

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER

Virtual volunteering means volunteer tasks completed, in whole or in part, via the Internet and at 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.

Many people actively search for volunteer opportunities they can complete via home or work computers, because of time constraints, personal preference, a disability or a home-based obligation that prevents them from volunteering on-site. Virtual volunteering allows anyone to contribute time and expertise to not-for-profit organizations, schools, government offices and other agencies that utilize volunteer services, from his or her home or office.

The information in this section of ServiceLeader.org will benefit volunteers as well as volunteer managers and service leaders who are interested in utilizing technology to benefit their organizations.

TO SEE MORE GO TO

<http://www.serviceleader.org/new/virtual/>

Communities That Know Better, Do Better



If you can answer yes to two or more of the above questions, you will make a great Virtual Volunteer by being a Learning Coach for an adult education student.

Volunteering from a home computer is different from working on site with an organization for many obvious reasons: there is usually more flexibility in your time, a greater degree of independence, very little interaction with various staff members, etc. For some, these differences make volunteering ideal.

Setting your own schedules is one of the chief joys of virtual volunteering. You may have considered volunteering before but your schedule is too demanding. What would you say if you could serve your community, at home on a Saturday morning, in your pajamas with a cup of coffee?

- Do you have regular, ongoing access to the Internet?
- Do you value goal setting?
- Are you self-motivated?
- Do you like to catch someone doing something good?
- Do you value the concept of "Pay it Forward?"
- Can you make lemonade when handed a bunch of lemons?
- Do you have one hour a week to serve?

Our students need you and we value your precious time. This program will allow you to serve people that want to take responsibility; you can show them how by taking responsibility for serving your community for one hour a week.

Take the next step by:

- Registering online to receive an email packet of information
- Completing the online application.
- Learning Coach training manuals are online.
- Practice with a trainer assigned to help you get started.
- Coaching Reports are completed online..
- Materials on goal setting, time management, planning, study tips, and more will be emailed to you on a regular basis to help you help your student.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Research shows that students participating in a combination of classroom and self-study efforts have a greater chance of attaining academic goals. Students can complete the work much faster than attending class alone. Work schedules, child-care or transportation issues prevent some students from attending class on a regular basis. This program will allow students an option to adapt their schedule to continue studies when faced with obstacles. 93% of students that successfully complete the KeyTrain course have the skills needed to pass the GED test/college entrance tests, enroll in college as a "program ready" student and earn Georgia Work Ready Certificates.

Learning Coaching Services



A Learning Coach contacts students by phone, emails or schedule face-to-face sessions to review student progress, establish goals and celebrate success. Internet-based instruction supplements Adult Education students with resources that offer flexible options to accommodate challenges that make classroom instruction difficult. Distance Learning tools have a proven track record of improving GED scores, assisting students in attaining the Georgia Work Ready Certificate and passing college entrance tests. Because the programs are internet-based, students have access to instruction from any computer connected to the internet and can supplement classroom time to accelerate progress. The Learning Coach helps the student manage their distance learning experience.

Things You Should Know

- Each year of education adds about \$10,000/year to income; equaling over \$750,000 during a 40 year career.
- Retiring baby boomers will be leaving over 50% of the jobs in Central Georgia; most of these jobs will require at least two years of college.
- Adults with a high school diploma or less, live in families whose income is below 200 percent of the poverty level..
- Currently, 61% of adults with less than a 9th-grade education earn less than a living wage; 57% of Central Georgia residents.
- Two of the most important factors that affect children's educational attainment are the education level of the mother and the income level of the family.
- Children's performance in reading, math, and general knowledge increases with the level of their mother's education.

COACHING SUPPORT SERVICES

Training—An internet-based program to provide students and volunteers a tool for preparing to take the Georgia Work Ready Certificate.

Weekly Review—Coaches are given access to student records online and can track progress; provide guidance and encouragement and celebrate success when goals are met.

Coaching Report—Coaching notes of weekly activity are submitted online.



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