Research and Bibliography

Did you know there are Four personal benefits you gain out of volunteering.

**1. Growth** By volunteering with an ongoing program, volunteers see growth and change. Whether working with children who are learning to read or adults who are developing trust with their peers, volunteers can actually watch growth among their clients over time. This reinforces the volunteer's own sense of worthiness and vitality in the program.

**2. Enrichment** There's nothing more fulfilling than realizing how much of an impact a volunteer can make.

Volunteers work together to build a children's playground or low-cost housing for needy families can later visit these sites and see how the project has enriched the neighborhood. **Just a few hours of helping can turn into a lifetime of opportunity,** which is one of the greatest benefits of volunteering.

**3. Learning** Volunteer opportunities often allow people to try new activities or learn new skills. For example, when an accountant volunteers to help cook a holiday dinner at a homeless shelter, he walks away with not only a few cooking tips, but also knowledge of how to keep food at a safe temperature and how to serve large groups.

**4. Friendships** When like-minded people get together, friendships are formed. After working on a volunteer project for a few weeks, it's not uncommon for volunteers to exchange phone numbers or social media information. By giving just a few hours a week, lifetime friendships may be established. Not Only that A homeless shelter supporter can perform a variety of different jobs, from serving food to cleaning or handling paperwork. Many volunteers also teach skills such as job skills, parenting skills or other life skills to people who find themselves homeless.Volunteering as a homeless shelter supporter requires only a willingness to help. In some cases, that means all you need to do is teach the person how to take care of himself, and listen.The ability to listen well and have empathy for the person to whom you are listening are essential skills for anyone who wishes to volunteer in a homeless shelter.

Virginia Sellner is a volunteer and the director of a homeless organization. She says the work she does gives her a "sense of doing something worthwhile. I've been doing it since 1993 and I don't want to be paid -- money clouds the issue." The benefits to the shelter are many. Volunteers help save money that can be put to better use and people who need compassionate human contact receive that.

I know for the Road home they had Over 10,000 volunteers share their time and talents with The Road Home each year.