

# WHERE TO CARE

## Teen Guide to Volunteering



**City of Dublin**  
**Outreach and Engagement**  
6555 Shier Rings Road  
Dublin, Ohio 43016  
614.410.4404  
[volunteer@dublin.oh.us](mailto:volunteer@dublin.oh.us)  
[www.DublinOhioUSA.gov](http://www.DublinOhioUSA.gov)

# WHERE TO CARE

## Animals, Wildlife & Outdoors

### Colony Cats

2740 Festival Lane | Dublin, OH 43017

There are many fun and rewarding avenues to volunteering for this worthy cause, most options are based on need and injured animal cases. Colony Cats welcomes your involvement and encourages you to help them in improving the well-being of homeless cats and dogs. Please do not get discouraged if it takes up to a month to get back to you. For more information, or if you have questions regarding volunteering, please contact them via email at [volunteer@colonycats.org](mailto:volunteer@colonycats.org) or phone: 614-570-0471.

### Columbus Humane

3015 Scioto Darby Executive Court | Hilliard, OH 43026

Not only will you learn about animals and get lots of licks and tail wags, but you will also meet others who share similar interests. Volunteer opportunities include Dog Care, Dog Training, Cat Care, Rabbit Care, Greeting, Administrative Assistance, and Special Events. Learn more [here](#).

### Columbus Zoo: ZooAide Program

4850 West Powell Road | Powell, OH 43065

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's ZooAide program is comprised of teens who demonstrate natural leadership skills, a comprehensive knowledge of animals, a high degree of professionalism and emotional maturity. Designed for teens entering grades 8-12, the ZooAide program offers a unique look at the different aspects available to those interested in pursuing careers in a conservation field. Because of health and safety reasons, direct animal contact is minimal. An emphasis is placed on the customer service side of the zoo and aquarium careers. Contact [Zoo.Aides@columbuszoo.org](mailto:Zoo.Aides@columbuszoo.org).

### Ohio Wildlife Center: SOARS Program

6131 Cook Road | Powell, OH 43065

Seeds of Awareness, Respect and Stewardship (SOARS) Volunteers are teens (15 to 17) who can't wait to learn about wildlife! SOARS volunteers assist staff with summer wildlife day camp activities, camper supervision and animal husbandry duties associated with camp. SOARS volunteers may also assist with other educational events throughout the year. Individuals must have a desire to learn, and will be expected to represent Ohio Wildlife Center in a professional, safe and enthusiastic manner. For additional questions, contact [volunteerinfo@ohiowildlifecenter.org](mailto:volunteerinfo@ohiowildlifecenter.org).

### Stratford Ecological Center

3083 Liberty Road | Delaware, OH 43015

The Stratford Ecological Center is a non-profit educational farm and nature preserve on 236 acres in Delaware County, Ohio. Volunteer opportunities include greeting visitors at the front desk, office assistance, guiding school children on farm & nature tours, gardening, farm hands, and more! To volunteer, e-mail [info@stratfordecologicalcenter.org](mailto:info@stratfordecologicalcenter.org).

### Ohio Rabbit Rescue

5485 N. High Street | Columbus, OH 43214

If you love bunnies, this is the volunteer gig for you! Volunteers are needed to help with bunny socialization, bunny care and more. Group and individual opportunities available. Learn more about the opportunities [here](#).



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## **Sedona Grace Foundation**

P.O. Box 664 | Dublin, Ohio 43017

Sedona Grace is a non-profit that relies on volunteers and donors to provide pet food for local families in need. Often times, when families are struggling to put food on the table, they are faced with the hard decision of having to give up their pets. You can help by running a donation drive for pet food or getting a group together to help package the food that is then donated to local food pantries. To learn more, email [dave@sedonagracefoundation.com](mailto:dave@sedonagracefoundation.com).

## **Canine Collective**

Help showcase adoptable dogs on a Saturday at one of the Petsmart adoption events from 12:30-3:00 pm. You can also volunteer to walk dogs and help at the kennel (after completing training). Sometimes help is needed to take dogs to vet appointments. Volunteers are needed to help with event planning, fundraising, and applying for grants. Email [info@caninecollective.org](mailto:info@caninecollective.org) for more information.

