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## 50 Inspirational Quotes About Volunteering & **Giving Back**

Posted by Discover Corps on March 1, 2017 · 13 Comments



"What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good."

Spoken by Greek philosopher Aristotle over 2300 years ago, one of the most ancient quotes about volunteering offers proof that giving back to the community is hardly a new concept.

With so many people less fortunate than those of us who can afford to travel, and with funding for social services being brutally slashed, volunteering is becoming increasingly important these days.

From immigrants escaping violent conflict and under-privileged kids needing education to homeless people in need of housing, there are no shortage of ways volunteers can help make a difference. The greatest thing about volunteering may

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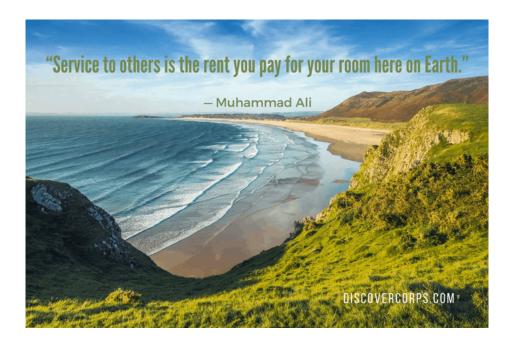
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be the **benefits it offers** to individual recipients, their communities, and the volunteers themselves.

We here at Discover Corps founded our company on the principles of **striving to make the world a better place**. We hope the following 50 quotes about volunteering will inspire you to give back by donating your time, energy, and resources to the causes you're most passionate about...



1) "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." — **Muhammad** Ali

2) "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." – **Sherry Anderson** 

3) "Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more." — **H. Jackson Brown Jr.** 

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4) "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." — **Mahatma Gandhi** 

5) "The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." – **Oscar Wilde** 

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6) "If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever." — **Kofi Annan** 

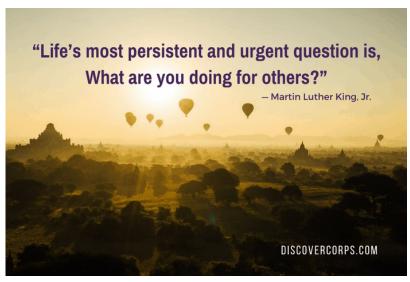


7) "As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." — **Audrey Hepburn** 

8) "Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another." –

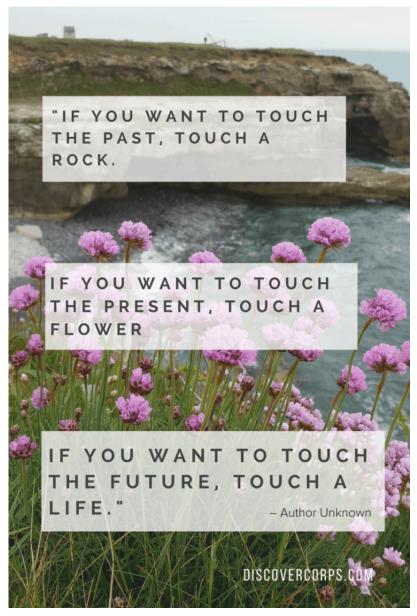
#### Erma Bombeck

9) "You may not have saved a lot of money in your life, but if you have saved a lot of heartaches for other folks, you are a pretty rich man." – **Seth Parker** 



10) "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?" — Martin Luther King, Jr.

- 11) "Our generation has the ability and the responsibility to make our ever-more connected world a more hopeful, stable and peaceful place." **Natalie Portman**
- 12) "The purpose of life is not to be happy, but to matter- to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all." Leo Rosten

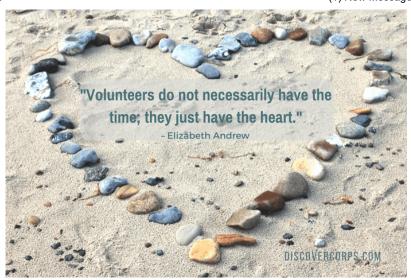


13) "If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life." – **Author Unknown** 

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14) "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." — **William Shakespeare** 

15) "The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves." — **Helen Keller** 



16) "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." – **Elizabeth Andrew** 

17) "No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another." – **Author Unknown** 



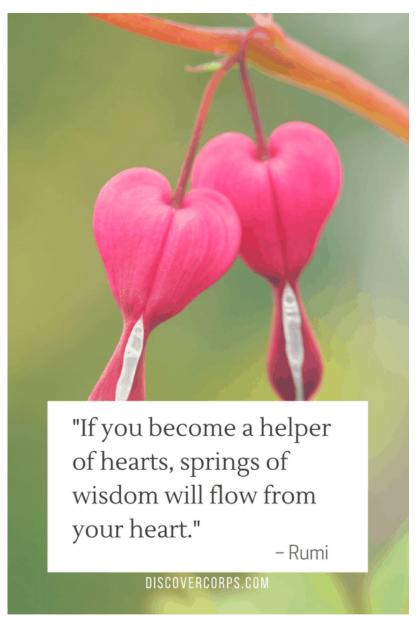
18) "The only people with whom you should try to get even are those who have helped you." - John E. Southard

