

CELEBRATING



International Volunteer Managers — DAY —

November 5

Thank a Volunteer Services Leader

International Volunteer Manager's Day (IVMD) is celebrated this year on November 5th. IVMD recognizes the vital role of volunteer managers in supporting and mobilizing volunteers around the world. At Catholic Charities, our Volunteer Service Leaders welcome, educate and include volunteers in our daily work.

When was the last time you volunteered? Have you recently volunteered to make coffee at your place of worship? Was your name next on the list to volunteer for an event at your child's school? Or maybe you were motivated to beef-up your resume, so you volunteered with an agency whose mission aligned with yours. Perhaps you volunteered to meet people after moving to a new city.

Whatever inspired you to volunteer, I hope you felt rewarded by improving one person's circumstance for an hour or a day. The person could have been an overwhelmed employee or someone supported by a non-profit organization. You may have done data entry for 3 hours or handed out cold water in the summer heat. You helped, and yes, you have someone to thank for that opportunity and positive emotional benefit. Thank Volunteer Service Leaders.

Volunteers are known as "do-gooders". Managers of Volunteer Service Programs know that volunteers' efforts cast a wide net for good at Catholic Charities. Volunteers are our agency's community ambassadors and our clients' compassion warriors, holding up the people we serve when they are weary. Volunteers can represent immeasurable value for grant writers and potential donors. An agency with a strong volunteer base shows beneficial cost savings because their tasks do not have to be completed by paid staff.

Here's what a few of our Volunteer Service leaders have to say about their role at Catholic Charities:



"I believe that there is a place for everyone to serve the vulnerable – not just professionals in helping fields. We Volunteer Administrators find ways for anybody to use their gifts and their presence to serve and contribute to crafting a culture of care, compassion, and understanding. Ultimately, this builds a society where the vulnerable – where all of us – can grow and thrive. I love to engage volunteers and folks from the public because it's transformational!"

Maria Busko — Volunteer Service Manager, Family Services



"I love connecting volunteers with meaningful opportunities that supports their growth and our mission. It is exciting for me when I'm able to place a volunteer in a role where they can thrive. Seeing the passion of our volunteers reinvigorates me and reminds me of the importance of my work. Many of our programs could not exist without our volunteers. I am grateful and honored to play a role in recruiting, welcoming, and celebrating our volunteers so they also feel the immense impact they have through their generosity."

Sandra Hunsicker — Volunteer Service Leader and Coordinator of ESOL Program, Esperanza Center



"Growing up volunteering was a HUGE part of my life, and I always tried to find a way to give back and get involved. Now, I get to help others find their way to get involved and give back - as my job! I get to be a big part of and see volunteers making a big difference in the children's lives at St. Vincent's Villa and the Villa Maria School. Getting to see the smiles on their faces and getting the biggest hugs because I brought in their favorite volunteer, keeps me inspired in my role. I am a lucky gal who gets to bring all kinds of wonderful volunteers together to simply just show a little love to their neighbors!"

Piper Johnson — Volunteer Coordinator, St. Vincent Villa



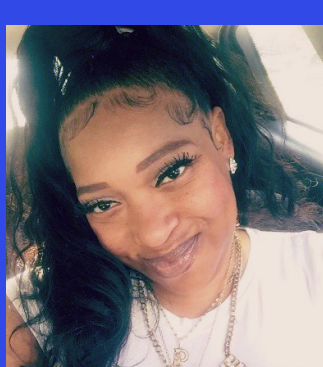
"My ability to remain inspired as a volunteer leader is attached to the impact it has on individuals and the community. Knowing that a small effort, thought, or gesture can lead to significant change, is motivating to my role in volunteer leadership. Working within an organization of dedicated volunteer leaders continuously sparks fresh enthusiasm."

Diamond Moore — Volunteer Service Leader and Resident Service Compliance Coordinator



"I started my career in volunteer management in 1999 at the American Red Cross. With a ratio of approximately 50 volunteers to every paid staff person, it was a great opportunity to learn to work with volunteers. A few things I still carry with me are: "Volunteer" is not a job description—it is a pay scale. Wasting a volunteer's time is stealing. I am a servant leader; my job is to provide the training and resources to the volunteer so that they may be able to do their job. Never ask a volunteer to do something you would not do yourself. I am grateful to be able to manage volunteers, it is the job that reaffirms my faith in humanity every day."

Janine-Marie Boulad — Volunteer Coordinator, Gallagher Services



"I believe that volunteers do not necessarily have the time, but they have the heart. What keeps me inspired to do this work is that I'm driven by the desire to connect with others and be part of a community. My volunteers motivate me with their genuine desire to help others and make a difference in the population that we serve."

Tifani Jackson — Volunteer Manager, Weinberg Housing and Resource Center