

# Making Our Community a Better Place

## Objective

Students will understand that a volunteer is a person who helps others or provides a service without expecting anything in return. Students will understand that they can make the community a better place by volunteering and helping others.

## Learning target

I can make the community a better place by volunteering.

## Materials:

Picture books available on YouTube on the topic of volunteerism and helping others:

- The Can Man. By Laura E. Williams  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12H6qNcR2bU>
- Last Stop on Market Street. By Matt de la Peña.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ku42RkHHLpw>
- The Mitten Tree. By Candace Christiansen  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQVC9-BCNwA>
- Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen. By DyAnne Disalvo-Ryan  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITk55VqWGuY>
- City Green. By DyAnne Disalvo-Ryan  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wny3wrhC9mk&t=16s>
- Copies of comprehension questions for each student.
- Websites for volunteer opportunities in Marion, Ohio.

## Vocabulary

Volunteer, non-profit

## Procedures

1. Teacher may want to read aloud or project one or more of the picture books listed above. Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen is a particularly good choice.
2. Through discussion define **volunteer**
  - as person who performs a service willingly and without being paid.
  - On chart paper, chart volunteer and its definition.

**Standard-SS.3. G.10-** Individuals make the community a better place by taking action to solve problems in a way that promotes the common good.

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3. In small groups or partnerships, ask students to brainstorm a list of places that a person could **volunteer**.
4. Ask students to share their ideas and add students' ideas to the “**Volunteer**” chart.
5. Discuss with students that there are many places and ways to **volunteer** including businesses (restaurants, coffee shops, or anywhere), **non-profit** organizations (a food bank, church, or school), and family (shoveling the walk for your grandmother). Add any new ideas to the “**Volunteer**” chart.
6. Using the websites below, share with students a list of organizations where they might **volunteer** in Marion, Ohio. Add any new ideas to the “**Volunteer**” chart.

## **Volunteer opportunities and their websites for Marion, Ohio:**

- <https://www.marionstar.com/story/news/local/2017/11/21/do-good-list-how-help-others-marion-county/866081001/>
- <https://www.ohiohealth.com/volunteer/marion-general-volunteer/>
- <https://www.ohiohealth.com/volunteer/marion-general-volunteer/>
- <http://www.marioncouncilonaging.org/volunteer-educational-resources/>
- <https://mahspets.org/volunteer/>
- <http://unitedwaymarion.galaxydigital.com/>

## **Assessment:**

Teacher observation during interactive read alouds. Students' responses to the comprehension questions.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What is a volunteer?

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2. List three ways that you might volunteer in your community?

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3. How can volunteers help to make the community a better place?

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4. After learning of different ways to help make the community a better place, where would you choose to volunteer and what would you like to do?

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