

Stories of Shared Ministry
Volunteerism by Jeffrey Kruttsch
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This past week, our editor Kathryn Dean, said to me “it’s your turn”. I said “what? No I don’t have a story to tell” and she graciously said, “Yes you do, you volunteer a lot, tell your story”. So I thought about it and here we go. Volunteering is something we all do. Many of us don’t give the idea of volunteering a second thought, we just do it because we are asked to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

For me, much of my time spent volunteering was in my career field as a Retirement Community Administrator. I served on leadership committees of my professional advocacy agencies, was a member of its speaker’s bureau, and was chairman of my local region, always with the purpose to support elder healthcare and affordable housing for seniors. As a Nursing Home Administrator, I served as a volunteer and board member of the local Hospice agency and gave of my time in support of the local Alzheimer’s Association and Cancer Agency. I didn’t give of my time for any other reason than to help those in need. I didn’t give the idea of being involved a second thought, I just did it because I was asked.

As a young parent, I served as we all do, as a sports coach for my son and daughter, at their baseball, basketball, and swim teams and danced ballet with my other daughter. At my church I served as an usher, reader, and on the Vestry as Jr. Warden, and Building and Finance committee chair. I didn’t give the idea of being involved a second thought, I just did it because I was asked.

Today being retired, I am busier than ever before. Without a job to go to and kids to raise, much of my time is now focused on Volunteering. My passions for those agencies that I served in my profession remain, with my being a Board member of Friendship Center, a Long Term Care Ombudsman, a Cottage Hospital volunteer and a church liaison to Sarah House. With Trinity, I have been a Vestry member co-chairing Hospitality with my wife, Susan, a Jr. Warden, chair of the Building Committee, served on the fund raising committee, and I am currently a member of the Usher team and co-chair of the Justice and Outreach Committee. And for fun, I volunteer at the Santa Barbara Bowl during the music season. I don’t give the idea of being involved a second thought, I just do it because I have been asked.

Volunteering is a part of all of our lives. Whether it is for our kids, or our profession or our church, we all are involved and we just do it because we are asked. Volunteering is the key that opens the door for our time, talents and riches to be utilized. Volunteering helps one be a part of the community, it strengthens one’s psyche and socialization skills, and it connects us with social and professional networks that are our passions. Volunteering allows us to provide for those in need and it is very fulfilling to be of service to others. It is the way we “give back to our community” and “pay it forward” for future generations. Volunteering is good for one’s Karma.

So the next time someone in your circle of life asks you to be a part of something as a volunteer, don’t give it a second thought, **JUST DO IT** and be a part of something bigger than yourself.

VOLUNTEER!!!

Thank you,

Jeffrey