Volunteering Facts & Factoids

Almost nine of 10 people say "Yes" when someone asks them to donate their time. Those who are asked are four times more likely to help as those who are not asked.

Source: Planning a One-Day Volunteer Event

Why do people volunteer? A recent study by Washington, D.C.-based Independent Sector found there are three top reasons:

- They feel compassion for people in need.
- They feel needed.
- Volunteering gives them a new perspective on their community.

Employee volunteering … Today, more and more business leaders are committed to supporting workplace volunteer programs that address serious needs while bringing added value to the company. Leaders include: General Electric, KPMG Foundation, State Street Corporation, and Tucson Electric Power Company are making a difference.

Source: 2004 Business Leadership Forum on Workplace Volunteering

Value of Volunteer Time … estimated dollar value is $17.55/hr in 2004

Source: Independent Sector

The #1 Barrier …One barrier was constant among non-volunteers in all age, income, and employment status groups: unwillingness to make a year-round commitment.

Source: National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating

Volunteering Habits Start Young …

- Of the 44% of adults who volunteer, 2/3 began volunteering when they were young.
- Adults who began volunteering as youth are twice as likely to volunteer as those who did not volunteer when they were younger.
- In every income and age group, those who volunteered as youth give and volunteer more than those who did not.
- Those who volunteered as youth and whose parents volunteered became the most generous adults in giving time.

Source: Independent Sector

Who Volunteers in the US* … 64.5 million persons (28.8%) age 16 and over volunteered at least once and here's a snapshot of who they are:

- *Women volunteered at a higher rate than men* across age groups, education levels, and other major characteristics (1/3 vs 1/4).
- *Persons age 35-44 were the most likely to volunteer* (34.2%), closely followed by 45-54 year olds (32.8%) and 55-64 year olds (30.1%).

Compiled by:
Mariner Management & Marketing • 301.725.2508
info@MarinerManagement.com • www.MarinerManagement.com

- *Teenagers also had a relatively high volunteer rate*, 29.4%, likely reflecting an emphasis on volunteer activities in schools.
- *Volunteer rates were lowest among* persons in their early twenties (20%) and those 65 and over (24.6%).
- *Parents with children under age 18 were more likely* to volunteer than persons without children of that age.
- *Married persons volunteered at a higher rate* than never married persons and persons of other marital statuses.
- Whites volunteered at a higher rate (30.5%) than did blacks (20.8%), Asians (19.3%), Hispanics or Latinos (14.5%).

Total Annual Hours Spent Volunteering in US* … Volunteers spent a median of 52 hours on volunteer activities

Who They Volunteered For* … Most volunteers were involved with one or two organizations and the main organization for which they volunteered the most hours was most frequently either religious (34.4%) or educational/youth service related (27%).

How Volunteers Become Involved* …Two in five volunteers became involved with the main organization for which they did volunteer work of their own volition while 42% were asked to become a volunteer.

Reasons for Not Volunteering* … Among those who had volunteered at some point in the past, the most common reason given for not volunteering was lack of time (45%), followed by health or medical problems and family responsibilities or childcare problems.

**Source: US DOL Bureau of Labor Statistics survey covering 9/03-9/04*

The Generations Dance … Generations are different and that is manifested in many ways including Loyalty. Consider three interesting facts* that have an implication to volunteering. (1) 40% of Xers said having a mentor directly influenced their decision to stay at their current company. (2) When asked who they are most loyal to at work, Xers put co-workers first, their boss or projects second, and the company last. (3) Xers' number one reason to stay was "autonomy."

**Source: BridgeWorks, LLC, 2001 www.generations.com*

More Facts & Figures … Visit the Resource Center at www.MarinerManagement.com