

Virtual Volunteering Opportunities

Virtual volunteers can complete short-term or long-term tasks, in whole or in part, typically off-site from the organization or person being assisted. If you've got access to a computer, thousands of different volunteer projects and roles are available to you — anywhere with an Internet connection.

Below is a robust resource list categorized by activity, impact area or beneficiaries, along with additional sites to search for more opportunities.

MENTORING/TUTORING

[Career Village](#) An online platform where students ask career questions that are answered by people working, or that have worked, in that field. All you need is a LinkedIn account to start helping students become better informed about the career decisions they are facing.

[icouldbe.org](#) is meant to connect the energy and expertise of mentors from various professions with the most vulnerable students in the U.S. educational system.

[Infinite Family](#), an online mentoring program matching adults and families in the U.S. with at-risk, impoverished children in South Africa.

[MicroMentor](#) matches small business owners with business mentors. Volunteer mentors should have three years of business ownership experience, or five years of management experience, or several years of professional experience in a specialized skill. The program is part of MercyCorps.

[MentorNet](#), a division of Great Minds in STEM (GMiS), strategically matches STEM students and professionals in compatible online mentoring relationships.

HEALTH, WELL-BEING & EMPOWERMENT FOR ALL

[Crisis Text Line](#) is a free 24/7 national crisis-intervention and counseling service conducted exclusively through SMS text. Volunteers use the nonprofit's web-based platform to provide emotional support to texters who are dealing with a wide range of issues—bullying, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, and more. Prospective volunteers go through screening and a lengthy self-paced training. Once completed, volunteers sign up to take one four-hour shift each week for a year.

[IMAlive](#) is a live online crisis network and a project by the Kristin Brooks Hope Center, To Write Love On Her Arms and PostSecret. Online volunteers must be at least 18 years old (16 with parents notarized consent), complete at least 20 hours training and a series of tests and screenings, and willing to commit to responding four hours a week for one year, or eight hours a week for six months. They also must pay, or fundraise, a fee to cover training and support costs.

The [Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network](#) (RAINN) is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1.800.656.HOPE and the National

Sexual Assault Online Hotline. Online volunteers who staff the online hotline must complete a training course facilitated by RAINN, complete a background check, and be on time for shifts.

TED Translators are a global community of volunteers who subtitle TED Talks and enable the inspiring ideas in them to crisscross languages and borders. Bring TED into your language! [Join the global community of volunteers.](#)

[Trevor Project](#) is an online, social networking community for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth ages 13-24, and their friends and allies. Online volunteers monitor the TrevorSpace site in an effort to maintain a safe online space for young LGBTQ people. Trainings for online volunteers are provided quarterly.

ARCHIVES, GENEALOGY & MAPS

[Ancestry.com's World Archives Program \(AWAP\)](#) provides free software to its volunteers to access already-scanned images and transcribe them into a common, publicly-searchable database. The Ancestry World Archives Project's online volunteers use their passion for genealogy to help others discover their roots.

[Carnamah Historical Society virtual volunteering initiative](#) uses online volunteers to help with transcription and indexing projects to make historical records more discoverable and searchable.

[Map Rectifier Project](#) by the New York Public Library. This geo-rectification toolkit creates layered digital maps utilizing all the information available about a certain geography from sources as varied as Google's satellite imagery and centuries-old fire insurance land maps. Volunteers index information that records how many floors a building once had or what a street was named at different points in time, and the resulting layered digital map shows the aggregate results.

[The National Map Corps \(TNM Corps\)](#), part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, asks citizen volunteers to collect data on structures and use it to add new features, remove obsolete points and correct data for The National Map database.

[OpenStreetMap](#) is a free editable map of the whole world. It is made by online volunteers. Anyone can contribute to its geographical database.

[Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens](#) is an online database of thousands of images in the Smithsonian's Collections Search Center. By correctly tagging an image regarding the types of plants in the image, the structures, objects, people, or any details you notice, you help make that image more useful to professional catalogers in museums, archives and libraries.

The [Smithsonian Digital Volunteer program](#) engages the public in making its collections more accessible. Digital volunteers transcribe historic documents and collection records to facilitate research and preserve these valuable assets for future generations.

[Humanity Road](#) volunteers use Internet and mobile communications technology to collect, verify and route information online during disasters. They provide public safety information as well as directing the public to governmental and aid agencies that are providing assistance for the disaster.

Each year, disasters around the world kill nearly 100,000 and affect or displace 200 million people. Many of the places where these disasters occur are literally 'missing' from any map and first responders lack the information to make valuable decisions regarding relief efforts. [Missing Maps](#) is an open, collaborative project in which you can help to map areas where humanitarian organizations are trying to meet the needs of vulnerable people.

ENTREPRENUERSHIP AROUND THE WORLD

[Bpeace](#) is a U.S. nonprofit that recruits business professionals to help entrepreneurs in countries emerging from war to create and expand businesses and employment (particularly for women). Volunteers need a particular area of expertise regarding business development or project management and pay a monthly membership fee.

