

VOLUNTEERING TOGETHER

*Making a difference to
people and communities.*



International
Association for
Volunteer
Effort

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS EDITION

Paving the way for a more sustainable future

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VOLUNTEER

FOREWORD

We are very pleased that the lead article for this issue on Youth and Volunteering has come to us from Agnetta Nyalita in Kenya. Agnetta tells the story of her involvement as a volunteer and in IAVE and their cumulative impact in her life. She served first as a Youth Representative to IAVE's international board of directors and currently as Africa's Regional Representative to the board, elected by our members throughout Africa. For some 11 years, Agnetta has been an immense contributor to IAVE at both the regional and global level. It has been a singular privilege to work with her and to watch her development as a innovative and highly effective leader for volunteering.

KENN ALLEN

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IAVE



THE TRANSFORMATIVE NATURE OF VOLUNTEERING: MY 10 YEAR JOURNEY WITH IAVE

By Agnetta Nyalita,
Africa Regional Representative, AVE Board of Directors

MY VOLUNTEER JOURNEY

I started undertaking volunteer initiatives at a young age, starting at elementary school, by donating learning resources to needy students. I continued to volunteer while pursuing my education. While in university, I mobilized youth volunteers to engage in community development, mobilize resources for economic empowerment, plant trees and provide mentorships to youth. While undertaking development work, a program manager introduced me to IAVE and I officially joined in 2008.

When the need for learning resources rapidly grew, to a point we could not sustain, we established a community library that now serves close to ten schools in rural areas of Kenya. In 2013, the call for a volunteer in development management and policy development came through and I was successfully taken onboard to aid in policymaking and program development in Southern Africa.

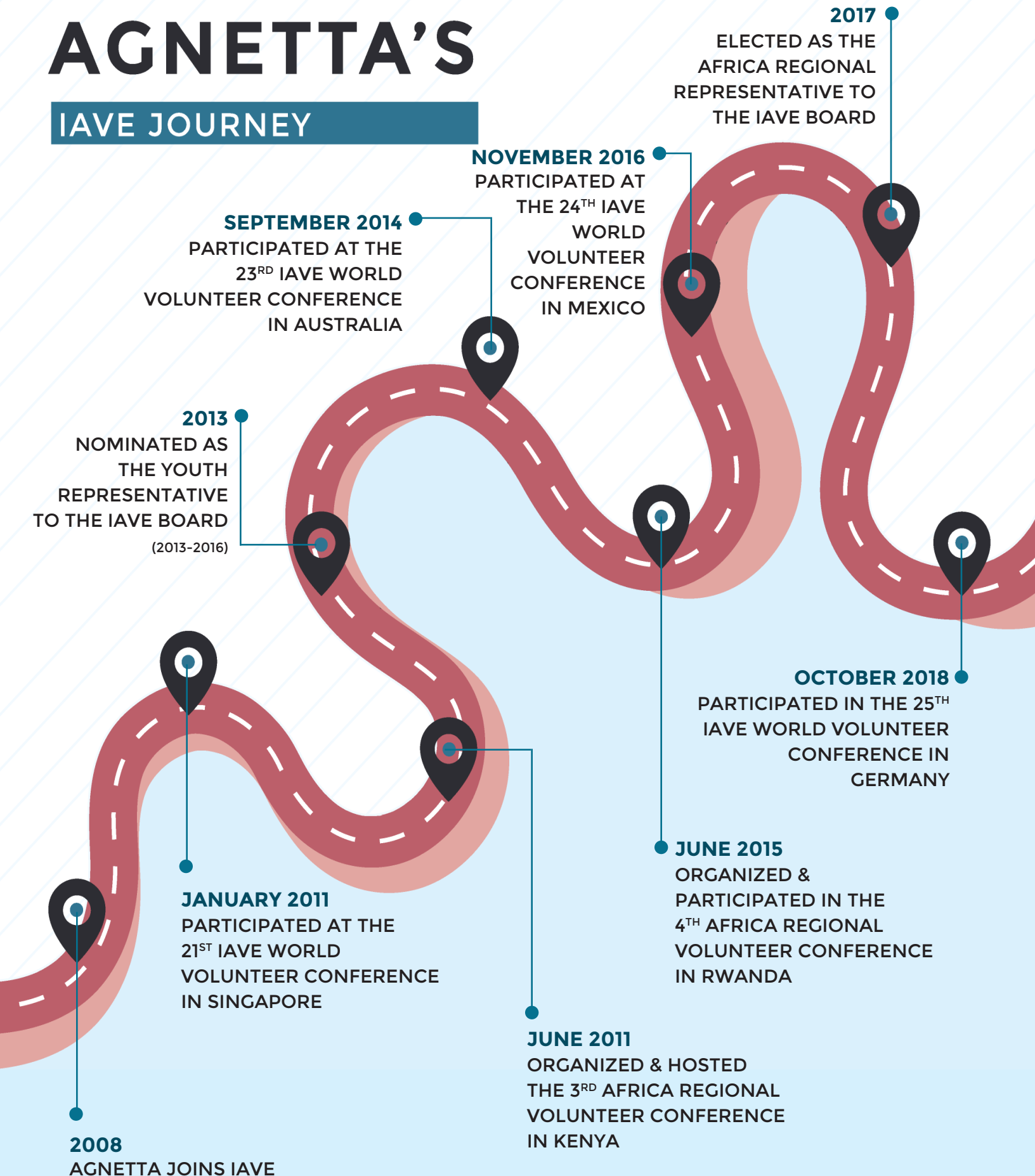
VOLUNTEERING IN MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Over the years, I have immensely benefited from my experience as a volunteer. Key among these include:

- Acquiring positions in NGOs, corporations and government agencies with my diverse portfolio of volunteer experiences.
- Serving as a member of various boards and technical teams at local, national and international levels.
- Invitations as a speaker at various forums that focus on issues in volunteerism and development
- Opportunity to aid in the development of national and regional policies and laws

AGNETTA'S

IAVE JOURNEY



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VOLUNTEERING AND MY PERSONAL LIFE

Volunteering and engagement with different volunteer stakeholders has helped enhance my personal life in various ways:

- Networks (Networks = Networth) – Over the 10 years, I have broadened my network, which have helped in my personal growth and has enhanced my values.
- Building skills and confidence – Through volunteering, I have developed diplomacy skills, interpersonal skills, conflict-management, as well as governance skills. Moreover, interacting with experts in the volunteering sector has also helped my self-confidence.
- Travel and broadened knowledge – Volunteering has provided me opportunities to travel around the world. These travels have helped broaden my knowledge of other cultures and their various developmental issues.
- Appreciation of people, things and places – I have met people of all backgrounds while interacting with IAVE's large network. Through this, I have learned to be more accepting and open-minded about different cultures and places. Through my interactions with various stakeholders across the world, I have also dispelled their misconceptions about youth and the African culture. This has helped their perception of youth volunteers, allowing them to better appreciate the role youth play in shaping the future of volunteering.



SANID

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

By the Emirates Foundation,
Host Organization for the
26th IAVE World Volunteer
Conference, Abu Dhabi,
United Arab Emirates





ABOUT SANID

SANID is the National Emergency Response Volunteer Program of the United Arab Emirates. A program of the Emirates Foundation, SANID unites volunteers throughout the UAE focused on social and civic service. It prepares them to cope with national and international emergencies, thus demonstrating the country's readiness to manage any crisis.

SANID, the Arabic word for help or support, prepares its volunteers for a range of national and natural adversities through a comprehensive program that spurs volunteers' physical and mental preparedness in the unfortunate event of a disaster.

