

Volunteering Abroad: How Can You Make a Difference?

When considering embarking on a volunteer trip abroad, one of the most common questions among potential volunteers is: “Can I really make a difference?” Although it may seem unlikely that one single person has the power to effect measurable change, it’s the sum of all those small efforts that really makes the impact. Whether you’re volunteering abroad for two weeks, two months, or two years, your contributions will help sustain the ongoing development and support of a country or community in need.

That said, it isn’t enough just to show up. During your volunteer job, there are plenty of ways you can act thoughtfully and earnestly to help make a profound benefit on the local community:

Keep up a positive attitude and outlook. Optimism is contagious. Represent your country and your intentions by remaining upbeat and encouraging, no matter how dire the surroundings. Sometimes a simple smile can make a big difference in the attitudes of those around you.

Respect cultural differences. Don’t overwhelm those you’re trying to help by forcing your own beliefs or customs on them. By deferring to the philosophy and traditions of the locals, international volunteers will be much more likely to become ingrained in the everyday activities and will ultimately make a larger impact.

Keep the locals involved. Although it can seem more efficient to kick off a project alone or with the help of your fellow volunteers, it’s crucial to let the citizens participate in the efforts. By working to improve their own living conditions, they’ll feel more invested in their community and will be more likely to continue their own campaign of change after your volunteer services have ended.

Educate yourself. By thoroughly researching the location in which you’ll be volunteering and ideally learning about the local culture and language, you’ll be in a much better position to effectively communicate with the citizens and make a bigger impression.

Although it may seem like your volunteer work is trivial in the face of dire need, every individual has the power to make a change. Whether you’re teaching English, reading to orphans, or helping to build homes for underprivileged families, volunteering with knowledge, respect, and earnestness will help ensure that you do indeed make a difference.

COPYWRITING SAMPLE
Blog Article - Travel

Author: Melissa Rudy
www.wordsbymelissa.com
