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**Virtual Networking and Sharing Session on Nonprofit Need during COVID-19 Pandemic**

**April 30, 2020**

This session was an opportunity for nonprofit and agency partners to talk about their current challenges as well as successes since COVID-19 in engaging with their volunteers and moving to virtual volunteerism and limited and responsible socially-distance volunteerism. Many shared real examples of how organizations are adapting to change. Many are using communications vehicles such as surveys, e-newsletters, regular virtual calls or monthly reports to stay in touch with volunteers. Some have created webinars and online training for volunteers, virtual Powerpoint presentations for learning and onboarding, and webinars and online trainings. Challenges were reported on how to give volunteers the social activities and experiences that made them interested in volunteering in the first place, and getting comfortable with additional collaborative technology platforms.

**Using Volunteers Virtually**

Here are some of the ways you might use your existing volunteers effectively, particularly if you know their skill areas. What areas do you most need help with? this might be a good time to create a list of needs. If you have an existing volunteer pool, how well do you know their untapped skills? If you need new volunteers, remember to reach out to the Montgomery County Volunteer Center to post your need.

**Writing**

Copy, content for website

Responding to emails

Help with grantwriting/documentation

Press releases, social media

Thank you letters; thank you calls to donors

Electronic annual report

**Graphic Design/photoshop/photographer**

Designing flyers, helping create strong photo archives with captions for future use

Helping with Powerpoint presentation creation for virtual learning

**Curriculum development**

Creating online learning modules, onboarding for board members, new staff, volunteers

**Marketing/PR**

Helping keep the organization, its needs and its work in the public eye – press pitches, message creation, virtual presentation creation, pitching stories to the media\

Customer service, client support

**Database**

Cleaning databases, generating reports for data collection, analyzing data

**Documentation**

Interviewing for stories about your work

Creating videos or editing videos

**Those with volunteer experience can be a great resource for:**

Screening new applicants who want to volunteer

Onboarding new volunteers

Providing feedback on the volunteering process

Helping create volunteer job descriptions

**Technology/training**

Trouble shooting

Training new volunteers on use of new virtual platforms

**Fundraising/events**

Help with bringing events online

Donations

Can work with writers/PR/marketing on appeals and other donor communications

**Bookkeeping/Accounting**

Can provide support to bookkeeping/accounting staff

Grant reporting