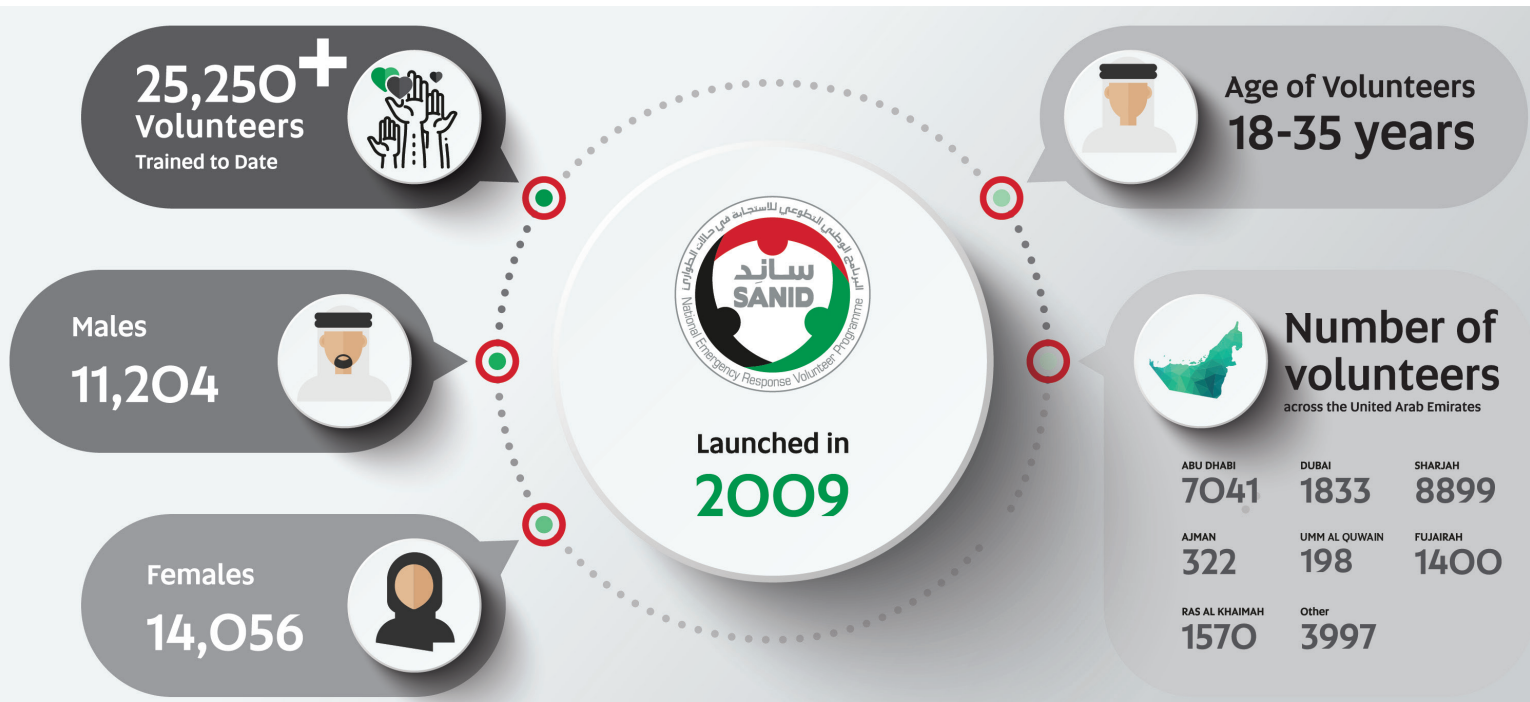
PROGRAM IMPACT

Since its establishment in 2009, SANID has successfully trained over 25,000 volunteers on a variety of safety and emergency procedures while incorporating applicable exercises, training routines, as well as mentally preparing the volunteers over how to deal with various situations.

Sanid contributes to the community's resilience towards disasters, crises and emergencies by building a cadre of emergency response

volunteers through:

- Training citizens on basic safety and emergency preparedness
- Deploying certified emergency response volunteers where needed
- Conducting safety awareness campaigns
- Responding to large-scale international crises and disasters
- Supporting existing emergency response organizations



Sanid is delivered through different levels of training:

- Delivered in Arabic, English and Urdu.
- Focus on practical exercises, simulations, in addition to advanced trainings responding to complex emergency situations.
- Include emergency preparedness, leadership skills, medical operations, safety in fire suppression, disaster psychology, search and rescue operations, sorting and classification, first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), advanced first aid, event management, advanced leadership and team building.
- The program draws inspiration from the US Citizen Corps as well as the Swedish National Defense League.

CHILD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

In October 2015, SANID launched the Child Safety Campaign, which aims to decrease the alarming rate of unintentional child injuries that occur on the road, at home, and at school. The Campaign is executed with the help of SANID volunteers, who lead the program.

The program also targets family members, guardians, organization government employees, and the community. The Child Safety Campaign specifies the roles for each of the target segments in helping to create a safe environment around children and preserving it using proactive and reactive measures.

“SANID helped me have the ability to save lives, manage accidents, and have the courage to deal with serious situations.”

Fatima Al Kaab
SANID Volunteer



VOLUNTEER IMPACT STORY

Here are some volunteers who were able to do extraordinary things thanks to the training they received from the SANID program:



Bilal Yahya Nizam Judeh

Applied the skills he learned in the SANID program to place a victim in the correct first aid position after the victim lost consciousness.



Farida Ali Al Ali

Calmly handled and extinguished a fire that broke out in her home while guiding her family to safety.



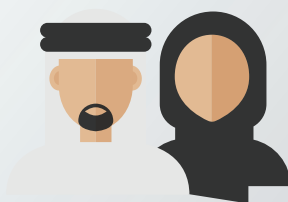
Sharifa Mohamed Al Bloushi

Saved the lives of four men who underwent a severe car accident through the implementation of life saving skills acquired from her SANID training sessions.





**2,440 +
Children
Trained**



**2,945+
Adults
Trained**



TRAINING
conducted across the
United Arab Emirates

TESTIMONIES FROM VOLUNTEERS

Fatima Al Kaab: Fatima (33) is a SANID volunteer based in Dubai. She has been a SANID volunteer since 2011 and describes her experience at SANID as extremely beneficial as it taught her vital practical and situational skills. "Dealing with serious situations requires a composed mentality, and that particular aspect is a major benefactor of SANID" Fatima says. "SANID helped me have the ability to save lives, manage accidents, and have the courage to deal with serious situations". She recommends more people to participate in SANID as she sees herself as part of the community, which means that she feels responsible to help those in need.

Saqer Abo Mostafa: Saqer (21) is a SANID volunteer based in Ras Al Khaimah. He has been a SANID volunteer since 2016 and states that SANID has had a very constructive effect on him as it has helped him become more social and taught him to break the boundaries of fear. Saqer says his experience also trained him how to apply correct first aid procedure as well as acting accordingly in certain situations. He also recommended "You never know when an accident may occur, SANID prepares you for various scenarios where the least you could do is save someone in need in your own household".

Ahmed Sajwani: Ahmed (21) is a SANID volunteer based in Sharjah. He joined SANID

just over 6 months ago. Ahmed states that SANID helped make him a leader. In addition, Sharjah police honored him for his service with SANID. He also suggests "If you want to help your family in the unfortunate case of an accident, SANID ensures you are always prepared for any situation that may arise". He thoroughly commended the program as it taught him various skills, including fire evacuation, first aid, dealing with accidents on the road, and many other unexpected accidents.

WORDS FROM THE CEO

Commenting on the Sanid Program, Maytha Al Habsi, CEO of Emirates Foundation said:

"SANID emergency volunteer response program aims to nurture Emirati youth national pride and civic responsibility while empowering them with the knowledge, skills and leadership to manage a crisis and the preparedness to support the country's crisis readiness.

"Today, we are proud to say that the vision set forth by SANID has reached its fruition as we witness the huge interest and influx from Youth to join and become volunteers of SANID and to learn and acquire skills and know-how in preventative and safety measures to safeguard our communities and nation." Al Habsi concluded.



LET'S EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION

By Charlotte Hill, Chief Executive,
Step Up to Serve, United Kingdom



Young people in the UK are facing a deeply divided society. The labour market is changing rapidly and opportunities for social mobility are shrinking. Brexit is creating significant uncertainties, and we will experience catastrophic climate change unless we take urgent action.

82% of young people want to make the world a better place.

National Youth Social Action Survey

Despite these challenges, young people want to make a difference. They are taking part in meaningful social action, whether that's volunteering, fundraising for a charity, acting as a coach or mentor, or campaigning.

For proof, you only have to look at the Youth Strike 4 Climate that mobilised tens of thousands of school-age children across the UK this year.

