

Tips for Teens

The Powerful Gift of Giving Your Time

By Stephen W. Bowman



Over the years I have learned something that has prominently stood out to me – volunteering and giving back to the community is an investment that has positive returns. Getting involved with your church, a local Boys & Girls Club, or an environmental project can provide you with opportunities, friendship, and the reward of making a difference.

“Sometimes money can buy or fix things, but many times it’s knowledge, hard work, and dedication that are needed in order to make a difference.”

order to make a difference. Had I known this as a young adult, I would have volunteered my time much sooner.

If money is short, giving your time will pay a dividend. You will meet like-minded people who can become lifelong

My work on our local Rice Lake School Board as the Board Chair has put some pressure on me as the education and public sector world in Wisconsin underwent significant change. However, after working for many long hours we were rewarded by creating an environment and district that values the citizens and businesses, cares for the students, and reflects well on a community that cares. The board did not do this because we had to, but because we wanted to. This did not go unnoticed by the community and staff. My reward was that I felt like I was part of an organization that truly made a difference.

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friends. In the business world, sometimes it’s who you know, not what you know, that makes a difference – so the more people you know, the better!

Giving back through volunteering is also like creating a legacy. The best part is that this is a legacy you can witness and enjoy while you are alive. It is very important for young adults to channel their energy to a good cause because it can have a powerful effect on your life and the lives of others. Selfless giving can come back to you with many positive benefits if your motives are good. So, talk to your parents, teachers or role models about a good cause for which you could volunteer, if you haven’t already. There are many ways to find an excuse of why not to give your time, but after you try it, those excuses will go away.



Addison Bowman (left photo), Kallahan Bowman (center photo) and other volunteers (right photo) donating their time at a food packing event for Feed My Starving Children.

QUIZ

1. You don't need to start volunteering until you're an adult.

- TRUE
 FALSE

2. "If money is short, giving your time will pay a _____."

- salary
 very small amount
 dividend
 lot

3. Giving back through volunteering and making a difference is also like creating a legacy.

- TRUE
 FALSE

4. Tell us how you have volunteered, or how you are planning to volunteer, to make a difference:

All correct quizzes submitted will receive a Business & Estate Advisers, Inc. pizza cutter! Please fill in your name below and send your quiz via email, fax or mail to:

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