

Eummer 2022

The Mayor's Volunteer Corps Zine

Organized by the Mayor's Office of Civic Engagement and Volunteer Service, the Mayor's Volunteer Corps (MVC) is a community of volunteers who commit to ongoing, high-impact service in the city of Philadelphia. This zine captures inspiring stories of service from members of the MVC. We hope this encourages you to reflect on the importance of volunteering and begin (or continue) your journey!

Join the Mayor's Volunteer Corps!

Getting featured in the Mayor's Volunteer Corps Zine is as easy as 1-2-3!

- 1. Join the Mayor's Volunteer Corps. Register an account at the Mayor's Volunteer Corps portal (<u>serve.volunteermatch.org</u>).
- 2. Sign up for volunteer opportunities that are listed on the portal.
- 3. After completing your volunteer service, track your service hours and share your service story!

How can you get featured?

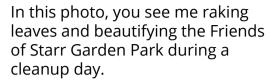
Share your volunteer service story by emailing Daiyon Kpou at daiyon.kpou@phila.gov



I volunteer for many programs throughout the city, including Share Food Program and The Black Corner. The photo here is me serving in West Philly for a youth food program. I set up and break down the food site, and I work the site, helping families get boxes in their cars, and other related duties.

All Philadelphians should volunteer because volunteering is nourishment for the soul, and love is key.

Miya Mack



To those who want to volunteer but need an extra word of motivation, consider that volunteering is a great way to connect with your community and feel good about yourself.

Cities are just a series of connected communities. We must care for the communities that have cared for us.

Nico Meyering



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I work at New Voices for Reproductive Justice as the Voice Your Vote Community Organizer. I run a team of people who phone bank and canvas in the community to advocate for Black maternal health and abortion access.

When I volunteer, I engage with and for others from the heart and that's what keeps my community organizing efforts speaking volumes.

When you volunteer, it is still an important responsibility. Volunteers make the conscious choice to care for others and help out. It takes a village to build caring hearts.



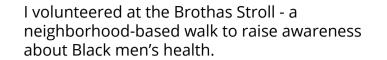


I helped set up a 5-mile walk against homelessness and organize the donors and sponsors. I co-led the walkers through warmups before we all participated in the walk.

I am the Vice President of the Chosen 300 Board of Directors. I volunteered every Sunday for 2 years during the pandemic. Now I volunteer 8 hours every month at Chosen 300.

Volunteering is energizing. If you want to volunteer, start by identifying something that you care about. Make sure that relevant volunteer opportunities align with your values. Join and have fun. Be the change you want to see in the world.

Tim Barksdale



Volunteering for events that promote Black male engagement are crucial to the city of Philadelphia. These events show young Black men and other men of color that there is positivity, love, and togetherness in Philadelphia, and we want to promote that throughout the city.

If you want to volunteer, know that the work may not always be easy, but it is always important.

Rishaun Hall





In this photo, I worked with a team to help clean up the 300 Block of Montana Street. I helped build a flower box, pulled weeds, and swept driveway.

Volunteering builds relationships within the community. Neighbors of Montana Street were surprised and kept thanking us for helping, especially because it was a hot day!

Volunteering gives you a great feeling because you know you've helped someone else. And, for me personally, volunteering boosts my mental health. I enjoy seeing others smile.

Orisha Barnes-Pringle





I volunteer with Copper, a certified therapy dog, through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. We respond to requests for therapy dog visits to schools and other groups.

Our regular visits are to the Philadelphia International Airport where we greet staff and passengers. Animal therapy is documented to reduce stress and anxiety, and my dog makes the interactions a seamless process. Many people would not speak as openly to me about their travels, but, the dog opens all the doors for conversation.

The hugs and smiles are the best parts of volunteering!

Harvey Finkel



In this photo, I am volunteering with classmates in my occupational therapy program at Temple University. We were helping set up the flower show, which was a lot of fun! We helped recycle all of the flower pots to be used again next year.

Doing good for others and giving back to the community is a meaningful experience, and it gives you a sense of accomplishment - especially when you do it with friends!

Val Musse
(to the left)

This past year, I volunteered at the OHS Office of Homeless Services Training Unit. My duties were to create eLearnings and core trainings for shareholders, City employees, and the general public.

I decided to volunteer because I wanted to showcase my technical skills and innovate change within the department. I love technology and want the City to be up-to-date with new tools.

Volunteering gave me the opportunity to network and meet professionals who helped open doors for me.

For others who would like to volunteer, I live by this golden rule: treat your 1st day like it's your last and your last day like your 1st. That is, treat everything with the same energy and excitement as the first time you encounter them, and always put 100% in everything that you do.



Danah Scott, aka Scottie



In my community, the Hartranft area, I do a beautification project every 1st & 3rd Saturday. I bring together volunteers and local organizers with food and music.

I also do a safe summer with the kids. Local volunteers and I sit in the playground from 6pm until 8pm with games - jump rope, basketball, volleyball, etc. - to make sure our neighborhood youth can have fun while staying out of harm's way.

Everyone should volunteer because service allows communities to get more done. I like to say, "Clean streets create clean minds."

Roosevelt Davis



I'm a Temple University student & artist (photographer, singer, songwriter, and producer). My online community platform SIMCITYGLOBAL partnered with Lapstone & Hammer to host a toy and winter clothing drive last winter.

I had never hosted a donation event before and just felt called to do something good for the recent Afghan refugees during the holiday season. It was definitely a great learning experience and I hope to host more events like this in the future!

There was an overwhelmingly positive reaction to the drive; hopefully it inspires others to do something similar in their own community.

If you want to volunteer but need some extra motivation, I say just do it - not because you have to, but because it feels good. I promise.

Simone Hinton



I started volunteering at General George A. McCall School thinking that I would just be class parent, or help out with bake sales. Once I actually got into the school, I realized there are so many needs in our Philadelphia public school system. It was easy to jump in.

I started off helping kids read with 100-book challenge, and eventually worked with kids on math & science. Some days I would listen to their stories or help resolve problems. While I originally thought that I was helping them be better people, it turns out they were helping me be a better person!

Watching them all work hard made me do the same. I got to experience so many different children, with different abilities, different backgrounds, different lifestyles and socioeconomic lives. This enriched my life and my view of the world so much more than I could've ever imagined!

Volunteering is often a thankless job, but helping children is an honor. I am so truly thankful for it.

Andrea Layden (on the right)