CELEBRATING YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION IN ALL ITS FORMS

The #iwill campaign was set up in 2013 to celebrate and grow all the different ways that young people are working to make the world a better place. We want youth social action to be the norm for 10-20 year olds, so that making a positive difference to society and the environment is a natural part of growing up.

We now have more than 250 young #iwill Ambassadors and over 1,000 partners from business, education, healthcare and the voluntary sectors who have pledged to support youth social action.

A LONG WAY TO GO

Young people have the power, energy, resourcefulness, passion and commitment to tackle many of the challenges that society is facing in the 21st century.

However, participation in meaningful social action remains stubbornly fixed, and too many young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are still excluded.

IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE

So what needs to happen to get more young people involved so both they and society can benefit?

First, we need to open up access so more young people from lower income backgrounds can participate in social action.

Second, we need to listen to young people. They often have the solutions to the problems we face, but we will never hear them if we're stuck on 'transmit' rather than 'receive'.

Third, we must give young people a seat at the table when we make decisions that affect them. Invite them onto boards as trustees, create young advisor groups, put young people on grant-making panels.

With a divided country and significant challenges ahead of us this century, more than ever we need a sense of urgency to radically shift the role of young people in society. Join the #iwill movement. Pledge to the campaign. But most of all, give power to young people to take action.



CASE STUDY #1

YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION AT THE HEART OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS SCHOOLS

A schools project in Cumbria is using the transformative power of youth social action to increase pupils' employability skills, wellbeing, self-esteem and sense of purpose.

Spearheaded by Victoria Academy primary school, an #iwill partner, nearly 100 schools are now involved. In one successful initiative, the 'Happy and Healthy Lifestyles' project, Year 5 children researched innovative ways to improve the diets of children and their families.

CASE STUDY #2

10-16 YEAR OLDS VOLUNTEER IN BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALS

As part of its #iwill pledge, Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospitals have set up a new volunteering scheme for 10-16 year olds to increase youth social action opportunities.

Children from schools and youth groups volunteer together on projects where they learn about healthcare, carry out research, educate peers and fundraise. In one case, they learned about organ donation then gave a presentation on the subject to classmates.

A TALE OF TWO VOLUNTEERS: LESSONS & PRINCIPLES FOR ENGAGING YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

By Johann Go, Programme Advisor - Strategy, Volunteering New Zealand

“The youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity.”

Benjamin Israeli

One of the perennial challenges facing many organisations is the recruitment and retention of young volunteers. Young volunteers often bring unique perspectives to an organisation, help to promote the diversity of the workforce, aid in healthy succession planning, and contribute skills and experiences gained from academic studies and life experiences.

In a world where many have negative assumptions about young people, this valuable source of volunteering effort is often left untapped. This article will share brief stories of two young volunteers and elucidate some lessons and insights from their experiences. Some guiding principles of effectively engaging young volunteers will then be proposed, to help organisations in their engagement with young volunteers.

ALBERT

Albert (19) was a youth leader in a large, nationwide charity with a highly organised, hierarchical, and rigid structure. The average age of volunteers was upwards of 50, with a very white majority. He was a full-time university student in Commerce, with aspirations of being an accountant. Albert's primary task in the organisation was supervising young children in the youth section once a week on Monday evenings for three hours, running activities and workshops prescribed by a national curriculum. The activities were run by using an electronic checklist provided to each leader via a tablet computer, with little deviation from the curriculum allowed. Albert stayed for 5 months in this organisation, before moving on to another organisation.

REBECCA

Rebecca (23) joined a medium-sized charity with a focus on improving the health outcomes of homeless people in the city. The charity was relatively casual, with a collegial leadership structure and an ethno-culturally diverse workforce. Rebecca was a recent graduate, with a background in social work. She wanted a flexible role that could complement her skills, even though she had little vocational experience at the time. The organisation trained her and paired her up with an experienced member. Rebecca started volunteering for this organisation in 2012, signing up for various shifts as and when it suited her schedule. She is still an active volunteer today.

There are many distinctions between Albert and Rebecca's stories. First, Rebecca's volunteering schedule was structured around her availability, while Albert's took place at a prescribed time every week. Different types of volunteering may suit different people, but organisations should be particularly aware of young people's often transient schedules – for example, Albert's Semester 1 timetable may have enabled him to commit on Mondays, but his Semester 2 timetable may not have permitted this.

Second, Albert's ability to influence was limited in latitude compared to Rebecca's. Albert was expected to adhere to a nationally prescribed curriculum that dictated his activities. There was little room for him to incorporate his own interests or experiences. Rebecca, on the other hand, was encouraged to apply her passion and skills from her studies to her volunteering work. The organisation also invested heavily in her, providing her with the training to make the most of her underlying passion.

Third, the volunteering environment in Albert's organisation differed markedly from Rebecca's. Rebecca's organisation was diverse across ages, ethnicity and culture. Albert's was not. Diverse and inclusive organisations create vibrant and welcoming environments that attract young people to commit their time and skills.

Both these organisations do great work, but I believe the organisation Rebecca is involved with is the future of volunteering. They highlight many virtues when it comes to effectively engaging young volunteers. If you are an organisation or leader wanting to give your young volunteers an experience like Rebecca's, a few guiding principles can be followed:

- 1. Understand that the onus is on the organisation, not the young volunteer:**

Young people do not owe organisations an automatic allegiance. Their support should not be taken for granted. Rather, the onus is on organisations to show that they have an environment that can meaningfully include young volunteers in work relevant to their skills, aspirations, and experiences.



2. Focus on the person, not the age:

Organisations should recognise the unique skills and experiences of each individual, rather than merely seeing them as a 'young person'. Organisations may want to personalise the role to fit with the volunteer's needs, skills, and experiences. Opportunities should be provided for progression within the organisation based on merit and commitment. It is also vital to invest in your people, training them and empowering them to make the most of their underlying passions and experiences. Do not discount these passions and experiences just because the volunteer is young.

3. Demonstrate meaningful impact:

Young volunteers are overwhelmingly results-driven. They want to see that their work is having a meaningful impact. The influence of large-scale movements, such as 'Effective Altruism', means volunteers are now conscious of how best to use their limited time and resources to achieve the most good for society. Young volunteers are actively encouraged to volunteer only for organisations that can demonstrate impact across metrics such as wellbeing, civil rights, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

4. Be open, inclusive and willing to change:

Young people are often less likely and less willing to follow traditions unless there is a rationale for it. We care about things being done for a purpose, rather than simply following traditions or tolerating the *status quo*.

Overwhelmingly, young volunteers are concerned about a volunteering workforce that is open, diverse, and inclusive. Volunteering is increasingly seen as an activity that should reflect the population that we serve. An organisation that is diverse and inclusive makes itself a more attractive prospect for all

volunteers.

The entire format of volunteering is also changing. Formal volunteering appears to be on the decline worldwide. Flexible volunteering or project-based volunteering has become the preferred option, which organisations should consider incorporating into their volunteering strategy.

Engaging young volunteers may be simple in theory, but it is arguably harder in practice. The general principles outlined could be applied to many other demographics. Indeed, it could serve as guidelines on how to engage volunteers more generally. The core principle, however, is to recognise that the onus is on organisations to create impactful environments that make young people want to commit their time, energy and skills.

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Johann Go is a Rhodes Scholar and postgraduate student in political philosophy at the University of Oxford. Johann is an award-winning youth volunteer, having received multiple awards for his work from the Governor-General of New Zealand, the Minister of Health, and his local Mayor. He is also a Programme Advisor for Volunteering New Zealand, where he is currently leading the creation of a national strategy to support recent migrant volunteers. He has published frequently in the mainstream media and peer-reviewed academic journals.



HEALING THROUGH MUSIC

**MEET MIKAKO ATSUCHI, FOUNDER &
PRESIDENT OF ACCHI COCCHI, JAPAN**

Even as an undergraduate student at the Musashino Academia Musicae, Mikako Atsuchi dreamed of something more than a future in the music industry. ““I became frustrated at university because everyone was only aiming for an elite level at the top yet, realistically, only 5 percent will ever succeed,” Mikako says. “I always knew I wanted to do something beyond the field of music.”

Upon graduating with a piano major, she moved on to work for a classical music management company for 20 years, followed by working towards a degree in business. On March 11, 2011, no long after beginning her graduate courses, Japan’s coast of Tōhoku was hit with a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami.

