



Volunteering in the Big Apple

Leadership in service



I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday and welcomed the New Year in good spirits. Happy New Year to everyone! May it be a healthy and happy one for all of you in study, work and exploration of the US.

I am so pleased that several students volunteered this past year. I will share some recent volunteer services to thank students and to inspire others to give back.

Madhuri Pujari volunteered in lower Manhattan on Friday November 2, 2012 by distributing food and water rations for the people who were without power caused by the Hurricane Sandy.

Here is a short story she shared:

“Before reaching the projects I was deceived by the sunshine and crisp cold weather thinking it can’t be bad. Having been there however you realize how little support there is for people. Residents are living in darkness, without power and queuing for water from fire hydrants on the street. Communicating with residents was difficult, many were Cantonese and Spanish speaking and working with others, we had to distribute supplies and take a note of those with specific medical needs. The most positive thing I would have to say was seeing another volunteer take the initiative to gather water eleven flights down for an elderly couple, one who was bed bound and the other who was restricted to a walking frame.”

Tom Jones, Ankit Verma, Grace Shek, Max Wombwell-Povey and Gabriella Garcia-Oldham spent a day in Hoboken volunteering by sorting clothes, moving food donations into City Hall and distributing food and water to the elderly citizens of Hoboken. Tom wrote:

" We could do more. It was nice to see the residents of Hoboken teaming together to help those in need. Many basements still flooded - generators fill the streets pumping out water."

Mountbatten Institute thanks all students, whose names we don't know for helping the victims of the terrible Hurricane Sandy, which made so much of the devastation on October 29-30, 2012.

On December 11, 2012, **Evonne Morrison, Francis Corey, Harriet Copp, and Sophia Wan** and on December 19, 2012 **Alexander Lee, Angela Egemba, Fiona Shaw, James Salt, Madhuri Pujari, Marina Aung, Mohini Gupta, Vimal Kansara, Schnacken Dias and myself** were involved in a great cause called "Help the Hungry and Homeless." With the cooperation of two organizations One-to-World and Midnight Run we distributed sandwich bags, hot soup and coffee, clothing and items of personal care to the homeless in the Big Apple.

See some pictures on facebook: [link](#)

Equally, I am glad that other groups of Mountbattens, volunteered by serving at The Village Temple Soup Kitchen located at 33 East 12 Street, Manhattan, NY on following Saturdays Dec. 15, 22, and 29, 2012. I don't know all the names of students who attended these services. We thank all of you.

As you see, there are varieties of opportunities to "give back." I thank all those who keep the spirit of Mountbatten Institute voluntarism active and strong.

Here are two new volunteer services provided by One-to-World:

Feb 9 Community Service: Revitalize & Paint a NYC Public School

Join NYC public school children & One To World for a day of painting and revitalizing a public school in the Bronx with PubliColor, a non-profit committed to engaging marginalized teenage students in their education by involving them in the beautification of their schools. Spend the day volunteering along side high school students, socializing & improving a community learning space. **\$13**

May 3 Community Service: Beautify a New York City Park

One To World is partnering with the New York Restoration Project, a non-profit founded by Bette Midler, to beautify and preserve parks in disadvantaged NYC communities. Roll up your sleeves with other international students and become a gardener for the day, helping to beautify a park in Upper Manhattan! **\$13.00**

Mountbattens who are interested can sign up through our website by creating a One To World Account. They can do that here: [link](#)

You can join Brooklyn Museum's program called *Target First Saturdays*, where thousands of visitors enjoy **free** programs of art and entertainment each month. All evening long, the Museum Café serves a wide selection of sandwiches,

salads, and beverages, and a cash bar offers wine and beer. See more information:

[link - Brooklyn museum](#)

To search for any future volunteer opportunities please read the following information:

Online, at sites such as:

- One to World – www.one-to-world.org
- New York Cares – www.newyorkcares.org
- NYC Service – www.nycservice.org

You can specify the days and times you wish to volunteer and the location in which you would like to be based.

You can also select the type of charity you would like to volunteer, for example education, health, environment, helping neighbors in need etc.

2. Mountbatten notice board:

- General Information / Volunteer Opportunities
 - [agencies used by previous interns](#)
 - [agencies needing teams of volunteers](#)
 - [meet the volunteers](#) – inspirational stories
 - [virtual volunteering resources](#)
 - [volunteer websites](#)

3. Please ask your own company if there is any volunteer opportunity available.

After completion of any volunteer service would you be so kind as to send your story / feed back and some pictures, if possible. By writing your stories, you share your experience and encourage others to “give back.”

Remember, your story is inspiring - share it!