## **Cozy Cat Cottage**

10344 Sawmill Road | Powell, OH 43065

Volunteers age 13 and over are welcome to put their talents, skills and ideas to work! Available opportunities include adoption center care takers, sorting recycle items, adoption counselors, event helpers and more. To learn more and schedule, email [volunteersforcozycatcottage@gmail.com](mailto:volunteersforcozycatcottage@gmail.com) and/or visit them online [here](#).

## **Preservation Parks of Delaware County**

Various park locations

Volunteers in Parks (VIPs) are essential to the mission of Preservation Parks to protect natural and historic resources and inspire outdoor exploration and learning. Volunteer opportunities are diverse, fun and educational for individuals, families, groups, school groups, and more. Learn more online [here](#).

## **Columbus Parks and Recreation**

Various park locations

Throughout the spring and summer months, volunteers are needed to assist with park clean-up projects, invasive removal, mulching, landscaping, tree planting and more! View opportunities online [here](#).

## **Diversity & Inclusion**

### **Noor Islamic Cultural Center**

5001 Wilcox Road | Dublin, OH 43016

Volunteers assist in almost every capacity at the center. Complete a volunteer interest form [online](#) to find out more.

### **Rainbow Dublin**

Dublin's first LGBTQ+ Community Alliance organization is here. Reach out for ways to be involved [rainbow.dublin.oh@gmail.com](mailto:rainbow.dublin.oh@gmail.com).

### **Kaleidoscope Youth Center**

603 E. Town Street | Columbus, OH 43215

Volunteers assist in the youth drop-in center with programming, special events, cleaning, etc. Reach out via e-mail, [info@kycoho.org](mailto:info@kycoho.org) for more information on how to get involved.



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## Libraries, Museums & Art

### **COSI**

333 W Broad Street | Columbus, OH 43215

COSI's Youth Volunteer Experience is a unique opportunity for students. These volunteers help further COSI's mission by serving guests and providing a unique STEM learning experience while developing new skills for the future. Volunteer positions include: Floor Team Volunteer, Little Kidspace Volunteer, and Guest Service Volunteer. Volunteering with COSI is a three-step process which includes application, interview, and if accepted, onboarding. Email with questions at [cosivolunteers@cosi.org](mailto:cosivolunteers@cosi.org).

### **Ohio History Connection**

800 E. 17th Avenue | Columbus, OH 43211

Dedicated volunteers truly embody the mission of the Ohio History Connection – they enable the community to connect with the past to understand the present and create a better future. Volunteers help the Ohio History Connection to provide educational and public programming, maintain collections, and provide research and reference services. Administration, Archaeology, Digital Services, Programming and Visitor Studies are just some of the departments that volunteers support. Learn more online [here](#).

### **Dublin Arts Council**

7125 Riverside Drive | Dublin, OH 43016

Volunteering for Dublin Arts Council is more than just gallery sitting or stuffing envelopes. The positive energy that you generate through the gift of your time, personality, and skill is contagious. The act of giving of yourself extends through all the areas of your life and touches the lives around you. If you are interested in volunteering with the Dublin Arts Council, call 614-889-7444 or contact Katy Marque at [marque@dublinarts.org](mailto:marque@dublinarts.org).

### **Hilliard Arts Council**

5425 Center Street | Hilliard, OH 43026

Hilliard Arts Council is operated mostly by volunteers and can always use additional help in advancing and fulfilling our mission of enhancing the cultural and economic vitality of the community by inspiring, enlivening and educating through the arts. Volunteers assist with painting scenery, ushering at events, helping with social media and more. Learn more about getting involved [here](#).

### **Franklin Park Conservatory**

1777 E. Broad Street | Columbus, OH 43203

Volunteers are the heart of Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, contributing their time, talents, enthusiasm and energy. Volunteers may choose weekly, monthly, seasonal or one-time opportunities. Activities in areas throughout the Conservatory include horticulture, education, exhibitions or visitors services. Volunteers must be at least 15 years of age. To learn more, email [volunteers@fpconservatory.org](mailto:volunteers@fpconservatory.org) or call 614.715.8098.