“Of course, at first I wondered what I could possibly do to help,” Mikako recalls. “I decided to simply focus on supporting people emotionally, so in August 2011 I brought the things I loved — cake, coffee and music — to the people in the disaster areas.”

With the help of her friend, Mikako organized a café concert, playing the piano and violin for those who were affected by the natural disasters. The experience was incredibly rewarding and allowed her to fulfill her desire to do more for her community. She knew a one-time visit was not enough. As a result, she pledged to build a relationship with the community of Tōhoku.

“The disaster affected me deeply, and made me really think about what I wanted to do with my life,” she says. She recruited more musicians to join her in this volunteer effort to bring comfort through music to those in need. This was the beginning of her nonprofit organization, Acchi Cocchi.

The organization was officially registered as an NPO and Mikako has been working with dozens of volunteer musicians since its inception. Many of the volunteers are students from the Tokyo





University of the Arts, who are expanding their work while also giving back to the community. Acchi Cocchi now has over 50 performers in their roster.

Aside from the benefits this program brings to the community, Mikako also believes that it helps the young volunteer musicians as well, helping them to develop their skills as artists. "I realized that although all of the musicians we were working with are very good at music, some of them aren't very good at socializing. Our aim also became to support young artists in any way we could so that they can contribute to society in the future, helping to make art an everyday part of people's lives."

Nowadays, Acchi Cocchi has expanded its reach to others parts of Japan, to communities also in need of emotional support, providing musical events and arts workshops. "I came up with the idea of doing something like what we do in Tohoku at homes for the elderly in Yokohama — bringing them homemade sweets and art. We've since branched out into many types of activities — we do events for children, for the elderly, as well as international exchange projects."

Most notably, they have collaborated several times with Australia's renowned Polyglot Theatre. They brought the theatre's interactive production titled "Paper Planet" to elementary schools in Minamisanriku. The play brought together children and adults to bring to life an imaginary world. "We made a huge tree out of cardboard and invited the children to create a 'paper planet' out of a wide range of materials," Mikako explains. "The Australian performers played with the children, becoming animals in the forest, and Acchi Cocchi created music to go along with the story."

The international collaboration has brought new perspectives into the lives of those affected by the disaster. Even 8 years after the tragedy, there is still more emotional recovery to be made.





“It’s rewarding to do something you love, so I hope to keep working together with people toward the same goal...”

Mikako Atsuchi
Founder & CEO, Acchi Cocchi

“People in Tohoku have been taught the importance of securing their own safety first, even if it means everyone else around you dies. The paper planet teaches children the importance of figuring things out for themselves — there are no scissors to cut the paper, the children have to use their imaginations to tear, fold or paste the paper in order to create. It’s important for children to know that there’s never just one right response and that adults don’t always have an answer. Basically, creative play allows the children to think for themselves.”

Mikako hopes to bring more international exchanges not only Tohoku but to other communities in need of emotional support. “It’s rewarding to do something you love, so I hope to keep working together with people toward the same goal, promoting international exchange and spreading music and art across an even wider area in Japan.”

VOLUNTEERING AT TECHO

A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE FROM THE GROUND UP

By Mar Botero, Assistant Team Director, TECHO, Chile

In order to understand the impact TECHO's volunteer internship has on young people, the organization conducted a survey of more than 800 youths, from 18 countries where the organisation operates in Latin America. "From personal experience, we know that volunteering is a transformative process and a contribution to citizen development, but we wanted to understand how," explains Laura Sánchez, Director of Teams at TECHO Internacional.

As the survey reveals, changes start from the very first step. 6 out of every 10 people surveyed stated



that prior to volunteering, they did not know of or had not been to marginalized communities.

"This highlights the role that civil society organisations have to provide the population with a deeper knowledge of the realities in their country and understand it firsthand, from their commitment and actions", says Sanchez. According to the Director of TECHO, this is a fundamental aspect for "deconstructing stereotypes rooted in prejudice and ignorance".

Following on from this, **8 out of 10 people responded that they started volunteering to participate in a social project** and almost as many (76%) started to reflect on the political and social reality of the country they live in.

With an average of **13 hours of weekly commitment** to the volunteering, those surveyed stated that **the main aspect of the volunteer activities is to work together with impoverished communities for permanent development.**

For Sanchez, this data is important to dispel the stereotype of apathetic and disinterested young people. "We can see there is a search to find spaces to participate and to commit to the problems and challenges of the country, in long-term joint projects".

The survey also revealed that during the volunteering process, **76% of participants generated new knowledge and 50% were able to use prior knowledge and skills to aid them in their volunteering projects.** Regarding the impact of the experience on important personal decisions, **1 in every 2 participants stated that it even led them to change the course of their professional interests.** "The volunteering journey leads young people to questions that allow them to confront important personal decisions, such as future steps to building a more just society. This is the interesting effect of this journey: how this experience accompanies



formal training and permeates future decision", says Sanchez.

To understand what challenges the participants identified in Latin America development, TECHO asked some of the questions in the Latino-barometer. It identified that **90% of participants indicated that the main challenge was in social policies, social inclusion and poverty.** Moreover, 71% indicated challenges in equal opportunities, and 70% indicated challenges in transportation, energy, water and sanitation infrastructures.

In a region that, according to Latino-barometers studies, is the "most distrustful" in the world, 92% of those who participated in TECHO's survey affirmed that they rely mainly on organizations, foundations and NGOs, 89% in universities and 76% in independent social movements.

"Far from being a means of filling free time,



“In Latin America today, where there are great inequalities and a distrustful attitude, it is necessary to rediscover ourselves as a population of citizenry action and to commit ourselves to coexisting in diversity.”

Laura Sánchez
Team Director, TECHO

volunteering is a commitment to your country, making your citizen participation a tool to support and build just realities”, says Sanchez. “It is an enriching accompaniment to other civic activities, such as voting, because it involves you in the intimate daily lives of our society’s issues and solutions. In Latin America today, where there are great inequalities and a distrustful attitude, it is necessary to rediscover ourselves as a population of citizenry action and to commit ourselves to coexisting in diversity. Which are both representative of the spirit of volunteering” concludes Sanchez.

RESPONDENT PROFILES

With more than a million of people who participated in TECHO’s volunteer activities, they have applied the survey to a sample of more than 851 people who volunteer, or have volunteered with the organisation, in 18 countries in Latin America. The survey was distributed equally amongst men and women. 77% were between the ages of 18 and 26. 37% were full time students while another 37% were both students and working part-time. “This contradicts the idea that volunteering is just for those who have free time”, says Sanchez. The volunteering programs are designed so that participants can volunteer actively in a variety of fields for at least 2 years. 99% of respondents said that they would come back to volunteer again at another point in their life.

ABOUT TECHO

TECHO is an organization in Latin America, which seeks to alleviate poverty for millions of people who live in Latin America’s various settlements. This is achieved through working together with the inhabitants and young volunteers through 19 countries in the region. Its international office is located in Santiago, Chile.



MAKING VOLUNTEERISM WORK

LESSONS FROM LET'S DO IT KENYA

By Christine Sayo, Country Coordinator, Let's Do It Kenya

My name is Christine Sayo. I am the country coordinator for Lets Do It Kenya - an organisation that leverages on volunteers and the power of volunteerism to map waste and conduct cleanups. Our biggest cleanup was on 15th September where we mobilized over 22,000 volunteers including government officials, academia, private sector, civil society actors and individuals to join us for cleanup activities across the country. Majority of our activities are driven by young people, some of whom spend their own resources to map waste, train their peers on how to map waste and even organise cleanup activities in their communities. In this article, I share 3 main tips on what has worked for us in matters engaging youth in volunteer activities:

1 REACH OUT TO YOUTH WHERE THEY ARE

One thing that has consistently worked for Lets Do It Kenya is knowing where and how to reach out to youth volunteers. Recent studies have shown that many young people are always online. We therefore sought to find ways through which we could encourage young people to make their time online a productive one. We therefore developed the world cleanup app that allows users to map garbage using their smartphones by simply taking a photo, geo-tagging it and then uploading it to the app. We have also invested in social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Whatsapp groups through which we reach out to youth. All these online activities supplement offline activities such as face-to-face outreach in schools and places of worship, media interviews as well as use of celebrities to pass on our message.

