



Passion into Action: Going Deeper

You started your service journey by identifying a community issue that you are passionate about. Whether you plug into a service opportunity with an agency or create your own project, don't lose sight of your passion issue. So how do you communicate the value of this service event by connecting it with the bigger picture?

Reflect to see how your service – and the service of other volunteers working with you – has benefited the community. Through reflection, you can think about your commitment, the work you did, how it affected you, the impact it made on the community, and future actions you can take to continue to change your world.

If you are leading others in service, you can help volunteers reflect on their service in a variety of ways. Volunteers can have a group discussion, write and blog about their experience, create an online photo-journal of the activity, or respond to quotes about service. Think about creative ways to keep the reflection going even after the service activity. (See below for reflection questions related to specific passion issues.)

To make it meaningful, make it personal!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

You may choose to focus your reflection activities on your passion issue. Here are some ideas for questions related to some of today's biggest issues:

HIV/AIDS

- How can we as individuals, as well as our community, state and country, be more effective in addressing the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS?
- What is the one thing that you would want to know about HIV and AIDS from people who are living with the virus? How would you use that information?

Animals

- Had you ever considered homeless animals before your service today?
- Were you surprised by the number of homeless animals you saw?
- What do you think that we can do to reduce the number of homeless animals?

Arts & Sciences

- Most states require two years of science to graduate from high school. Some states require three to four years. What is the impact of that choice?
- According to the College Entrance Examination Board, students of the arts continue to out-perform the non-arts peers on the SAT. With this in mind, what is the best way to support arts education?

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Children & Teens

- Many students read under grade level. Why is this an important indicator for our community's future?
- What is your perception of how childhood has changed since you were a child? Is it better or worse?

Conservation

- How do you define recycling?
- Do you recycle in your home? Does your apartment complex, job or school recycle? Should you initiate a recycling program?

Disability Services

- What are the everyday obstacles people face with disabilities? What can you do to help alleviate those obstacles?
- A disability is a functional limitation that interferes with a person's ability to walk, hear, talk, or learn.
If you lived with one of those disabilities how would your morning routine differ?

Family & Women's Services

- Every nine seconds a woman is battered in the United States; Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15-44, each year an estimated 3.3 million children witness their mothers or female caretakers being abused every year.
- How did your work today help address some of these issues?

Homelessness & Meal Service

- The average age of a homeless person in the United States is nine years old. How does this impact our town?
- If you could ask one question of a homeless/hungry person, what would you ask? How would you use that information to contribute to the solution?

Housing Revitalization

- What are the possible solutions for those who cannot afford safe quality housing?

Literacy/Refugees & Immigrants

- When you think of "literacy" what is your immediate opinion? Did this project have an impression on your opinion?
- Have you ever been in an environment where English was not the primary language? What challenges did you face? If not, imagine what it would be like to live in a place where you could not read signs or newspapers.

Senior Care

- Ask a few volunteers to offer a personal story about an elder who has had a significant impact on their life. This could be someone they once met who shared a bit of wisdom, a close friend, a relative or a role model. What significant impact did this senior person make in your life?
- What is the difference between a nursing home and an assisted living facility? Do you have a different perspective now of what it is like to live in one of these facilities?

Technology

- How does technology enhance education? What ways can we use technology as an educational tool?