

How you feel about helping people and the environment. What can you do and why?

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Come to think of a world devoid of Samaritans, where people are only driven to exploit the treasures of the planet; where people lust gratification out of their greed for wealth, splendor and ease; where people are numb, deaf, dumb and blind at those unfortunate souls who have nothing. It would be a world unpleasant to look at. A world empty with hearts, a world drifting itself to chaos and self-destruction. It's unthinkable and beyond human.

Man is naturally a social being. It is inherent upon his nature to "connect" to people of his kind. And with that certain "connection," he lives up to be aware of his essence, his personality and his existence. It is his natural instinct to bridge his world to others and allow others to connect to him. Thus, a mutual experience of that essence, personality and existence.

It is by this principle that I wish I could live by through my youth. Reaching out to people is a fulfilling experience that brings more life contrary to that selfish gratification of the self and numbness to the people who are in dire need of hands. It is by this principle that I believe well-off people find constant happiness when they give out to charity part of their wealth, their time and their resources. It is by this principle that I believe people are turned to heroes and heroines when they save lives. This is a more prized endeavor than winning an Oscar or a Nobel Prize. Well, Nobel Prizes may somehow been won because of helping out people by a certain endeavor. The striving is there, but what plaques of recognition can't give is that touchy act of stretching your limbs and putting on a yoke for a cause.

A jumpstart among youth today is volunteerism borne out of the desire to move this country forward from its economic demise and social apathy to one that is an enterprise of growth and pro-active society. This volunteerism sort has that principle aforementioned. The stigma of its radical movement brings about optimism for its growth among the young and has influenced decision-making among the older generations. The exposures to communities which immerse volunteers to social and environmental realities "connect" people from diverse ideologies and cultural backgrounds. Not only does volunteerism exercises our ability to help people and get to be intimate with them, but it also diversify feelings out of that immersion. With this, the intense experience is worth the time and effort.

At this very moment, the evolution of volunteerism has embraced not only to people but also to the tangibles that directly support life and affect populations. This has been best exemplified by Greenpeace, an organization composed of individuals who look

after the environment, its protection and preservation. It has become an international colony and has since influenced strategic policies worldwide with regards the environment. Another exemplary activism on volunteerism is former US President Al Gore, who has recently visited the Philippines to advocate awareness on climate change. He has traveled to international conventions and authored various books in his crusade to save the environment. All these are borne out of the desire to help people and the environment.

If we look at the very reason why the wrath of mother nature intensifies season by season, why animals are crossing boundaries escaping from total annihilation from their former habitats, why the Western Hemisphere is munching ice creams and diving to pools because of elevated mercury's, why certain populations are spending worst conditions in refugee camps, and so and so, we see the main culprit of all these problems to point at the human beings for his overexploitation and too much materialism. The signs are too obvious for us to ignore, let alone the blind on the streets.

The best thing we could do as individuals is to join the struggle of saving the planet and without any precondition, stand as a volunteer. We need not say it's too late. The focus is a collective endeavor. Making yourself a couch-potato should be the least of all that matters to us. To volunteer isn't going to prick. It only needs our desire to save ourselves from any possibilities of being drowned because of floods, get hungry because of famine, get homeless because of social unrest or calamities, or get to see Apocalyptic scenarios right in front of our eyes! The line that would best fit why everyone should be involved is: **IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SAVE OUR ONLY HOME IN THE UNIVERSE!**