2 DELEGATE AND TRUST YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DUTIES

At Lets Do It Kenya, we make everyone feel valued, regardless of their age. When young people feel appreciated, they are likely to own the project. The days of young people being spoken to and about are long gone. Young people want to feel trusted and appreciated especially when they're offering their time and expertise for free. If you're going to work with youth it requires that you trust them to lead projects and make decisions. Allow them to experiment and showcase their creativity, give them leadership roles that will help them nurture their confidence. Have a reward scheme and above all show that you trust them to get the job done and you consider them as experts!

3 MAKE IT FUN!

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YOUTH VOLUNTEERING WORLDWIDE

Report from the Global Youth Volunteers Forum

By Wolfgang Krell, Executive Director, Volunteer Center
Augsburg, Host Organization for the 25th IAVE World
Volunteer Conference, Germany



On October 2018, the 25th IAVE World Volunteer Conference was held in Augsburg – the first IAVE World Conference to be held in Germany. More than 700 people from 68 countries worldwide attended the event. The theme for this year's World Volunteer Conference, "Our Responsibility for the Global Future", referred to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030). Our goal was to show that civil society and active citizens play an active role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prior to the 25th IAVE World Volunteer Conference, youth volunteers were invited to attend the Global Youth Volunteers Forum. Young adults under the age of 30 attended this event to share their experiences and perspectives as young volunteers. They participated in breakout sessions to share about their various projects and were encouraged to network with their peers around the world.

The living conditions of young people are very different in different parts of the world. For instance, in Southern Europe unemployment in young people is a big problem, whereas in Germany, this is not an issue. In African nations the demography is the exact the opposite of Germany - young people under the age of 30 are the majority of the population in Africa, leading to a different set of problems than the ones an aging Germany is facing. In these countries, with high youth unemployment and a large youth population, the connection between volunteering and employment is always a point of discussion. Young people can learn and gain skills through volunteering, which can be used to further their professional careers.

EXAMPLES OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS ALL OVER THE WORLD

Young people exhibit a high rate of volunteering. A few examples from the Global Youth Volunteers Forum 2018 gave us an insight on the diversity of youth volunteering:

Mexico

Mapy Villalobos from Mexico presented “Jovenes in Movimiento”, an alliance of youth volunteering, founded by 11 NGOs in her region. Their common mission is to support the achievement of the SDG 2030. They organize training for young people, to teach them methods to become change makers in their communities.

It is important to show young people the relevance of volunteering and to strengthen them in their roles as active citizens. It promotes self-consciousness and encourages youth to get active on the local level and to improve the quality of life in their communities.

Russia

In 2018, Russia celebrated the “Year of Volunteering”. The recent Olympics and the Soccer World Championship in Russia brought out thousands of volunteers, creating a tremendous upswing in volunteering. Diana Djalalova and Viacheslav Ivanov from Moscow gave us insight on volunteer management during the Soccer World Championship. They highlighted volunteer recruitment and how to use preexisting skills to best match a volunteer with a role in the event. They also highlighted how the volunteering opportunity helped build new skills that could be applied to volunteers’ professional careers.

Austria

Nicole Kantner and Claudio Tedeschi from Caritas Vorarlberg in Austria presented the project “Youth Ambassadors for Children’s Rights and



for the SDG 2030”. The young people advocate for children’s rights and for the achievement of the SDG 2030, keeping in mind the inequalities children are facing around the world. Their organization spreads awareness through a musical production, which they have presented at various schools. They have also formed a partnership with a youth association in Ethiopia called “Protection and Respect for Children on the Street”. Together with the young Ethiopians, they are continuing to develop and implement new projects.

Germany

A very important part of the Global Youth Volunteers Forum has been the meeting and exchange with young volunteers within the City of Augsburg. It provided them an opportunity to share about their various projects.

Larissa Kogler, a young student majoring in Global Business Management at the University of Augsburg, organized the meeting. The following projects presented their work:



- Media Scouts: This organization plays an active role in schools, teaching students about media competency
- Heroes: In order to help assimilate young people from foreign countries, they organize and moderate discussions between foreign and local youth.
- University for Applied Science Augsburg: The university is a heavy proponent for volunteering, where volunteering in rescue associations is especially supported and recognized.
- "Change In": This youth organization organizes short-term volunteering projects (approximately 40 hours) for more than 400 students.

Nepal

Victoria Ribas Ferrer presented the work of NAFA - Nepal Adoptive Families Association. It is an association of American parents of adoptees, who are working to further support orphans in Nepal.

The children in those Nepalese orphanages are provided with medical treatment, nutrition programs and education projects. The association also gives agricultural support, providing chickens for the orphanages to improve self-sufficiency. Due to the nature of their projects, NAFA choose not to work with international volunteers but prefer to work with locals who can volunteer more regularly and sustainably. The Nepalese volunteers have a better understanding of the culture and the values of their country, They are able to speak the same language as those who they are helping and have show to have stronger commitment to the projects. NAFA speaks out against voluntourism, especially short-term international volunteer services. These service trips are more touristic than real help. Particularly for these displaced orphans, NAFA believes there are more disadvantages than advantages in short-term volunteering.

Hong Kong

Elaine Liu from Hong Kong reported about her research, which surveyed over 1,400 young people. The study aimed to find out how young people become involved in volunteering and how they are retained to continue volunteering. Interestingly, her studies showed that young males first started volunteering to personally gain something in return, such as credits for university, while young females started volunteering because they were asked by their female to join in volunteering. From her research, Elaine recommended that small rewards be dispensed for new volunteers and to establish "Volunteer Ambassadors" to recruit other young volunteers amongst their peer groups.

Northern Ireland

Lindsay Armstrong from the "Volunteer Now" from Belfast gave a report about their work in youth volunteering. The volunteer center helps volunteer-involving organizations recruit young people as volunteers. From their experience,

she stated that traditional volunteering and young people don't mesh well together. She highlighted the importance of excellent volunteer management that records attendance and provides special recognitions for young volunteers. For instance, they award special certificates for volunteers who contribute specific amount of hours. Together with the young volunteers, they monitor their volunteer activities to measure their impact. Every year, they award over 3,500 volunteers for their sustainable efforts, who are engaged in more than 600 different organizations. If young people start volunteering early in their life, they will be active for their whole life.

YOUTH DECLARATION AT THE WORLD VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE 2019

With the support of Janis Fifka from the European Youth Parliament Association, the Global Youth Volunteers Forum discussed and drafted the Youth Declaration, which was presented at the 25th IAVE World Volunteer Conference.

More than 50 young people from the forum also participated at the main conference. There they presented the Youth Declaration. The declaration asked that young people be heard and their potentials should be seen and used. The declaration necessitated involvement of young people on global and national volunteer conferences.

They requested that more information about volunteering be provided, especially regarding ways young people can get engaged. The declaration also asked for more training for young people, particularly on topics such as climate change and emergency response. They stated that oftentimes, after a large conference, there is too little implementations and accountability on lessons learned from the event. The young participants emphasized that the adults had

to bear the responsibility for sustainable development, because the next generation will have to live with the consequences their actions.

Finally, they asked a specific request from IAVE. They requested that IAVE appoint at least two youth representatives. Currently, IAVE only has one youth representative in its Board of Directors. Kylee Bates, the IAVE World President, made a pledge to establish a youth commission to the IAVE Board, during her closing remarks for the conference.

"You are what you do, not what you say! At school, even in kindergarten, you teach us how to behave in the world. You teach us to not to fight with others, to work things out, to respect others, to clean up our mess, not to hurt other creatures, to share, not be greedy. Then, why do you go out and do -- do the things you tell us not to do? Do not forget why you are attending these conferences -- who you're doing this for. We are your own children. You are deciding what kind of a world we are growing up in. "

These words spoken by Severn Suzuki, an ecological activist from Canada, at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992, perfectly encapsulates the demands of our youth participants – more responsibility and accountability from their older peers, for a better and more sustainable future for all.