### **Columbus Metropolitan Library**

The library depends on volunteers to work hand-in-hand with staff to provide the best possible service to customers. They check in with a wide variety of interests and passions and at the end of the day they check out knowing they made a difference in a reader's life. There are a limited number of opportunities, so sign-up early. Please note that some branches' available volunteer slots fill up fast, so you may be asked to select another location. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit online [here](#) or contact Sue Wolford at [swolford@columbuslibrary.org](mailto:swolford@columbuslibrary.org).





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## Children & Families in Need

### **Feed the Kids Columbus**

Help provide food to local kids and families in need by making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to donate. Register and learn more here: <https://www.feedthekidscolumbus.com/>.

### **Nationwide Children's Hospital**

700 Children's Drive | Columbus, OH 43205

Typically, teen volunteers provide service in many areas, including the information desk, gift shop, sibling Clubhouse, clinic waiting rooms, *Close to Home* centers, and in office settings. Most assignments will be supporting families, patients and staff. These volunteer positions fill up very fast and there is typically a wait list. For more information, E-mail [Volunteering@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:Volunteering@NationwideChildrens.org) or visit them online [here](#).

### **Ronald McDonald House**

711 E. Livingston Avenue | Columbus, OH 43205

The Ronald McDonald House is supported by a strong foundation of volunteers. Their gifts of love and compassion make this House more than just a place to stay, they make it a home. Whether you are an individual wanting to support families in or out of House, or a group looking to come to the House for a few hours, there is an opportunity to give that is perfect for all! Contact at [Meika.Hilles@rmhc-centralohio.org](mailto:Meika.Hilles@rmhc-centralohio.org).

### **Dublin Food Pantry**

81 West Bridge Street | Dublin, OH 43017

The Dublin Food Pantry is a choice pantry set-up like a grocery store so clients can shop and select the food they want. It takes approximately 150 volunteers each week to operate the Pantry and an additional 500+ volunteers to run the major food drives and the holiday Harvest of Hope food distribution. Student volunteering information can be found [here](#).

### **Other Area Food Pantries:**

Hilliard Food Pantry: <https://www.hilliardfoodpantry.org/want-to-help.html> or 614-363-4159

Plain City Food Pantry: <http://www.plaincityfoodpantry.org/> or 614-733-0909

LSS Food Pantries: various locations; <https://lssnetworkofhope.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/>

Worthington Resource Pantry: <https://www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/volunteer>

Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM): <http://www.warmwesterville.org/> or 614-899-0196

Mid-Ohio Food Collective: <https://mofc.org/volunteer/>

Smoky Row Food Pantry: <https://www.smokyrow.org/>

### **One Dublin (formerly Welcome Warehouse)**

6305 Brand Road | Dublin, OH 43016

Welcome Warehouse offers a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the year in their free store; sorting donations, translation services, bed deliveries and special events. Learn more and sign up to help [here](#).

### **Habitat ReStore**

Various Locations. From customer service to furniture repair, the Habitat ReStore offers volunteers opportunities geared toward individual interests and skills. Volunteers help Habitat ReStore support local building projects for those in need in many communities and around the world. Must be at least 14 years old. Sign up [here](#).



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## United Methodist Free Store

946 Parsons Avenue | Columbus, OH 43206

The United Methodist Free Store provides clothing and household items to individuals and families in a hospitable atmosphere that affirms the self-worth of each individual. More than 50,000 families have become members of the Free Store since they opened in January 1999. Learn more and sign up [here](#).

## YWCA – Family Center

900 Harvey Court | Columbus, OH 43219

The YWCA Family Center provides emergency, short-term shelter and assistance with critical services to help stabilize homeless families in Central Ohio. Sign-up to help sort through donations, or reach out to their Volunteer Coordinator to ask about their current needs. Contact Brian Rogers [brianrogers@ywcacolumbus.org](mailto:brianrogers@ywcacolumbus.org) for more information.

