

# Historical Overview of Volunteering in the United States

1

**PRESENTATION FOR THE HIGHER SCHOOL OF  
ECONOMICS**

**MAY, 2019**

**KRIS SAHONCHIK  
DIRECTOR,  
CUTLER INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL POLICY  
MUSKIE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
& OFFICE OF RESEARCH  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE**

# Yesterday

2

- 1700s: Community Needs
- 1800s: Networks Focused on Social Reform
- Early 1900s: Professional Volunteerism
- Late 1900s: Expansion and Scaling of Networks Focused on Education, Environmental, Social and Health Reforms

# Today

3

- Overall Trend in Volunteering is Stagnating or Declining
- Record Highs in Volunteer Hours
- Involvement Primarily by Young People and Retirees
- Changing World, Increasing Need and Awareness

# Volunteering in Maine

4

## Highlights

- 425,346 volunteers contribute 39.2 million hours of service
- 38.7% of resident volunteer, ranking them 9th among states
- Volunteer service worth an estimated \$947.6 million
- 99.3% of residents regularly talk or spend time with friends and family
- 56.8% of residents do favors for neighbors
- 27.2% of residents do something positive for the neighborhood
- 34.2% of residents participate in local groups or organizations
- 55.6% of residents donate \$25 > to charity  
<https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve/via/states/maine> State of Maine

# Tomorrow

5

- Convenient and flexible
- Decrease in traditional face to face volunteering
- Micro-volunteering
- Facilitated by technology and apps
- Digital volunteering

# Resources

6

- Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy, Muskie School of Public Service, USM
  - [usm.maine.edu/cutler](http://usm.maine.edu/cutler)
- Do Good Institute, University of Maryland
  - [www.dogood.umd.edu](http://www.dogood.umd.edu)
- The Corporation for National and Community Service
  - [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)