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE WITH YOUTH VOLUNTEERING IN NEW ZEALAND

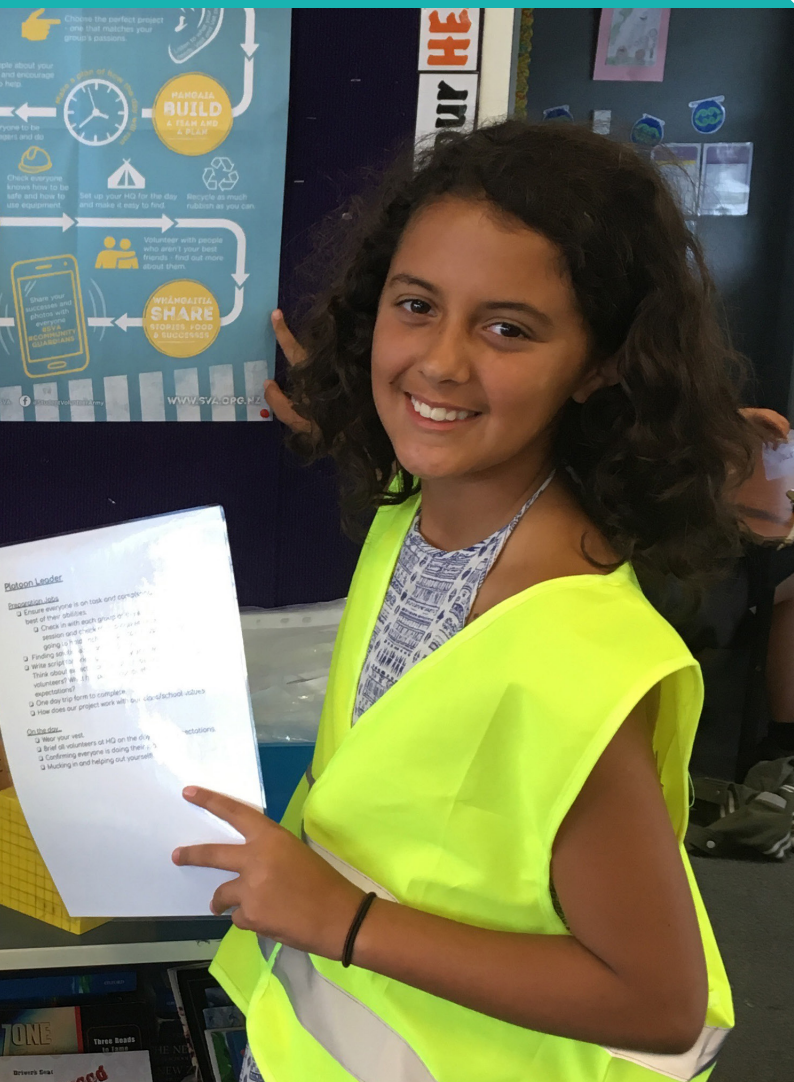
**BY HEATHER MILNE, TRUST COORDINATOR,
STUDENT VOLUNTEER ARMY**

The Student Volunteer Army Foundation (SVA Foundation) in New Zealand has broadened its scope and audience since it started with University of Canterbury students during the Christchurch earthquakes of 2010 and 2011. The organisation now delivers programmes to primary school and secondary school students - recognising and encouraging a culture of civic service in New Zealand's young people. Building strong community resilience throughout New Zealand is at the heart of the SVA Foundation's programmes.

Students are first introduced to the benefits of volunteering through SVA Schools - a practical resource kit for 5-12 year olds that mobilises students to identify issues in their community, work on solutions, and reflect on what they learned. Project themes include environmental, social connection and disaster preparedness, with many students engaging with external community groups, service clubs, and local governments as they volunteer. SVA Foundation Executive Director, Sam Johnson says that the ethos of SVA Schools is participation, community, and respect. "We want students to learn how to collaborate with each other and other people in the community to make a positive and long term impact on something that's meaningful for them". This approach builds real-life social networks and demonstrates to students that they can make a difference together.

SVA Foundation launched the SVA Service Award for New Zealand secondary students this year to continue the momentum created by SVA Schools. This new student-led programme recognises and celebrates all types of volunteering undertaken by secondary students in the community, at school, or at home (such as in-home caregiving). Students log their volunteer hours online through the SVA Service Award website and earn Award





Pins that range from member level to higher-achievement pins as their volunteer hours increase. They also receive an SVA Summary of Service to use in tertiary applications and résumés. "It's really important to us that all types of volunteering are recognised" says Johnson. "There are students throughout the country who are contributing to the wellbeing of their community and family through regular volunteering, but don't have it acknowledged. We've created a programme that sees these students, and is inclusive for young people of all cultures, abilities, and backgrounds".

The SVA Service Award provides the opportunity for students to tie their volunteering work to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. This communicates the clear message that their volunteering is making a specific impact to New Zealand, and beyond. "The UN's 2018 report on volunteering found that volunteering is the single most powerful force that builds resilience in communities," Johnson says. "In particular, building connections between people who volunteer, increases trust and social cohesion in a community".

As New Zealand students mobilise and collaborate through SVA Foundation programmes to resolve issues and contribute to their communities, those communities are becoming stronger and the students themselves are developing essential interpersonal and practical know-how. "Our success in this work comes from learning from our IAVE family across the world and carefully thinking about how to make a difference through volunteering" says Johnson. It's exciting to think about the qualities and skills these young people will bring to the table when they move on from school.

WHAT VOLUNTEERS CAN DO FOR THE COMMUNITY: FROM DIRECT HELP TO ADVOCACY

By Elaine Liu, Associate Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences,
Convener, City-Youth Empowerment Project, City University of Hong Kong

In August 2013, City-Youth Empowerment Project (a volunteer project of City University of Hong Kong) organized the first non-governmental homeless street count in Hong Kong, with the support of three community organizations. HOPE (Homeless Outreach Population Estimation) HK was designed to obtain an accurate count of the homeless population in one night and to collect data that would help to further understand the issues of homelessness in Hong Kong. As part of a volunteer project, the citywide street count was joined by 300 student volunteers, and managed to draw some media and public attention on the issue of homelessness. The findings from the street count were used in the advocacy efforts in reviewing existing service models, raising public awareness, and developing pertinent public policies. The report was then forwarded to the government.

Two years has passed, yet no significant improvement in housing supply and poverty alleviation has been observed. In fact, the problem of homelessness has become even grimmer. Joined by students from four more universities and three NGOs, HOPE HK 2015 was launched for its second time, with

participation from over 300 student volunteers, to collect updated statistics on the homeless population and to inform the government of its urgency. Again, the city-count was carried out, the report was compiled and the information was forwarded to the Legislative Council for discussion. It was once again garnered media attention.

Though this small effort initiated by one volunteer project from one university in Hong Kong will not change the social issue of homelessness in one night, the effort is still important! It has united a big group of youth volunteers to learn about and work together to bring justice and advocate for the deprived. It has also reminded volunteers that helping others could include a wide range of work, from directly helping those in need to advocating for policy change. It has also taught them patience, as policy changes can take a long time to come into fruition!

The idea of counting the homeless in one night is borrowed from the New York City Homeless Street Count (HOPE New York) implemented in 2005.





YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

By Mark Molloy, Service Manager, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Scotland, UK and Rebecca McQuaker, Graduate Trainee, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Scotland, UK

Year of Young People 2018 has provided our region with a platform to celebrate the achievements, talents and personalities of young people from across Dumfries and Galloway, and allows us to showcase the best of our region to young people from across Scotland.

As part of this momentous year, our region is in the middle of delivering an aspirational programme of events, experiences and activities across Dumfries and Galloway that will subsequently have a clear legacy and impact for our region. We have delivered in total 9 Signature Events, such as Youth Beatz Festival and the LGBT National Youth Gathering, allowing us to put Dumfries and Galloway on a national stage.

Here in Dumfries and Galloway, the Year of Young People Project Team - Celebr'18 - was established in early 2017 in order to ensure that the views, ideas and suggestions of young people were being heard and acted upon during all stages of the development of the region's plan for 2018. The team consists of 12 young people from across Dumfries and Galloway, with representatives from all four locality areas.

In order to establish the region's Year of Young People 2018 plan, the Project Team consulted with just over 700 young people across Dumfries and Galloway in schools, youth groups and community settings. This ensured that the region's plan was entirely based upon the needs and aspirations of young people from across the region.

