

# Volunteering is good for the resumé

## Volume of applications brings funding shortfall

**P**ounding THE cold streets of the city, looking for a job can be disheartening. But one way to keep your spirits up is to give back to the community.

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Perhaps you're out of work and want to make connections or you just want to do something good for the new year. Whatever the reason, volunteering can be rewarding.

"People volunteer for all sorts of reasons. One of those reasons is to improve one's curriculum vitae," says Wesley Normington, a volunteer recruitment coordinator at Youth Assisting Youth (YAY). "In the context of being a YAY youth mentor, the volunteer can build upon their communication, interpersonal and leadership skills. It also shows employers you are committed, reliable and consistent."

Not only does volunteering help keep your spirits up, Lara Tavares, executive director of Sky's the Limit Youth Organization, says it

also helps build relationships, discover new skill sets, and interact with like-minded individuals.

"If you are uncertain about the kind of work you want to do or think you may be successful at volunteering can help you to narrow your focus," says Tavares. Sky's the Limit raises funds to purchase refurbished computers which are placed directly into under-resourced students' homes.

At YAY volunteers can participate in their Tri-Mentorship program where youth mentors are paired with older mentors in their career field of choice. These older mentors can impart job advice and networking opportunities.

So how do you get started? Tavares suggests beginning your search for a satisfying volunteer position



Lara Tavares, the executive director of Sky's the Limit Youth Organization, says volunteering can help people build relationships and discover new skill sets.

**more on volunteering**

► For more information about volunteering visit [www.charityvillage.ca](http://www.charityvillage.ca), [www.STLonline.org](http://www.STLonline.org) or [www.yay.org](http://www.yay.org).

online on a website like Charity Village ([www.charityvillage.com](http://www.charityvillage.com)). "You

may also want to contact the organizations you are interested in helping directly and asking if there are any volunteer opportunities available," she says. "Organizations will often work with you to find something for you to do that you will find both interesting and rewarding."

Volunteering can be a huge help with your career.

"Being a volunteer can build upon their communication, interpersonal and leadership skills," says Normington. "It also shows employers you are committed, reliable and consistent."

The Council of Ontario Universities says the number of people applying to universities in the province is exceeding expectations — and that has led to a funding shortfall. As of Jan. 11, the deadline for submission of university applications, 79,568 secondary school students had applied for first-year admission in the fall.

That's an increase of 3,908 applicants over 2006. The council says the number of applicants exceeded projections, as it did in 2006 and 2005. But the council says the higher number of enrolments — 14,000 more than planned for this year — has created a funding shortfall of about \$100 million, a figure it expects to grow to at least \$300 million annually by 2009-10.

The group says funding these additional students will require new expenditure by the province. Dr. Ian Clark, president of the council, says the council is looking forward to working with the government to finding a solution to these funding issues.

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