## Neighborhood Bridges – Dublin

Dublin Bridges advocates for children, seniors, and neighbors. Their advocates identify specific needs, then alert the community through email and social media, and the community fills the needs. They have helped hundreds of Dublin residents in need receive food, clothing, eye exams, school fees, furniture, backpacks, undergarments, shoes, dental visits, jackets and more. Want to help? Please sign up [here](#).

## People In Need of Delaware County

138 Johnson Drive | Delaware, OH 43015

PIN of Delaware County is a non-profit social services agency dedicated to providing emergency assistance to Delaware County residents. Volunteers assist with filling orders, restocking shelves, office/clerical work, special projects and more. Reach out via email at [info@delawarepeopleinneed.org](mailto:info@delawarepeopleinneed.org) or phone at 740.363.6284.

## M.A.S.H. Pantry & Resource Center

Various locations (Grove City and Marysville)

M.A.S.H. Pantry and Resource Center provides support for our veterans, military families and survivors throughout central Ohio. Learn more about volunteer opportunities by emailing Amber Hudson at [info@mashpantry.org](mailto:info@mashpantry.org)

## Common Ground Free Store

Located just next door to Dublin in Delaware, Ohio this free store offers clothing, shoes, household items, food and more to community members in need. Volunteers are needed each day to assist with greeting shoppers, stocking shelves, serving food and more. Learn more and register [here](#).

## D.N.A. Community Center

Located not far from Dublin in Plain City, is a Daily Needs Assistance facility to help those in need in the community. Volunteers are needed to assist with Saturday morning free breakfasts, sorting and stocking shelves, pantry distribution and more. Visit their [website](#) to learn more and register as a volunteer.

## Neighborhood Services, Inc.

1950 North 4th Street | Columbus, OH 43201

Volunteers staff the food pantry Monday - Thursday from 9 am - 2 pm. Register clients, help them shop in the choice food pantry, assist with stocking shelves, unload delivery trucks, and perform other duties as needed. Volunteers, including groups, also assist with monthly produce markets, holiday programs, and light maintenance work around the pantry. Get involved by calling 614-297-0592 or email [info@neighborhoodservicesinc.org](mailto:info@neighborhoodservicesinc.org).



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## Special Needs

### **Adaptive Sports Connection**

6000 Harriott Drive | Powell, OH 43065

Adaptive Sports Connection relies on over 400 volunteers to help create Boundless Possibilities for thousands of children, adults, and veterans with physical and cognitive challenges by focusing on abilities. Learn more [here](#).

### **Heinzerling Foundation**

1800 Heinzerling Drive | Columbus, OH 43223

Volunteering here is an investment because, in the process of helping others, you often discover more of your own strength and self-worth. You realize the joy of volunteering when residents look at you with love and trust in their eyes. It's very rewarding to see many of the resident's progress step-by-step and know that you are a part of that. As a Heinzerling volunteer, you will make a huge difference in a resident's life. You will turn your good intentions into reality and change a life forever. Learn more [here](#).

### **TAASC-The Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition**

6000 Harriott Drive | Powell, OH 43065

TAASC is always looking for enthusiastic and reliable people to become a volunteer team member. The organization provides training to volunteers including advanced training and certification for volunteers who want to become sports leaders. Volunteers must be 16 years and older. Contact [info@taasc.org](mailto:info@taasc.org) or visit online [here](#).

### **Miracle League of Central Ohio**

6259 Cosgray Road | Dublin, OH 43016

The Miracle League creates lasting memories by providing life-changing experiences for athletes and adults with special needs through social and recreational activities. The organization could not exist without the many volunteers who help before, during and after each season. Middle school and high school students are encouraged to become peer buddies, who help athletes with special needs play baseball on a specially-designed field. Register online [here](#).

### **Willow Ridge Therapeutic Riding Facility**

9302 Brock Road | Plain City, OH 43064

Willow Ridge provides assisted therapy for higher functioning children with special needs. Volunteer opportunities vary from general barn chores to leading horses during a session, depending on the amount of horsemanship experience that the volunteer has. For more information, contact Pam at [willowridge12@gmail.com](mailto:willowridge12@gmail.com) or 614.778.9122

### **Dublin Special Olympics**

7030 Coffman Road | Dublin, OH 43017

Dublin Special Olympics exists to provide year-round sports training and competition opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Volunteers are needed to assist athletes in individual sports programs. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old. For more information, visit them online [here](#).

