

9 Tips on How to Volunteer Your Expertise to Make a Difference Changing Hearts for Christ

Good News Ministries of Tampa Bay, Inc., is a highly driven non-profit organization that changes hearts for Christ using the teachings of Scriptures and the Catholic Church. However, we do not have enough staff and volunteers to meet all of our strategic, operational and financial challenges. Skills-based volunteerism is essential to our mission. Here are 9 tips to match your skills to an opportunity to make an eternal difference in the lives of countless people around the world.

- 1.** Inventory your **skills**: What are your current and past employment and volunteer roles? List broad areas in which you have experience. For example, have you worked in marketing, grant writing, editing, web design, technology, social networking, strategic planning?
- 2.** Assess your **capabilities**: What overarching skills cut across the roles you listed in Step 1? For example, are you a good writer? Are you creative or detail-oriented or highly organized?
- 3.** List what Good News Ministries does that you have tried or benefited from. Then think about how each of these could be improved and what tasks might be involved. Remember that non-profits function like for-profit organizations in accomplishing tasks.
- 4.** Using the skills and capabilities from Steps 1 and 2, brainstorm ideas on how you could apply your abilities to the needs you listed in Step 3. Be imaginative and prayerful. Opportunities are endless!
- 5.** Read our Help Wanted page, realizing that the roles listed there are not the limit of what we need: www.gnm.org/about-join/. Then contact us through that page.
- 6.** Be aware that it might take a little time and prayerful creativity to find the right opportunity for you. With the Holy Spirit's help, we will work with you to match your skills and interests to our needs and potential areas of growth.
- 7.** As we discuss ideas on what you can do as part of the Good News Ministries team, determine how much availability you have for any responsibilities that are explored. Tell us what schedule works well for you.
- 8.** Once you choose how you will serve, we will entrust the task to you and depend on you to follow through to completion. Therefore if anything changes – for example, your schedule or your level of interest in a particular task or project – communicate that to us so we can make adjustments.
- 9.** At the completion of a project or, in the case of an on-going task, periodically tell us what you've accomplished. If it involves business skills that you could earn money for elsewhere, send us an invoice of its "fair market value" and label it as a "Charitable Donation" so that we can send you a formal letter of thanks acknowledging the gift. This might be useful as a tax deduction or a credential on your résumé.