

## Getting Started

- ACP encourages its members to volunteer as a way to garner unique experiences not encountered in training or practice and to make a difference over and above one's usual career accomplishments.
- Two thirds of College members spend time in at least one volunteer activity annually, and we encourage you to do the same. Get started today.

## Volunteerism Network

The College maintains a volunteerism networking database that enables ACP members interested in volunteerism and community service to connect with each other via ACP Online. Members are encouraged to join and search the database by category and to reach out to others listed under specific areas of volunteer expertise.

[www.acponline.org/volunteerism](http://www.acponline.org/volunteerism)

## Volunteerism Special Interest Group

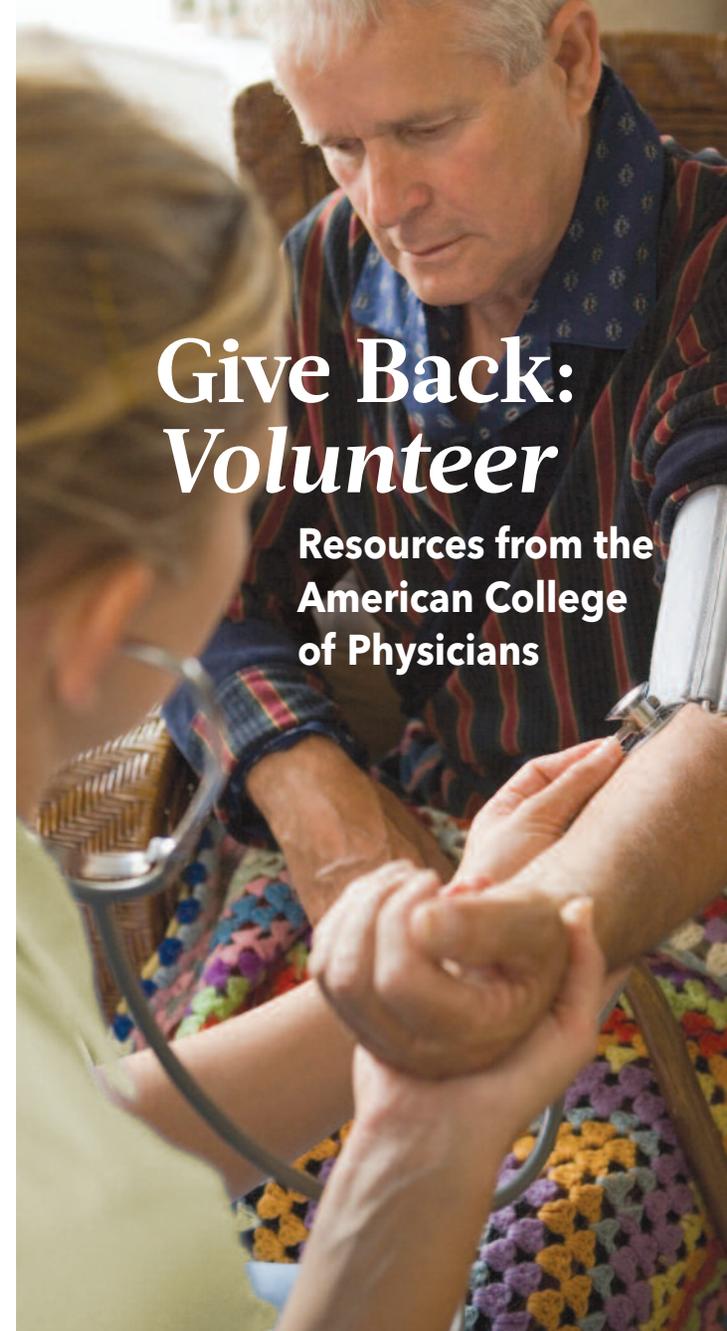
Join ACP's Special Interest Group on volunteering. This SIG is a forum for ACP to engage with you more regularly and for you to connect with colleagues from around the world. Topics will include domestic volunteerism, international volunteerism, free clinics, and other areas of interest.

[www.acponline.org/sig](http://www.acponline.org/sig)

## Other Ways to Support Volunteerism

- Share opportunities and stories of volunteerism with medical students, residents, and your colleagues.
- Support awards for volunteerism in your ACP Chapter.
- Write about volunteerism in letters to the editor of your local paper or in your chapter newsletter.

