



Volunteer. Give. Make an Impact.
October 10–17, 2020

IICF Volunteerism during COVID-19

With the COVID-19 pandemic necessitating the cancellation of many in-person / community volunteer projects this year, there remain many other ways to make an impact in the communities where we live and work – safely and creatively through IICF.

The Importance of Virtual Volunteering

IICF Week of Giving in this pandemic year may take a different shape yet the importance of volunteering and giving back – whether virtually or safely and socially distanced in-person – is more important than ever with needs increasing throughout our communities.

Volunteer teams no longer need to be physically together and only onsite working with nonprofit organizations to make an impact. In our current reality, online and remote volunteering should also be an integral part of your organization's overall volunteer program.

Industrywide volunteering is still happening, although it is being reshaped to meet the challenges of today.

- Is it more complex? Yes.
- Are team and event-related strategies generally on hold? Yes.
- Are there volunteers out there ready to contribute? ***Without question!***

Focus on Food Insecurity and Helping Children in Need

This year we commemorate the success of yearlong volunteer and giving efforts, including our COVID-19 Crisis: IICF Children's Relief Fund, through which we have served more than 700,000 meals to children and their families in need during the pandemic. We encourage you to continue this focus on food insecurity and the needs of children as you consider your plans during the Week of Giving.

Strategies for Adapting your Volunteer Program and Engaging Employees both Virtually and Safely In-Person for IICF Week of Giving

Implementing a virtual or remote volunteer program is similar to managing programs you have already established at your companies. During this crisis, virtual volunteering can have an incredible impact on local communities adversely affected by the pandemic - without the need to ever leave your office or home.

Below are **three strategies** for reshaping volunteerism and adapting your programs for 2020 IICF Week of Giving. First and foremost, it is important to ensure that all employees understand that you value their health and safety, as well as the health and safety of those in organizations you're supporting and their clients you are helping to serve. **Above all, volunteer efforts at this time will adhere to maintaining social distancing and always respecting all national, state and local health guidelines.**

1. Virtual Volunteering: Engage Employees with Web-based Opportunities

Explore considerations for launching and growing your virtual strategy. Offering a wide range of virtual volunteering projects will help to encourage as many experienced volunteers as possible to make the transition from in-person service, while hopefully broadening the base of volunteers and involving new individuals and teams in community service.

IICF offers a broad range of meaningful virtual volunteering opportunities and projects during the Week of Giving and year-round.

Learn more at: [IICF Virtual Volunteering resources](#) to find a virtual project in your area.

You'll find opportunities to help children at risk, veterans, those struggling with food insecurity and so many other important ways to help.

You can partner with an organization that specializes in virtual volunteering, including:

- Skills-based opportunities through [Taproot](#) and [Common Impact](#)
- Tutoring children is the mission of [Vello](#)
- Fluent in more than one language? [Translators Without Borders](#)
- Willing to lend a caring ear? [7 Cups Online Therapy](#)
- Like to read and help with grammar? [Distributed Proofreaders](#)
- Find many more opportunities at : [IICF Virtual Volunteering resources](#)

2. Nonprofit Partner Outreach: Connect with nonprofit partners to better understand their needs

Engage your nonprofit partners, who are facing a changing world of needs as well as fundraising and support challenges. It is helpful to develop an understanding of their current needs – time, talent and treasure – and determine how best you can assist.

Nonprofits are adapting rapidly as we all are – from taking physical events to virtual and offering more remote and virtual volunteerism opportunities.

Please see IICF's suggested [virtual volunteering](#) and [other resources](#) to identify nonprofit organizations and projects you can help support during the pandemic and the IICF Week of Giving.

3. **In-person Volunteering:** Engaging Employees with Individual and Small Group Opportunities

Prioritize Health and Safety when Volunteering

With any in-person projects or opportunity, please be safe and follow all local, state and national guidelines when participating in individual and small group in-person volunteerism. As you continue to seek and select nonprofits that align with your company's mission, please remember to consult [IICF volunteer resources](#) for projects and organizations looking for volunteers.

Nonprofit and charitable organizations such as food banks, meal delivery services, and local health services are in real need of additional support. These organizations can and are providing opportunities that allow for social distancing and other safeguards. There is also a major call for blood donations and you can help fill the need by contacting your local [Red Cross](#).

Supporting the COVID-19 Crisis: IICF Children's Relief Fund

IICF is continuing to fundraise in support of our **COVID-19 Crisis: IICF Children's Relief Fund** through the fall and presently we are hosting the industrywide **IICF International Step Up Challenge** to support children at risk of food insecurity during the pandemic. Visit <https://give.iicf.org/ge/2020stepupchallenge> to learn more and join with your colleague, friends and family in stepping up for children in need. There is still time to join this unique fun challenge (new registrants through August 1)!

Learn more about the IICF Children's Relief Fund and how you can help children and their families in need during the pandemic crisis at: <https://iicf.org/covid-19.html> Through initial IICF Children's Relief Fund grants, we have helped to provide more than 700,000 meals to children and their families.

Volunteer, Give and Make an Impact with IICF!

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