring, teletutoring and various other names. Virtual volunteering allows agencies to expand the benefits of their volunteer programs, by allowing for more volunteers to participate, and by utilizing volunteers in new areas.

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2 Working with Technical Volunteers: A Manual for NPOs

Many nonprofits, libraries, and schools don't have the time, money, or funding to use technology in all the ways they would like. Technical volunteers can fill the gap by tackling the projects that in-house staff cannot handle, and that do not require paid consultants.

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3 The professionalisation process of volunteer management in Australia

In the last two decades two major changes occurred in the world of volunteering. The first one was a rediscovery of the importance of volunteering, initially culminating in, but further boosted by, the UN International Year of the Volunteer in 2001. An important part of this renewed focus on volunteering was the acceptance of a broad definition of the sorts of activities that constituted volunteering. No longer was volunteering perceived as an activity exclusively undertaken by middle aged women but also by many young, successful persons, including many more males. The trend of corporate volunteering has led to an educated and professional human resource in voluntary organisations. Such volunteers expect voluntary organisations to be professional and well organised.

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4 Publication launch: Volunteering and social activism promote human development and social change

Today, United Nations Day and World Development Information Day, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme are pleased to launch a joint publication, Volunteering and Social Activism: Pathways for participation in human development. The paper is based on a study undertaken by the three organisations in 2007-2008.

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5 CEV Multi-Stakeholder Symposium: Effectively communicating volunteering, 28th-30th April, Valencia (Spain)

The Spring General Assembly 2010 will take place in Valencia (Spain) from 28th to 30th April. It will take the form of a Multi-Stakeholder Symposium on the topic of "Effectively communicating volunteering: the role of PR, media, and raising public awareness" - A countdown towards the European Year of Volunteering 2011. The Symposium will entail a Multi-Stakeholder Forum on preparing the European Year 2011, bringing together regional authorities and governments, business representatives and CEV members.

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6 A choice blend - What volunteers want from organisation and management

Much recent commentary emphasises the changes in voluntary work, some of which are seen to put volunteering under threat. In the midst of these changes, organisations are seeking the best ways to attract and retain volunteers. Volunteer management has been the object of recent scrutiny, with a general consensus that the dominant professional/ workplace model is not an adequate response to the diversity of volunteers' characteristics, motivations and needs. In what has become something of a well-used phrase in volunteering research, "one size does not fit all".

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7 Best practices in staff and volunteer relations

"The first key to success is an organizational commitment and philosophy about volunteer involvement," advocates Barb Gemmill, CAVR, of Gemmill Training and Consulting, which specializes in leadership development and volunteer resources management. "Positive volunteer-staff relationships cannot happen until the whole organization is committed." To this end, Gemmill recommends that volunteer-involving organizations work through and adopt the Canadian Code for Volunteer Involvement.

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The News_service has been produced by the Spanish and British Red Cross organizations as part of the Reference Centre on Volunteering project. Contact: rcvolunteering@crzroja.es.