*For additional copies of this brochure and for questions about medical volunteerism, contact ACP International Programs at [internationaloffice@acponline.org](mailto:internationaloffice@acponline.org) or by phone at 1-800-523-1546, ext. 2508.*



# Give Back: Volunteer

Resources from the  
American College  
of Physicians



IM4028

*"I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy,  
I woke and I saw that life is all service.  
I served and I saw that service is joy."*

*—Mother Teresa*

## Opportunities for ACP Members to Volunteer

### Within ACP:

- Mentor medical students and physicians in training  
[www.acponline.org/mentoring](http://www.acponline.org/mentoring)
- Get involved at the Chapter level by volunteering to serve on a local committee [www.acponline.org/chapters](http://www.acponline.org/chapters)
- Apply for a seat on the College's Volunteerism Committee  
[www.acponline.org/about\\_acp/committees/volunteerism/](http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/committees/volunteerism/)
- Join ACP's Volunteerism Network  
[www.acponline.org/volunteerism](http://www.acponline.org/volunteerism)
- Join ACP's Special Interest Group on Volunteerism  
[www.acponline.org/sig](http://www.acponline.org/sig)

### Within the United States:

- Contact your county medical association, local Chamber of Commerce, nearby school districts, city recreation centers, or a free clinic or medical center near you  
[www.nafclincs.org](http://www.nafclincs.org) or [www.volunteersinmedicine.org](http://www.volunteersinmedicine.org)

### Within the Worldwide Community:

- ACP sponsors the Internal Medicine Overseas Section of Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO), which supports training programs for internal medicine generalists and subspecialists in Bhutan, India, Peru, and Uganda. Projects differ on the basis of the educational needs and technological capacity of the country.  
[www.hvousing.org](http://www.hvousing.org)



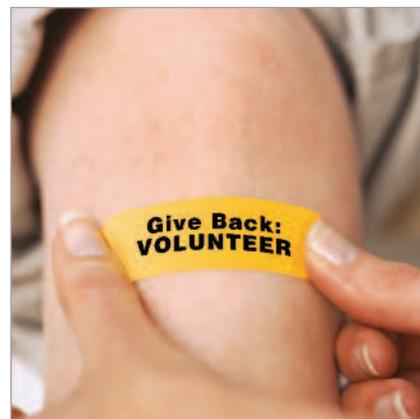
## ACP Recognizes Volunteerism with National and Local Awards

### National and Local Awards

ACP acknowledges the importance of volunteerism and community service at both the national and local level as part of its commitment to professionalism and access to health care.

Nationally, ACP has several awards that are given to members who have been active in community service and volunteerism. The College's Oscar E. Edwards Memorial Award for Volunteerism and Community Service is given to an ACP member who has initiated or been involved in volunteer programs or has provided volunteer service posttraining. In addition, ACP's Outstanding Clinical Teacher Award is bestowed upon a Fellow of the College who has consistently volunteered his or her services to teach medical students and residents.

Please refer to the College's Awards and Masterships Booklet online for additional information [www.acponline.org/awards](http://www.acponline.org/awards). Locally, a number of College Chapters have community service awards. Contact your ACP Chapter [www.acponline.org/about\\_acp/chapters/](http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/) to propose a local award or to nominate a local "hero" for a volunteerism award.



### Volunteerism as Criteria for Attaining Fellowship

Community service and volunteer activities are recognized as an important part of professional activities when submitted in support of candidacy for Fellowship. For more information about attaining Fellowship, visit [www.acponline.org/facp](http://www.acponline.org/facp).

## Volunteer Travel, Liability, and Training Resources

### Travel and Health Advisories for Medical Volunteers

For the latest travel and health advisories, visit the U.S. State Department at <http://travel.state.gov> or the Center for Disease Control's Traveler's Health section at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). For information about financial assistance offered to volunteers in need, visit the Missionary Travel Service at [www.mtstravel.com](http://www.mtstravel.com).



### Volunteer Protection Act

The 1997 Volunteer Protection Act provides certain protections against personal liability for physician and nonphysician volunteers of nonprofit organizations for actions taken in furtherance of the volunteer's responsibilities in that organization. Many states have statutes that offer varying degrees of protection for health care professionals who offer pro bono care or care under "Good Samaritan" circumstances. To investigate the situation in your state, contact your lawyer or your state or county medical association. Information can also be obtained from state and county bar associations and law libraries.

### The National Disaster Life Support Education Consortium (NDLSEC)

The NDLSEC facilitates the sharing of expertise and ideas among private and public stakeholder organizations and distinguished individuals with an interest in disaster preparedness, professional education, and curriculum development. Visit [www.ndlsf.org](http://www.ndlsf.org) for more information.