



BEYOND BELIEF NETWORK

Beyond Belief Network Guides: Volunteer Opportunities and Ideas

In a service rut? Need some fresh ideas? Did you just join and have no idea where to start? There are lots of ways for you to make a difference.

Get inspiration from FBB

Think about Foundation Beyond Belief's five beneficiary categories when thinking about your volunteer opportunities:

- Poverty and Health
- Education
- The Natural World
- Human Rights
- Challenge the Gap

You can also check out our [current beneficiaries](#) to get ideas, or look at past beneficiaries.

Support a cause area

Consider supporting a particular cause or local program:

- Charitable Event Support
 - Volunteer at a walk-a-thon or run.
 - Operate a booth at a local festival.
 - Participating in a walk or marathon for a charitable organization.
 - Volunteering to set up and take down at charitable events.
- Education/Advocacy
 - Participate in an after-school program as tutors.
 - Help at a local library's book drive.
 - Create a neighborhood "[Little Free Library](#)."
 - Collect supplies (or raise funds) for a local school that needs them (remember to check with the school what they need most).
 - Educate others about a particular cause (ex. canvassing, leafleting, etc.) Keep in mind, no partisan activities are allowed for BBN events.

- Conduct an email and social media campaign to raise awareness of a cause (preferably with a direct action, like signing a petition or donating).
- Volunteer at a local Camp Quest.
- Elderly/Disabled Assistance
 - Delivering meals to homebound patients.
 - Preparing meals to share with hospital or nursing home patients.
 - Visiting patients in hospitals and nursing homes, or providing entertainment for them.
 - Join a Supper Club.
- Environmental
 - Participate in Adopt-a-Highway.
 - Volunteer at a local Earth Day event.
 - Volunteer at a local animal or conservation shelter.
 - [Remove litter or debris from a park](#) or local body of water.
 - Encourage your members to adopt a more environmentally-friendly habit, such as Meat-Free Mondays (or for current vegetarians, Vegan Mondays), starting a walking school bus or carpooling, switching to cloth produce bags, or 'greening' their homes.
 - Collect materials for recycling and take them to a recycle center.
 - Community beautification (highway, park or beach cleanup).
 - Planting trees.
 - Working at the local Humane Society.
 - Coordinating with local fish and wildlife organizations.
- Fundraisers
 - Host a bake sale.
 - Hold a 'Hug an Atheist' event
 - Raise funds through a car wash.
 - Hold a raffle or silent auction.
- Health
 - Participate in a blood drive or ['Be the Match' drive](#)
 - Volunteer at a local health education center
 - Host a [blood drive](#).
 - Participate in a medical charity's fundraiser, e.g. walkathons.
 - Conduct a campaign encouraging members to register as organ donors.
 - Collect medical supplies for a local clinic.
 - Host a [fitness/nutrition education event](#).
- Human Rights:
 - Attend a protest, march or parade.
 - Volunteer as escorts at a local Planned Parenthood.

- Encourage your members to become acquainted with the supply chains of their purchases, to avoid supporting human rights violations in factories and farms.
- Run a donation drive for a Human Rights charity.
- Hunger
 - Volunteer at a [food pantry, food bank or soup kitchen](#).
 - Collect supplies for a food bank.
 - Prepare a meal for a women's shelter.
 - Participate in Meals on Wheels.
- Poverty Assistance
 - Collect school supplies for underprivileged children.
 - Volunteer at a location that helps families in need (ex. Ronald McDonald House).
 - Participate in Habitat for Humanity.
 - If you have a practical area of expertise, offer educational or tutoring services at an adult education center (e.g. computer literacy or resume writing).
 - Participate in a mentorship program for local youth.

Light the Night

You could also consider joining our special Foundation Beyond Belief effort: LLS Light The Night Events. In 2013, FBB partnered with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the Stiefel Freethought Foundation, and various freethought group allies to raise \$500,000 to fight cancer. We're looking to improve on that goal this year! Visit the [FBB team page](#) to see if there's a team in your area, or visit these links to [join](#) a team, to [form](#) a team, or to [donate](#) to registered walkers. Your walk will count as an event, as will your LTN fundraisers (you may designate one as a Partner fundraiser and one as a VBB event, in addition to the walk).

Use the Beyond Belief Network

- Check out the [FBB Blog](#) to see what other teams have been up to.
- [Email](#) us to request a more experienced team to mentor you one on one.
- Ask BBN staff for [help](#).

Specific organizations to help you get started

- [American Red Cross](#)
- [Meals on Wheels](#)
- [Ronald McDonald House](#)
- [United Way](#)
- [Adopt a Highway](#)

- [March of Dimes](#)
- [The Humane Society](#)
- [The ASPCA](#)

See what's going on in your area!

Search engines that can help you find local volunteer events:

- [Idealist.org](#)
- [Feeding America](#)
- [Volunteer Match](#)
- [Do Something](#)
- [Volunteer Guide](#)

Google it

Try a web search for your city, neighborhood, or campus + “community service,” “volunteer,” “volunteer opportunity” or “volunteers needed.”

Researching a particular cause and what practices have been found to be effective in helping that cause is a great way to start your search.