Since the region's Year of Young People plan was published, members of the Project Team have been heavily involved in all stages of bringing the plan to life. This has included sourcing funding opportunities, marketing, co-design, developing ideas for projects and delivering projects. The Project Team have dedicated a lot of their time to Year of Young People 2018, and have been committed to increasing opportunities and equality of opportunity and access across the region. Events that they have designed range from working with our local hospital's children's ward, to bringing youth work services to our region's most rural and inaccessible communities.

All of the team's 12 members are in school, university, college or work, making the time that they dedicate even more precious.



As a result of the increased opportunities that this year has brought, young people have received significant upskilling with regards to their confidence and self-esteem. Our Youth Work team has also seen an increased number of young people accessing our services, with young people frequently accessing a wide range of services.

It is not just young people who have been upskilled, but how we work with other organisations has also changed. Year of Young People 2018 has been a vehicle of change, bringing teams of differing disciplines together to work in new ways. The Year of Young People Strategic Group

was set up in early 2017, and includes representatives from the Project Team, all directorates within Dumfries and Galloway Council and third sector organisations. 32 local organisations are represented in the group.

From Year of Young People 2018 we are creating a legacy, changing how we work with young people and how we provide them with services tailored to their needs, but also how we work alongside young people as members of staff, in a multi-faceted environment. These inherited values will see themselves carried forward with regards to newer pieces of work involving young people.

- The Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council has been developed alongside a youth steering group, and supported by the views of hundreds of 12-25 year olds who were asked to share their views about what youth democracy should look like in our region.
- 10,000 Voices was a regionwide needs consultation which we conducted alongside 10,642 young people from across Dumfries and Galloway, young people were asked questions regarding their local communities, such as how safe they felt, how they were able to move about and what facilities were like. The findings, collected from the region's 12 Ward areas, will be used to inform a 5-year Strategic Plan for Young People's Services, and will go towards informing the plan for the Youth Council.
- The Youth Beatz Festival will continue to be offered to young people from across Scotland and will be a 2 day event attracting 40,000 young people and their families over the course of the weekend whilst continuing to feature some of the UK's best and high quality artists.
- The DG Youth Awards, which for 2018 coincided with the region's Year of Young People Closing Event, will continue to be hosted as an annual event, allowing us to continue to celebrate the talents, achievements and contributions of our young people to their local communities, with the categories based on the themes of the monumental year.

Year of Young People 2018 will continue to be a defining feature of our work with young people in Dumfries and Galloway for many years to come.

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT VOLUNTOURISM

By Hannah Reid, Solicitor, Meredith Connell Law Firm, New Zealand
First published by The Spinoff, April 2018

If you are thinking about volunteering abroad, we need to talk. I never expected that my volunteering experiences in Cambodia would lead me to have so many contentious discussions about responsible tourism, sustainable development, commercial ethics and modern slavery. It is never easy explaining to well-meaning, generous people that their desire to help others may inadvertently cause more harm than good. But this is an important conversation to have and is a conversation in which New Zealanders have been slow to engage.

I was a university student when I travelled to Cambodia to volunteer in 2014. Like many students, I craved travel and I wanted to give back. I felt embarrassed visiting developing countries with my first world privilege and equipped with what we consider the tourist essentials – a cellphone, a nice camera and spending money. I was genuinely motivated to help others in any way that I could. Admittedly, I believed that spending my university breaks volunteering abroad would validate my interests in human rights, justice and development, applying my values by working for a non-governmental organisation and dedicating my time to social justice issues.

After some initial online research, I signed up for a two-month “Working With NGOs” volunteer programme in Cambodia. I had been assured this programme would be like

an internship. I thought that several years of studying law, politics and history, combined with my experience working on campaigns, chairing the Auckland City Youth Council and giving human rights presentations in schools meant that I had skills that could be utilised to help people in Cambodia. I have since come to realise just how naïve I was and how profitable my naïvety was to voluntourism companies.

Most voluntourism programmes do not require that volunteers have any relevant qualifications or experience. A mere willingness to give back or desire to make a difference as part of your holiday, travels or gap year are the only prerequisites. These prerequisites, and the focus on the desires and wishes of the volunteers rather than the affected local communities, vested in me a quiet discomfort as I began my internship in Cambodia.

Within a few days of landing in Cambodia, I heard about fellow volunteers with no teaching experience being solely responsible for classrooms full of children. I heard about fellow volunteers visiting for just two weeks and being left to care for dozens of vulnerable children. I saw flagrant violations of the volunteer company’s rules and policies by both volunteers and placement organisations, with little awareness of or care about these policies by the volunteers. My “Working With NGOs” women’s rights internship turned out to be

the NGO director asking us to give private English lessons to her staff for one hour each day, after first pleading with us to teach English at a nearby school. It only took a few days of volunteering to ignite my concern that this kind of short-term unskilled voluntourism could be causing harm.

Most of the volunteers were not teachers, social workers or nurses. Many of the volunteers had only recently completed high school. I developed a concern that the children in the orphanage and childcare placements were reduced to objects purposed to entertain the volunteers and that the volunteers in many of the other placements were pawns to attract donations. I was shocked to have been invited by a fellow volunteer to a concert being put on by the children in her orphanage placement to elicit donations. I was extremely concerned to see very young children and babies being used as props for hundreds of photographs for the social media accounts of some volunteers, including photographs of some children only partially clothed. These vulnerable and at-risk children were being treated as commodities to elicit funds for the individual placements at the expense of them being respected, protected and provided with the quality of care that all children deserve.

I left my volunteer placement after just one week. I came to realise that without speaking Khmer, without being able to commit a longer period of time and without possessing real and specific skills, 'helping' was a façade for the potentially adverse impacts of my presence as a volunteer. My efforts may have been contributing to the perpetuation of cycles of poverty and dependance, potentially taking a job away

from a local and filling the pockets of the voluntourism businesses who stood to profit from my misplaced altruism.

Since this voluntourism experience, I have immersed myself in research and literature on responsible tourism and sustainable development. I have reflected on my other volunteering experience in Cambodia as an English teaching assistant. I have spoken with many other voluntourists about their experiences. I now warn potential volunteers about the issues surrounding voluntourism.

One of the most pervasive forms of voluntourism, orphanage tourism, is receiving increasing attention. Volunteering, visiting or donating to orphanages has been linked to the burgeoning number of orphanages and the trafficking of children into those orphanages to play with volunteers and solicit donations. The Australian Parliamentary Committee's inquiry into the establishment of a Modern Slavery Act has recently recognised orphanage trafficking as modern slavery and is moving to regulate and outlaw orphanage tourism. My hope is that New Zealand will follow suit, particularly because several voluntourism companies are based in New Zealand and the big player International Volunteer HQ has (albeit, reluctantly) announced that it will phase out orphanage placements in the coming year.

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY 2019

Case studies provided by Youth
Service America, USA

Since its inception in 1988, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) has been celebrating and mobilizing millions of young people to improve their communities through volunteering. Established and organized by Youth Service America, GYSD is the largest service event in the world and is the only one of its kind dedicated to the contributions made by youth between the ages of 5 and 25.

This year's GYSD reported 1548 projects from 95 countries. In the United States, young people from all 50 states participated in the celebration. Over 112,387 youth volunteers served 715,383 people in their communities, totally over 165,187 hours of service, which is valued at \$4,200,705 USD.

These youth-led projects target various issues around the community, including Poverty



& Hunger, Education, Health, Environment, Human Rights and Community Development. Every single one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were incorporated this year, with SDG 4: Education and SDG 2: Hunger being the most popular focus points. You can view the full report by YSA at www.leadasap.ysa.org/gysd2019snapshots/.

SODEXO STOP HUNGER FOUNDATION YOUTH GRANTS

With the help of the Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation, YSA had the opportunity to provide support to young leaders who are working to end childhood hunger in their communities. One in six children in the United States are at risk of hunger and youth volunteers are stepping up to address this pressing issue. Over 100 youth leaders from across the country received a grant to plan projects for GYSD. Here are some of the inspiring projects from the young men and women who are fighting childhood hunger in their communities!



