



Family Volunteering

Family volunteering involves more than one person in a household or extended family, from different generations volunteering together.

There are many opportunities to volunteer in a way that is convenient for a family's schedule. Family volunteering activities can be as varied as serving food at a community kitchen, dropping off warm clothes during the holidays, reading to senior citizens, planting a community garden or walking animals at an animal shelter.

Volunteering together is a creative way for families to enjoy each other's company while making a contribution to the community. Community organizations are recognizing the needs of families to become involved as Volunteers together and are responding by creating family volunteering opportunities.

By participating in volunteer activities, children experience the satisfaction and other benefits that are a result from freely offering their services to help others. When volunteering becomes a common part of a child's life at an early age, it adds an important dimension to the process of growing up and, ultimately, shapes the adult that child will become.

Benefits of Family Volunteering

- Children's value systems strengthen because children see parents are involved.
- Parents and children gain self-satisfaction from volunteering.
- Provides an opportunity for learning, developing life skills and civic responsibility.
- Benefits the youth by helping with college and job applications.
- Family volunteering strengthens families by creating a common goal and improving communication.
- It helps create a new generation of dedicated volunteers.

This video follows a number of families in Canada who participate in family volunteering. Through their volunteering experiences, families have built new relationships, made new friends, learned about new cultures, and have instilled values in their kids on what it means to be an engaged citizen. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yd6cEli_zVw

Resources for more information on Family Volunteering:

- **Family Volunteering: The Final Report**. Published by Volunteer Canada, 2003
Summary: The report describes methodology and results, and also delivers an analysis of the insights gained and recommendations generated to guide the next steps of the Family Volunteering Initiative.
- **Volunteering with your family!** (Idealist.org link, consulted on 2010/07/09).
Summary: Information and resources for family volunteering.
- **New Family Volunteering Tools:** Volunteer Canada, in partnership with Manulife Financial launched two new interactive tools for use by families and organizations interested in family volunteering.
- **Building Blocks for Family Volunteering:** Volunteer Canada, key resources and references materials.