

Ideas for Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

We know that our organizations run on volunteers. Here are some ideas to help get and keep great volunteers!

- Many schools, especially high schools require their students to have service hours, senior projects or give their students credit for volunteering. Check with your local schools- there might even be some bilingual students that can help at your agency!
- Encourage your neighbors receiving food to volunteer. This will help them feel like they are giving back and contributing to the success of your organization.
- Involve your organization or church- youth groups, bible studies, etc.
- Talk to your local organizations and businesses and retirement communities about volunteering.

Volunteer Appreciation and retention

- Have a banquet or celebration for volunteers once a year- choose a time that is less busy and avoid the holiday bossiness.
- Give volunteers cards for their birthdays or holidays.
- Provide T-shirts to your volunteers after volunteering a certain number of hours.
- Provide pizza or refreshments regularly before or after your distributions for your volunteers or even just once a quarter
- Include volunteers in major pantry decisions and be open to their ideas to give them a stake in the organization.
- Delegate tasks to your volunteers to spread out responsibility while also helping volunteers feel value.