### **Dreams on Horseback**

1416 Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road | Blacklick, OH 43004

This therapeutic riding facility helps people of all ages and abilities with challenges to improve their lives through horse-assisted learning experiences and education. Volunteers are needed to assist with participants and other duties. To learn more, reach out via email to [Info@DreamsOnHorseback.org](mailto:Info@DreamsOnHorseback.org).



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## Civic Service - City of Dublin

### **Snow Angels**

Help senior citizens and people with disabilities clear their driveways and walkways from snow after winter storms. [Register with the City of Dublin](#) to be placed on the call list when a resident in need contacts the City. Contact the Outreach and Engagement Team at 614.410.4404 with any questions.

### **Culture Corner**

Help celebrate Dublin's diversity by teaming up with volunteers and staff to create educational and creative displays highlighting the many cultural holidays celebrated in Dublin. The Culture Corner is on display at the Dublin Community Recreation Center as well as digitally on the City of Dublin social media sites. Email Shannon at [smaurer@dublin.oh.us](mailto:smaurer@dublin.oh.us) to get involved.

### **Dublin Community Recreation Center (DCRC) Wee Folk Room**

The Wee Folk Room is a babysitting room offered to parents at the DCRC, the room is staffed by employees Monday-Sunday. Volunteers are needed to help with reading stories, leading activities and assisting staff with the children. The object is to safely interact with kids, allowing staff to tend to other duties while under their supervision. Volunteer opportunities are available for ages 12 and up. Email Shannon at [smaurer@dublin.oh.us](mailto:smaurer@dublin.oh.us) for more information.

### **Community Events**

Our special events are renowned in the City of Dublin thanks to a responsive and talented group of volunteers who make them possible. From our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service to Earth Day, and of course signature events; the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Independence Day Celebration, Dublin Irish Festival, Spooktacular, Annual Tree Lighting, and everything in between. Our event volunteers team up to bring safe, enjoyable events to life in Dublin. Contact [volunteer@dublin.oh.us](mailto:volunteer@dublin.oh.us) for more information.

### **Citizen Science**

Students interested in environmental stewardship would enjoy the many opportunities that we have to get involved in conservation efforts in the Dublin community. Whether you are interested in birds, clean water, native plants, pollinators, gardening or all of the above – we have a program for you! Contact Shannon at [smaurer@dublin.oh.us](mailto:smaurer@dublin.oh.us) to learn more.

### **Program Assistants**

Dublin's Preschool/Youth and Nature Education programming are robust throughout the year and our instructors need willing volunteers (ages 15+) to help with participant check-in, set-up, monitoring and assisting with activities throughout the program and clean-up at the end. Contact Shannon at [smaurer@dublin.oh.us](mailto:smaurer@dublin.oh.us) for more details and to schedule.

### **Keep Dublin Green**

Park clean up kits are available for anyone looking to give back. The kits include trash and recycle bags, gloves, safety vests, and a scavenger hunt. To reserve a kit, please complete [this](#) online form and we will be in touch with next steps.

### **Other**

We love when residents come to us with ideas of projects that would benefit the community. If you have a suggestion or interest other than what is listed above, please reach out to [volunteer@dublin.oh.us](mailto:volunteer@dublin.oh.us).



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## Seniors/Assisted Living

### **National Church Residences**

There are various locations and many different ways to serve the senior residents at one of local National Church Residences facilities. Host a game night, teach residents basic computer skills, organize and lead an arts & crafts project, read to a senior, share your talents, etc. Many senior residents do not have family nearby and don't get much of a chance to interact with younger generations. Contact Stacey Kyser at (614) 273-3755, email [volunteers@nationalchurchresidences.org](mailto:volunteers@nationalchurchresidences.org), or apply online [here](#).

### **Source Point**

800 Cheshire Road | Delaware, OH 43015

P: 740-363-6677 | E: [info@MySourcePoint.org](mailto:info@MySourcePoint.org)

Serve as a kitchen assistant, help with chores, in the foodbank distribution center and more. Most opportunities are open to teenagers, but some are for 18+, be sure to check each project description before applying [here](#).

