Volunteering: Basic information for Youth

*We must become the change we wish to see in the world.* – *Mahatma Ghandi*

Getting Started:

- **Passion** – Find a cause/social issue that is important to you. Seek to understand how volunteers are already utilized by this cause/social issue/organization.
- **Consider your strengths/personality** – planning, organizing, technology, teaching or listening to others.
- **Calendar** – Identify how many hours you are able to dedicate to volunteering
- **Gather information necessary for volunteer documentation** if needed for college applications or for a course.
- **Transportation** – Coordinate transportation with others or locate a bus route close to your home/school.

Points to Ponder:

- **Smaller committees** often form to support a greater volunteer effort – one can gain experience in marketing, planning or project management.
- **Nonprofits may have questions too. Agencies might want to interview or meet new volunteers.** Training or background checks may be necessary before beginning actual volunteer work.
- **Consider volunteer opportunities in activities you are already involved with:**
  - **Church** – welcoming newcomers, making coffee
  - **Sports** – Selling food at the concession stand/organizing equipment
  - **School** – Help in the office, organize events (dances, rallies, etc.)
- **Think about your comfort level/compatibility with the opportunity**