

Rotary's Four Way Test

Have you ever received more than you have given? That's how you always feel after volunteering. Volunteering is a topic that is common across the world. In various instances, when you are volunteering with your church or just helping around your community, it is a positive impact to all the people involved. As a volunteer, you give your time to make an effort to offer a contribution back to a community. Volunteers can see the difference they make during their volunteer hours and know the impact a few individuals can create. Volunteering is a great way to imprint the world, and to see the change for the good immediately. The first part of the Four-Way Test is the question, is it truth? Is volunteerism truth? I believe volunteerism is definitely the truth. It is showing people the truth by presenting that helping a person is good and showing true honesty towards others. There is truth to be seen when I am working to rebuild someone's home, or plant a garden because someone needs the food. There is truth to be seen in experiencing another person's living conditions and the resources that exist at their reach. Also, it shows people the truth that there is good in the world.

The next step of the Four-Way Test is the question, is it fair to all concerned? Volunteerism is fair to all concerned. I know this because I volunteer with my church every summer. I know the great feeling you get after you achieve something for a community. Then when you see their excited faces you know all the tireless hours were all worth it. The person volunteering is working hard to do something good for another human being. Not because they have to, but because they want to. The community is benefited but so is the volunteer. There has been a profound effect on myself through volunteer experiences, such as through the Appalachian Service Project and helping my elderly neighbors. I have experienced the

community's gratitude. So, in the end, everyone is happy and it is fair to everyone concerned in the project because everyone is being benefited in one way or another.

The third part of the Four-Way Test is, will it build good will and better friendships? I think volunteering definitely does just that. As you work with someone on a project or talk to the person you are helping, you build friendships. Some friendships may last forever. Also, as you do something kind for another person it can't be helped but to build good will. Teamwork is an essential component to my volunteer experiences. When teamwork exists, strong relationships are also built. It is so hard not to be happy and to have a good time while making someone's or some people's lives better. Across our country some national programs like National Night Out are run by volunteers. They need volunteers to participate based off of good will and this encourages others to build their good will. I know personally the years I have volunteered for National Night Out, I left the experience feeling more connected to my community. I also found out that volunteer fire companies are merging together because they are scrambling to find more volunteer fire fighters. Positive discussions at township meetings can help generate more volunteerism in their communities.

The fourth and final part of the Four-Way Test is, will it be beneficial to all involved? Volunteering benefits everyone concerned in so many different ways. First of all, the community may get a new pool or community center. While that project may be the main goal of the volunteers, the volunteers also achieve so much more. They may create a solid bond that will be created to last indefinitely and they can meet new people, whom can offer them different perspectives and opinions on building strong relationships. Secondly, on a college or job resume volunteering is a great aspect to share because it represents the concept that you are willing to share your time and talents to a greater cause than just yourself. Lastly, volunteering can provide

me with insight on what type of job I would want to pursue as a career. So volunteerism is beneficial to everyone concerned, whether you are volunteering or being helped.

The Rotary Club's Four Way Test makes it easy to decide that volunteerism answers yes to all four questions. Volunteering is the truth, it is fair to all concerned, it helps build good will through friendships, and it is beneficial to all involved. I am glad to be part of such a great thing such as volunteerism. I hope as time passes that more people continue to volunteer to help this great cause. Although volunteering is common enough, many times it is the same individuals continuing to volunteer. If you aren't volunteering somewhere I encourage you to start today and I can guarantee you, not only will the world be a better place, you will finish the experience feeling like you are a stronger and better individual. More communities can be reached, if the overall number of citizens that volunteer is expanded. I can feel honest saying that volunteering is the truth, it is fair, goodwill is fostered and it is beneficial to all.