

VOLUNTEER SERVICES IMPACT REPORT 2020



During this challenging year, volunteers stepped forward and asked, "How can we help?"

Volunteers sewed face masks for public safety employees and vulnerable residents. They adopted parks and gardens to keep Plymouth looking beautiful. They wrote letters and sent cards to seniors and others who were feeling lonely and isolated.

Through helping others, they helped themselves and made an impact on the lives of the people in our community.



1,600 VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY.



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<p>A Great Year Despite the Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,584 volunteers contributed 16,877 hours of service • Volunteers participated in multiple departments and/or programs
<p>Value to the City</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer hours are valued at \$459,054 of contribution in kind • The number of hours contributed equals 8.11 full-time equivalent employees
<p>By the Numbers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 226 individuals contacted the Volunteer Services office • 234 applications were received. • 42 potential candidates were interviewed • 98 staff requests for volunteer assistance were received
<p>Who are our Volunteers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88% are Plymouth residents, but volunteers reside in 28 different cities and three states • 16% are teens, 69% adults and 17% seniors • 86 community and family groups participated
<p>New Volunteer Tasks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traveled more than 1,326 miles across 1,716 acres to inventory 10,080 park assets • Provided data entry that assisted the Police Department in tracking the number of car crashes in the city and helped make the Minnesota State Fire Code more accessible to firefighters • Matched invoices to checks for the Finance Division • Taped 20,000 pieces of candy to 20,000 skewers and helped deliver them to people's homes as part of the Tricked and Treated Halloween program • Translated Parks and Recreation documents into Hindi, Mandarin and Russian • Created nearly 1,400 caring letters and cards for isolated senior residents • Contributed over 1,300 letters of thanks to Plymouth veterans • Teens and adult volunteers offered one-on-one tech support sessions to seniors • Inventoried over 2,000 items in the Plymouth Historical Society collections • Summer teen volunteers made entertaining educational videos for children
<p>Special Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 299 volunteers provided front-line customer service during 70 city-sponsored events • 31,881 participants impacted by volunteer interactions
<p>Environmental and Outdoor Projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69 volunteers planted over 4,000 woodland plants at Hardenbergh and Maple Creek Parks • 18 volunteers planted 2,106 native prairie plants at the Vicksburg Crossing senior facility • 52 volunteers assisted with outdoor maintenance and trail cleanup projects • 198 volunteers removed buckthorn from eight city parks, trails and green spaces • 18 volunteers pulled invasive garlic mustard from seven city parks, trails and green spaces • A volunteer helped create a brief educational video to identify invasive garlic mustard • 1,382 trees and shrubs were distributed during the Tree & Shrub Sale • Two volunteers painted buildings at Oakwood and Greenwood playfields • 101,200 dog waste bags were dispensed in 29 designated park locations • Boy Scouts painted the pedestrian tunnel underneath County Road 9 • An Eagle Scout project created helmet boxes for Little League players at Zachary Playfields • 44 parks, 27 gardens, 18.5 miles of trails and 20 miles of streets were adopted • 65 storm drains and 68 fire hydrants were adopted
<p>They Make a Difference!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 athletic coaches and ski chaperones – 1,735 youth were served • Chaplain Corps members responded six times to residents in crisis • 120 volunteers assembled 31 projects including 1,000 File of Life packets • 25 volunteers responded to 440 letters to Santa • 10 volunteers assisted 18,324 Plymouth Farmers Market patrons • 60,000 face masks distributed to more than 150 local businesses • Nearly 30 volunteers sewed over 1,000 face masks for city staff and vulnerable residents • More than 1,300 Plymouth Post letters and cards were created and sent to isolated seniors
<p>What Volunteers Say:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I feel so needed and lucky to have met some wonderful friends while volunteering." • "It pays to be a volunteer for all the great people you get to know." • "Thank you for another opportunity to help my community." • "Volunteering is a great way to teach my 5-year-old about giving back to society." • "I sometimes find myself wondering how I can help others, especially when I'm afraid to go anywhere with the COVID thing out there. It's nice to know I can still help out from home." • "Volunteering for Plymouth has been such an inspiring journey for us. When we see the enthusiasm of all the senior volunteers, we realize age is just a number!"
<p>What Staff Say:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "We have had incredible volunteers bring their experience to benefit the Fire Department. Their engagement during the project was incredible and allowed us to complete a relatively laborious process in very short order. Our volunteers are the best!" • "Finance volunteers are fun, friendly and happy to help. They save staff time and enhance internal controls by coming with a fresh perspective to match checks to invoices and prepare the checks for mailing. Thank you for all that you do!"