### **Brookdale Hospice**

5955 Wilcox Place | Dublin, OH 43016

Contact: Tameka Martin, P: 614-210-1150, E: [tmartin10@brookdale.com](mailto:tmartin10@brookdale.com)

Be a companion for a hospice patient at Brookdale by reading books, watching TV, play games, arts & crafts, etc.

### **Dublin Retirement Village**

6470 Post Road | Dublin, OH 43016

*Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age.* Volunteer opportunities vary; help with Family Fun Nights, sit and talk with a senior, plan a group activity, assist with serving meals, and more. Reach out to Victoria Barkin for more information [vbarkin@seniorstar.com](mailto:vbarkin@seniorstar.com).

## Other Ways to Connect

### **Hands On Central Ohio**

195 N. Grant Avenue | Columbus, OH 43215

P: 614-221-6766 E: [volunteer@handsoncentralohio.org](mailto:volunteer@handsoncentralohio.org)

Web: [www.handsoncentralohio.org](http://www.handsoncentralohio.org)

Hands on Central Ohio's services strengthen and enhance the quality of life in our community by mobilizing volunteers and connecting people in need to community resources. The 2-1-1 call center has operators who access a database and connect callers to agencies that can help, or they can access the volunteer opportunity database, matching volunteers to appropriate programs or nonprofits. Visit the web site for more detailed information.

### **Connections – The Delaware County Volunteer Center**

39 W. Winter Street | Delaware, OH 43015

E: [connections@helplinedelmar.org](mailto:connections@helplinedelmar.org) | P: 740-363-5000 | Web: [here](#)

Connections is the Delaware County Volunteer Center, offering more than 300 volunteer opportunities at over 300 nonprofit agencies. Connections matches groups or individuals with volunteer opportunities and coordinates Days of Service. Visit the web site for more detailed information.





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## Youth Volunteerism Facts & Stats

- **Young people believe in it**  
92% of young people say that “volunteering locally to help people directly” is an effective way to make change (National Youth Survey, 20/20 Vision).
- **Youth who volunteer do well in school**  
Youth who volunteer are more likely to do well in school, graduate, vote and be philanthropic (UCLA/Higher Education Research Institute).
- **Youth who volunteer are less likely to abuse alcohol and drugs**  
Youth who volunteer just one hour or more a week are 50% less likely to abuse drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or engage in other destructive behaviors (Search Institute).
- **It Boosts Self-Esteem**  
Volunteering or participating in activities that help others is a good place to start for teens who need a boost in self-esteem. (Journal of Adolescence).
- **Volunteering helps teens develop leadership skills**  
Teens say the benefits received from volunteering are: learning to respect others, learning to be helpful and kind, learning to understand people who are different from them, developing leadership skills, becoming more patient, and better understanding of good citizenship (Independent Sector/Gallup, 1996).
- **Why they’re doing it**  
Contrary to the conventional wisdom that young adults volunteer for selfish reasons or because they are required to by school, most young adults say they volunteer because they were asked, because it makes them feel good, or because it makes a difference. Only 8% volunteer as a resume-builder and just 6% volunteers as part of a school requirement (Center for Democracy & Citizenship).
- **Major reasons cited by teens for volunteering**  
They feel compassion for people in need; they can do something for a cause they believe in. They believe if they help others, that others will help them (Independent Sector/Gallup).
- **It’s cool**  
Teens rank volunteering, along with the environment and eating healthy, as top three activities they consider “cool” (Teenage Marketing and Lifestyle Study).
- **Community Matters**  
Many more young people would become involved in their communities if their teachers, coaches, friends and family members helped them learn about possibilities for getting involved. Young people who learn about community-based organizations directly from someone they know are three times as likely as other young people to volunteer (Young People’s Involvement Survey/Princeton Survey Research).
- **What kids think**  
73% of young people think their efforts can have a positive impact on their communities (Do Something Young People’s Involvement Survey/Princeton Survey Research).
- **What kids believe adults think**  
Only 20% of young people perceive that adults in the community value youth (Search Institute Survey of Youth 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders).

