The Value of Volunteers
Fact Sheet

Definition of a volunteer
• A person who did unpaid work (except for expenses) through or for an organization.

Trends of volunteers
• Women volunteer more frequently than men.
• The 35-44 year old age group is most likely to volunteer.
• Those who volunteer time are more likely to contribute financially.

Value of volunteers
• 44% of adults volunteer an average of 3.6 hours/week.
• Nationwide, 83.9 million adults volunteer a total of 15.5 billion hours (equivalent to 9 million full-time employees).
• Volunteer time valued at $18.04/hour; value of total time donated is $280 billion.

Benefits of volunteers
• Point of local contact for information
• Typically well-respected and connected in the community
• Allow organization to expand its audiences and provide more individualized attention
• Provide additional positive adult influence in the lives of youth
  o Listen to youth and spend time with them
  o Let youth know they are valued
  o Help youth recognize their talents and achieve their full potential

Motivation of volunteers
• Most people volunteer when asked to do so, especially if they can volunteer with their family.
• Affiliation-motivated individuals volunteer for personal interaction with others.
• Achievement-motivated individuals volunteer to meet specific goals and overcome challenges.
• Power-oriented individuals volunteer to have an impact or influence on others.