



## HR Highlights March 2021

### **Celebrate Volunteer Week and Month this April! | Volunteering in Virginia**

From April 18 through 24, organizations across the country will be celebrating National Volunteer Week, and have been doing so since a presidential proclamation in 1974. April became National Volunteer Month as part of [President George H. W. Bush's 1000 Points of Light campaign in 1991](#). Virginians are no strangers when it comes to neighbors helping neighbors, [34%](#) volunteer, and the Commonwealth has the [second highest military veteran volunteer rate](#) in the nation. This is not far from the [national average in 2019](#), where one in three Americans volunteered equating to 77.4 million volunteers, 6.9 billion hours served, and \$167 billion in service. Not surprisingly, our altruistic nature truly shines during times of crisis, [during the 2020 pandemic, despite various restrictions, volunteering rose from 20 to 50% for some organizations](#).

What does volunteering look like to you? Your actions can be small or big, virtual or in-person. It might be reading written word to writing a card of thanks, maybe grabbing groceries for a busy parent or checking on the elders in your community. Maybe you'd like to help build a home, or offer your professional expertise to an organization gratis – it all counts. How will you celebrate by giving back this April? Visit the [Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Services \(OVCS\)](#) within the Virginia Department of Social Services for ways you can engage within your community today