

# WHAT IS DIRECT SERVICE?

This is a guide to determining what constitutes direct service in the areas of human needs, education, public safety, homeland security, and the environment. It is, by no means, a complete list of appropriate projects. For more information, please contact Volunteer Maryland at [volmd@volunteermaryland.org](mailto:volmd@volunteermaryland.org).

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## **HUMAN NEEDS:**

*This is the most diverse area, addressing the myriad of issues affecting the quality of life for individuals from infancy through old age.*

### **Volunteers –**

- Mentor individuals and families to become self-sufficient
- Teach effective parenting skills
- Provide shelter and assistance to the homeless, or those at-risk of losing housing
- Build or renovate low-income housing
- Weatherize and repair homes
- Provide drug or alcohol abuse treatment
- Help obtain or provide job training
- Counsel on financial, mortgage, or legal issues
- Drive patients to doctor appointments
- Offer preventive health services
- Lead support groups
- Visit home-bound patients
- Do household and garden chores
- Cook, serve, and deliver meals

## **EDUCATION:**

*Programs that help Marylanders learn what they need in order to lead better lives -- from readiness for kindergarten, to excellence on graduation day, to completion of adult literacy programs.*

### **Volunteers –**

- Tutor students in math, reading, and other subjects
- Assist pre-school teachers

- Educate students about career choices
- Organize and supervise after-school activities
- Mentor at-risk youth
- Provide resources to teen parents to enable them to stay in school

## **PUBLIC SAFETY/HOMELAND SECURITY:**

*Programs that prevent crime, reduce violence, aid crime victims, and build the sense of community necessary to create a sense of security.*

### **Volunteers –**

- Organize crime watches
- Establish safe havens for victims of abuse
- Take hotline calls
- Advocate for victims in court and with the police
- Counsel crime victims
- Patrol neighborhoods
- Improve lighting and landscaping for safety
- Provide public education on community and personal safety issues
- Teach conflict resolution skills in elementary and secondary schools

## **ENVIRONMENT:**

*Programs that ensure safe, healthy neighborhoods and maintain our natural environments.*

### **Volunteers –**

- Turn abandoned lots into community gardens
- Organize recycling programs
- Plant trees
- Test water quality and lead levels
- Restore ecosystems
- Educate the public on environmental issues
- Maintain park trails