5TH ANNUAL KNIGHT PACK WALK AND FOOD DRIVE

Alexis G., age 17, Windsor, New York

Childhood hunger remains a huge issue all around us. Nearly 45% of students in my school district receive free or reduced price lunch, so I have seen a need to supply food to students for weekends and long breaks. I created Knight Pack in 2013 and have run it for six years so far. Food packs go home every weekend during the school year. We will hit the 100,000th food item mark around

the time of this year's walk. That will be 100,000 food items sent home to Windsor students in need. Knight Pack is now an official club at my high school and there are over 20 members, as well as other clubs and organizations that will help. This is important as some members face hunger themselves and many of them know others that do.

We'll host a one-hour Fundraising Walk in which teams donate to participate. We will also coordinate a food drive where every walker that brings food donations gets a prize ticket. We will accept prize donations and purchase prizes to give out.

I HEART HUNGRY KIDS - PACKING PARTY

Jackson S., age 13, Charleston, South Carolina

1 in 4 kids go hungry on the weekend in our community, with little or no access to nutritious food. We developed our Packing Party program as a way to engage kids under the age of 18 in hands-on service, advocacy, and philanthropy to address the issue. I Heart Hungry Kids volunteers have packed over 275,000 meals for hungry kids since we started on Global Youth Service Day in 2013.

Each month during the school year, I Heart Hungry Kids organizes Packing Parties of 125 kid volunteers under the age of 18 (and a few awesome adults) to participate in the Backpack Buddies program held at the Lowcountry Food Bank. Our Packing Parties work like this: Our kid volunteers choose their role (Packer, Stocker, Opener, Counter, or Boxer) in the packing line and are trained by our returning kid and adult volunteers prior to the start of our event. Kids also have the opportunity to make cards with uplifting, positive messages that are distributed with the food aid. We then assemble kids for a brief lecture on the importance of addressing kid hunger, and get to work. Once we start the packing lines, we typically can bag and box 10,000 meals in approximately 30 minutes. During the event, our Sodexo partner works with Jackson's brother, Riley, to host a food demonstration for kids and parents on how to make a healthy snack, and then that snack is served to our volunteer group as they finish their work.



STOP CHILDHOOD HUNGER - LITTLE STARS FOUNDATION

Anna S., age 17, Canton, Michigan

One in six children in America is at risk of hunger and one in three children in America age 2-19 are overweight or obese. I found the connections between two issues offered a way to address both issues at the same time and empower the youth. Since healthy food like vegetables and fruit are more expensive than processed food, families in poverty have more risk for the obesity. More than 21 million American children and teens depend on free or reduced-price school meals during the school year, and when school cafeterias close, many of them lose their most important source of balanced nutrition and are at risk of going hungry.

The project will start with a fundraiser, a benefit concert that also raises awareness about childhood hunger. We will organize youth volunteers to visit Detroit soup kitchens and the Detroit Rescue Mission with healthy

food and snacks, as well as a handout with tips for healthy eating on a budget. We also promote and provide summer meal info for those kids who depend on free or reduced-price school meals during the school year. We will distribute the brochure to local school districts and officials to raise awareness. During the summer, we will offer a "healthy eating on a budget" workshop for parents and children at the Canton Township Building conference room. The workshop will empower low-income families to use nutrition information to make healthier and affordable food choice.



GROW HEALTHY ST. LOUIS

Sophie B., age 19, St. Louis, Missouri

As an avid gardener and volunteer in my community, I found that many schools, shelters and daycares are located in food deserts and have limited access to fresh vegetables, and that numerous schools do not have gardens on site. I took the initiative to build, plant, maintain, and harvest 22 raised vegetable gardens at low-income daycares and shelters in the St. Louis Metropolitan region. I donated over 13,570 pounds of produce to local food banks and families in need and led 225 STEM botany and plant science workshops with young children throughout this year. I recruited 785 teen volunteers from area high schools to help with the gardens and at the plant science workshops. Gardens serve as hands-on learning labs for children. I try to utilize every renewable resource that nature provides, from rain water to gravel. I offer workshops to young children to the basics of botany and photosynthesis and on the many ways plants attract pollinators. These 22 vegetable gardens provide a hands-on opportunity for low-income children and their families to learn and understand the importance of sustainable gardening and the environmental impact it makes on our community, along with the nutritional benefits of eating healthy fresh produce.

Go Healthy STL is my youth-led initiative to build, plant, maintain, grow healthy fresh vegetables at low-income St. Louis, daycares, pre-schools and shelters while providing a hands-on learning laboratory and STEM workshops to young children. We donate fresh produce to area families-in-need and to provide more healthy fresh produce options to local area food banks. The daycare gardens and botany workshops help reduce food insecurity, improve dietary consumption

and promote STEM learning in the early years in marginalized communities. On Global Youth Service Day, we plan to engage 160 youth volunteers to build five new raised garden beds at two new low-income day care sites.



To read more stories about GYSD service projects, please visit YSA's stories at www.leadasap.ysa.org/stories/.

NEWS FROM THE WIDE WORLD OF IAVE

GCVC

Our **Global Corporate Volunteer Council (GCVC)** met in London in April and again in St. Paul, Minnesota in June prior to the Points of Light Conference. Discussion topics ranged from how to scale up an EVP globally, how to measure impact, expected changes to programs due to Brexit, and how to use the SDGs to design, promote and measure progress in an EVP. We welcomed Oracle as a new member.

RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

Our **Research Working Group on Disaster-Related Corporate Volunteering** got together in London and heard from IAVE Board Member Iraidá Manzanilla about the situation in Venezuela and, with Oxfam, discussed how they might help those staying in Venezuela and also those leaving the country. To design collaborative resilience and recovery programs, the group began the first of a series of discussions with **NetHope** via webinar in May.

LONDON CORPORATE FORUM

.... In April IAVE partnered with **VSO** for an in-depth discussion and concrete examples of effective corporate volunteering. **Credit Suisse** hosted Transformative Impact: Sustained Change Through Corporate Volunteering at their Canary Wharf London HQ. Over 200 representatives from 23 countries participated in the forum. Summaries of presentations and photos of the event can be found at <https://www.iave.org/transformativimpact>.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Building on our meeting of 52 people from **National and Regional Leadership Organizations** for volunteering in 33 countries in Augsburg last October, we are preparing for the launch of a new global network of those organizations that will connect leaders together, provide examples of best practice plus training and development to enhance the leadership role.



POL CONFERENCE

Board member **Jeff Hoffman** and Secretariat members were in St. Paul, Minnesota at the annual Points of Light National Volunteer Conference in June, hosting a special reception for about 40 IAVE members and friends, including members of our Global Corporate Volunteer Council. Secretariat teammate **Raaida Mannaa** twice delivered a “civic talk” on storytelling as a tool to drive legitimacy for nonprofits to about 300 people at the conference.



MOSCOW EUV

We were pleased to be a sponsor for this year’s **European University for Volunteering** in Moscow. As none of our current board or Secretariat could be present, we were ably represented by **Dr. Viacheslav Ivanov** of the National Research University School of Higher Economics, our current national representative, and **Eugen Baldas** from Germany, our past regional representative to the board of directors from Europe.



UN HLPF 2019

We are joining with our partners in the Volunteer Groups Alliance to host a side event on July 10 at the **UN High Level Political Forum** in New York; with our support, **Marcela Guililbrand** from Chile’s National Volunteering Network who represent the voice of Global South volunteers at a second side event.



LATIN AMERICA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Our Latin American Volunteering Leadership Summit is set for September 15-17 in **Lima, Peru**, co-convened with the Latin American Corporate Volunteer Council (CLAVE), a by-invitation convening of 100 key leaders from throughout the region and from all sectors to focus on critical issues that will shape the future of volunteering, to create together a plan of action and to lay the groundwork for a sustained partnership to achieve that plan.



ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Our **Asia Pacific Regional Conference** in **Bangkok, Thailand**, November 11-15, hosted by the Volunteer Spirit Network is in the process of selecting presenters. See <http://iaveap2019.org/call-for-presenters/> for more information.

50TH ANNIVERSARY WORLD VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

Save the dates! October 11-14, 2020 for our **50th anniversary World Volunteer Conference** in Abu Dhabi. Watch for more information soon!



International Association for Volunteer Effort

VOLUNTEERING
TOGETHER

*Making a difference to
people and communities.*

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