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Volunteer Appreciation Month!

Shriya Raja

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

Elizabeth Andrew

Volunteerism is something that has been celebrated for centuries. People all over the world have come together to help those around them without expecting anything in return. Ever since President George W. Bush launched the 1000 Points of Light campaign in 1991, April has been established as Volunteer Appreciation Month. This month is dedicated to celebrating those who have persevered and worked hard to ensure the happiness of others. In this day and age, children are taught the value of volunteering at an extremely young age. In fact, many schools have fostered and encouraged volunteerism as well. There are many schools with philanthropic clubs dedicated to raising money for a good cause or providing aid to an underprivileged population. However, though volunteering is an extremely common pass time, especially for young adults, the true reason behind the actions tend to get clouded. In lieu of college applications or trying to impress an organization, teenagers tend to participate in volunteering opportunities in order to benefit themselves. Although their actions are still helping others, the true meaning behind them is neglected, almost completely defeating the purpose of volunteering in the first place. So, if you are a teenager wanting to volunteer just so you can include it in your resume, try and take a moment to briefly consider the other advantages of volunteering. Try and consider the people you are helping, the lives that will hopefully be enhanced because of your actions. Try not to lose sight of the true meaning behind volunteering: helping others.



MISSION STATEMENT:

Discover the power of your purpose and save lives.

[Donations Link](#)

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Preventing Emotional Abuse

Felix Omongbale

A teen is a young person, not fully developed, between the ages of thirteen and nineteen. Abuse is any action that intentionally harms another person. Emotional abuse is any act that includes threats, belittling, bullying, cursing, verbal assault, isolation, and silent treatment which may weaken the sense of dignity and self-worth. Just because there isn't a physical mark doesn't mean the abuse is not real. In fact, it's the worst kind of abuse where the victims involved may die in silence, be depressed, or commit suicide. The signs of emotional abuse include but are not limited to low self-esteem, sleeping difficulties, and aggressive behavior. Prevention includes breaking the silence by reporting abuse appropriately, early education, identification, intervention, disciplining the child thoughtfully, knowing the signs, and examining the child's behavior.



Identifying Abuse

Nicole Clarin

Abuse is a complicated subject as it can take many forms and definitions.

Furthermore, abuse itself is hard to identify as each situation can be vastly different and leave differing effects on those involved.

Matters become even more complicated as most abuse victims have a hard time recognizing their own abuse and leaving that situation due to the manipulation oftentimes coupled with abuse. However, whether it is physical, verbal, or psychological, any type of abuse should not be taken lightly. If you are unsure if you or a friend are in an abusive situation, it may be helpful to look for these warning signs: unexplained changes in behavior, social withdrawal, noticeably depressed or anxious, aggressive or violent behavior, and self-destructive tendencies.

If you are convinced yourself or a friend has undergone any type of abuse, please call the child abuse hotline at **800-422-4453**.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

This is such a special month for me because we get to celebrate our amazing volunteers. Our ENTIRE organization is run by volunteers, and I am so grateful to every hour someone gives towards our mission of helping young people discover the power of their purpose and save lives. Our youth need us. They are going through hard times, and we are losing people we love. Let's not grow weary in doing the right thing, and keep using our gifts to make a difference in the lives of others. We need every volunteer we have, and I personally want to thank anyone that has volunteered with OMI. We appreciate YOU.



Activity Page: Volunteer Appreciation Week Wordsearch

Fareeha Mohammad

Every year, National Volunteer Week is celebrated during the third week of April. For this year, it is April 16-22. Celebrate it by showing appreciation to the volunteers you know and completing this word search. Tag us on social media @nywusa with a picture of it when completed.

Volunteer Appreciation Week

Y M W W L C C J C P N W E N G A G E M E N T Q L
L I L J Y B D N A U E G F C G S A A K B Y L A G
O I W T D H R W R S S E L Y T I N A M U H U D B
N D U C R R F T I U T F T D U K R A P T V K T N
M X O V A I E X N V T C G N I V I G Y A B T I A
G K I R E O G C G F F W L X C L X T S V H H B B
M T I I H F S V I E A P P R E C I A T E Y A J P
C E H Z M J U G S C P C D S T Q L Z H D L N X R
P V X J A G U U D I B Y E V M Q M X O S U K K S
Y E L I J S C T L O D O Z B P P U H Q C X S I S
U I N I D C L J I V V M Z T E A M W O R K K J E
R L O E E N W U V K L U F G N I N A E M Z V I L
A E I S W D E M P A T H Y F X V N O I S S A P E
D B S K C N L X R E B D C W J M C V L B R I L C
Z Z S B P A B B V C Y A O D R O O R D H A K P I
B D A V Q I G I A L Z C P R L L E U H E J B B R
S H P W G C T F I D O A I L H H A E R B O W Z P
H A M Y E I L M N G R L A J T R A U W N I V F W
P X O I S C A U T T O B V E E R Z X Q Z Q J M Q
N V C O C F F J N U O O G S T S U U K E S Q Z F
C O P B Y E V E I R S O P S S E N D N I K K N A
N A F L T C R P A C T E I N Y F L F Z B F K S I
D X P A N S E T A F C A L J B T U F K C Y A E J
U W G F W J E V E T E G T V O F H P Z P A F I H

passion	appreciate	believe	caring	collaborate
compassion	empathy	engagement	equal	family
gift	giving	heard	heart	humanity
kindness	meaningful	partners	positive	priceless
respect	success	teamwork	thanks	together
voice				