

# Virtual volunteering might be the answer

## IT'S ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO GIVE BACK

Becoming involved in volunteering isn't always easy. Maybe you don't get out of the house often because you're a stay-at-home parent or you have mobility issues.

You could be a working professional who travels often or maybe you have an unpredictable work schedule.

Or perhaps the charity or cause that piques your interest is located a long way from home.

The solution? Try virtual volunteering. What exactly is virtual volunteering? According to the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, it means volunteering at a distance from the organization.

Virtual volunteers can perform their duties in whole or in part over the Internet.

How cool is that!

A 2002 study by the centre revealed that of 494 volunteer managers questioned, only one-third reported having any openings for virtual volunteers.

This number could suggest that virtual volunteering doesn't quite have a foothold in the non-profit/voluntary sector yet.

But for Kibben Miller, virtual volunteering isn't a new concept at all.

As a resident of Detroit, he has been volunteering for approximately four years with a Winnipeg-based non-profit organization as a virtual volunteer video editor.

It's a position that provides him with the convenience and flexibility he needs in order to make a positive difference in the world. Even if it is a world away.

### 'APPEALING OPPORTUNITIES'

"I was drawn to online volunteerism because it offered two very appealing opportunities not found in traditional community service work," Miller says.

"First, my wife and I, because of career choices, have found ourselves spending limited amounts of time in any given place of residence. Online volunteering

offers a chance to make a significant contribution to service organizations regardless of location and time schedules.

"The second aspect is the privilege of using my professional skills. I find it particularly gratifying to apply my specialized skills to support their efforts," he explains,

adding that virtual volunteers don't need to have an elaborate computer system or work on technology-related tasks.

In fact, many virtual volunteer opportunities offer administrative work—editing or formatting documents, creating spreadsheets, research, fundraising, moderating online forums and more.

### MODEST SKILLS

Even those with less-than-computer-savvy skills can get involved in virtual volunteering.

"Many functions vital to a service organization can be accomplished with modest computer technical and operational skills," Miller says. So you don't have to be a computer expert.

By using any number of online tools like Skype, Facebook, instant messaging or good old fashioned e-mail, volunteers and organizations can keep in touch no matter the distance or

location.

All you need is a little spare time and a computer to start making a positive difference in the lives of others.

To start your search for a volunteer opportunity, visit [www.volunteeredmonton.com](http://www.volunteeredmonton.com).

Look to this space to see the work that the city's volunteers and non-profit organizations are carrying out. For more information or suggestions for story ideas, please contact Evelyn Pham, Communications Co-ordinator, at [epham@volunteeredmonton.com](mailto:epham@volunteeredmonton.com), call 780-732-6655 or check out our website at [www.volunteeredmonton.com](http://www.volunteeredmonton.com).



# FABRICLAND

SEW MUCH *More* THAN A FABRIC STORE

3 DAYS ONLY

FRIDAY-SUNDAY  
DEC. 11-13

HOLIDAY GIVING GIFT SALE

GIFT CERTIFICATES

In any denomination. SAVE

10% OFF FACE VALUE

Example purchase \$100 G.C. and pay just \$90! Valid for use after Jan. 4/09

<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">PROJECT TOTES &amp; CADDIES</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">All Stock! AT LEAST</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% OFF reg. price</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">COMFORTER SETS &amp; THROWS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">All Stock!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% OFF reg. price</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">OLFA MATS, CUTTERS &amp; GIFT KITS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">All Stock!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% OFF reg. price</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">DAYLIGHT LAMPS &amp; ACCESSORIES</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">All Stock!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% OFF reg. price</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">DECORATIVE STORAGE BOXES</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">All Stock!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% OFF reg. price</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">DECORATIVE SEWING BASKETS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">All Stock!</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% OFF reg. price</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">CHRISTMAS FABRICS &amp; ACCESSORIES</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">All Stock! AT LEAST</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">65% OFF reg. price</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">QUILTERS FLOOR FRAME</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Adjustable! Reg. \$180ea</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% OFF reg. price</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">PEEL &amp; STICK CHALKBOARD PANELS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Reg. \$23.00pkg</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">50% OFF reg. price</p>

EDMONTON & AREA

5357 103rd St	780-438-5119
Londonderry Mall	780-478-0435
Millwood Town Ctr.	780-462-2160
128-270 Baseline Road	
Sherwood Park	780-467-0822
215 Carnegie St. Albert	780-460-9136
10104-175th St.	780-444-1908

Fabricland Sewing Club  
Members Value Hotline  
1-866-R-FABRIC  
1-866-732-2742

Check store hours locally  
[www.fabriclandwest.com](http://www.fabriclandwest.com)

Quilting Demo at Gateway Location Dec 12 See in store for details

by delivering  
The Edmonton Examiner!

You can too! Just call 780.468.0384  
Routes available in your neighbourhood.

> VIEW. SUBMIT. PARTICIPATE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.