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](#)
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.