19) "It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference." –  ${\bf Tom\ Brokaw}$ 



20) "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." - William James

21) "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." — **Winston Churchill** 

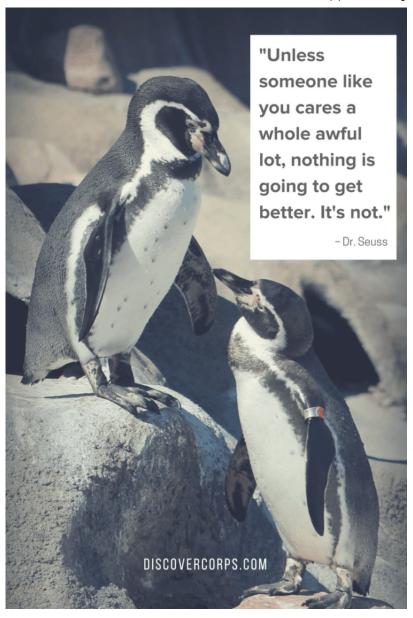


22) "If you become a helper of hearts, springs of wisdom will flow from your heart." – **Rumi** 

- 23) "Volunteers are love in motion!" Author Unknown
- 24) "The broadest, and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good."
- Ivan Scheier



- 25) "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." **-Anne Frank**
- 26) "Being good is commendable, but only when it is combined with doing good is it useful." **Author Unknown**
- 27) "Help one another. There's no time like the present, and no present like the time." James Durst



28) "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." – **Dr. Seuss** 

- 29) "I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world." **Mother Teresa**
- 30) "While earning your daily bread, be sure you share a slice with those less fortunate." **-Quoted in** *P.S. I Love You*, **compiled by H. Jackson Brown, Jr.**

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- 31) "One can pay back the loan of gold, but one dies forever in debt to those who are kind." **Malayan Proverb**
- 32) "At the end of the day it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished... it's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back." **Denzel Washington**
- 33) "Even if you just change one life, you've changed the world forever." **Mike**Satterfield



- 34) "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."  **Kahlil Gibran**
- 35) "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." **Edward Everett Hale**
- 36) "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." **Author Unknown**

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37) "Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves." – James Matthew Barrie

38) "What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." – **Albert Pike** 

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39) "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice." **– Author Unknown** 



40) "The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green." - **Thomas Carlyle** 

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41) "Even if it's a little thing, do something for those who have need of a man's help-something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. For, remember, you don't live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here, too." – **Albert**Schweitzer

42) "I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back." – **Maya Angelou** 



43) "Kindness, like a boomerang, always returns." - Author Unknown

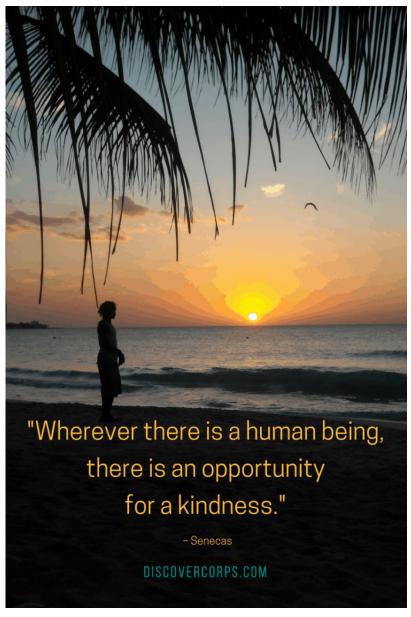
- 44) "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." **Leo Buscaglia**
- 45) "The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit." **-Nelson Henderson**



46) "Not only must we be good, but we must also be good for something." – **Henry David Thoreau** 

47) "We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men." – **Herman Melville** 

48) "If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito." - **Betty Reese** 



49) "Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness." – **Seneca** 

50) "Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." – **Martin Luther** 

King, Jr. Interested in learning more about Discover Corps? Request a free catalog here.

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**BIO:** Bret Love is a journalist/editor with 23 years of print and online experience, whose clients have ranged from the Atlanta Journal Constitution and American Airlines to National Geographic and Yahoo Travel. He is the co-founder of ecotourism website Green Global Travel and Green Travel Media

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This was a superb article. I worked more than 150 hours in the United States last year. I committed to do more this year.

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Greg Escaper September 7, 2019

These are brilliant quotes, and I am glad that you've shared all these quotes here. I can make use of these inspiring quotes in one of my papers, and I am sure my readers will appreciate that. Thanks for posting this here.



Wow, that's truly inspiring. Thank you so much for sharing them! Gotta print them and read one or two every morning.



January 28, 2020

Thank you for the inspiration, I needed it...





Absolutely!





Of course! We refer back to these ourselves quite often – we all need a little inspiration once and a while!



DiSilvestro January 29, 2020

Great list of quotes in one place. I'm going to save it and use it. It is so inspiring. Thanks for sharing.

Kim March 11, 2020



Syed Muzafar Ahmad April 1, 2020 My goal is help the needy people & my mgs is help others feel happy

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