[Cherie Blair Foundation Online Mentors](#) Online mentors are successful businesswomen in the U.K., and mentor online women entrepreneurs in developing countries.

[Grow Movement](#) recruits online volunteer business consultants from around the world to work via Skype, phone and email to empower African entrepreneurs in Uganda, Rwanda and Malawi, helping them with business skills, enabling them to run their organizations more effectively, increase profitability and create jobs in their communities.

GENERAL SKILLS

[Doe Network](#) Devoted to assisting official law enforcement agencies in solving cold cases concerning unexplained disappearances and unidentified Victims from North America, Australia and Europe. Online volunteers also help translate documents into various languages.

[Mozilla/Firefox](#) Did you know that this web browser is produced by a nonprofit organization? "We believe in the power and potential of the Internet and want to see it thrive for everyone, everywhere." Mozilla involves hundreds of online volunteers, and "you don't have to be a C++ guru (or even know what that means!)" to contribute as an online volunteer.

[Nabuur](#) is an online volunteering platform that links volunteers with local communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America so they can learn about each other, share ideas and find solutions to local issues.

The [OpenMRS](#) community is a worldwide network of volunteers from many different backgrounds including technology, health care, and international development. Together, they are working to build the world's largest and most flexible technology platform to support delivery of health care in some of the most challenging environments on the planet.

The [Zooniverse](#) is the world's largest and most popular platform for people-powered research. This research is made possible by volunteers. With our wide-ranging and ever-expanding suite of projects, covering many disciplines and topics across the sciences and humanities, there's a place for anyone and everyone to explore, learn and have fun in the Zooniverse. To volunteer with Zooniverse, just go to the [Projects](#) page, choose the one you like the look of, and get started.

LITERACY

[BookShare.Org](#) offers thousands of books to people with reading disabilities. As an online volunteer you can either scan books to be added to the collection or edit books that have been scanned.

[Distributed Proofreaders](#) These online volunteers turn public domain books into online books. Many volunteers work on a book at the same time and proofread each other's work.

[IntoBooks](#) is an online mentoring program where students and their adult mentors read the same books and then discuss them online.

[Learning Ally](#) Many audiobooks are created with text-to-speech software that scans text from computer files and uses synthesized human voices to read the text aloud. However, illustrations or figures used throughout the books are not included. Online volunteers type those figure descriptions into the text, enabling students to receive ALL book material, not just the text.

[Translators Without Borders](#) recruits volunteers who want to translate texts into different languages for NGOs and nonprofits.

TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING

Volunteers are a key element of [NPower's](#) program success. As part of preparing our students for a career in technology, we engage tech professionals throughout our program to share their knowledge, experience, insight, and advice. Interacting and learning from professionals in the industry is a crucial part to our students becoming well rounded professionals. Connect with NPower students in-person or virtually, in small or large group settings, and for short or long-term projects. NPower can create a customized volunteer experience suited to your team's needs that readies each student for career success.

[TechSoup](#) has a series of discussion groups where nonprofits ask questions about technology. You can log into the community at any time and try to help nonprofits and volunteers with questions about software, databases and more. TechSoup also needs volunteers to [transcribe its most popular archived webinars](#).

VETERANS

[American Corporate Partners](#) provides veterans with mentoring through [ACP AdvisorNet](#) – an online network of volunteer Advisors who commit to sharing their business expertise and advice with military veterans and their immediate family. Veterans can post questions related to employment, career development and small business

[Hire Heroes USA](#) works to create job opportunities for U.S. military veterans and their spouses. Most of their volunteers participate remotely helping with mock interviews, career counseling, or providing guidance on job searches, preparing resumes and filling out applications.

MORE SEARCH ENGINES FOR VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

[All for Good](#) is Points of Light's database of thousands of volunteer opportunities, many of which can be completed remotely. To find virtual opportunities, make sure to put "virtual" in your keyword search under "More options" when searching.

[Catchafire](#) uses their website to match professionals with nonprofits based on their skills, cause interest and time availability. You'll find tons of skills-based volunteering opportunities, many of which can be completed virtually.

[Create the Good](#) is an initiative by AARP to help its members get connected with nonprofits and causes. *Anyone* can use the site to find virtual volunteering activities in support of a variety of organizations. Enter either "virtual" or "online" in the keyword search, chose *any* for distance and date, and leave your postal code blank.

[Idealist](#) has many volunteer tasks listed on its site that can be completed online.

[Skills for Change](#) is a great way to find online volunteer opportunities to use your "skills and wits to battle the world's toughest challenges."

[Taproot+](#) is a new marketplace for short-term, individual pro bono consulting projects, curated by the Taproot Foundation. Many of these volunteer projects can be completed remotely.

[United Nations Volunteers'](#) online platform connects volunteers with organizations working for sustainable human development. Volunteers contribute their skills online to help organizations address development challenges.

[VolunteerMatch](#) uses their website to bring good people and causes together. Search through their database of thousands of volunteer opportunities and be sure to look for those opportunities that are virtual.