

**ATTITUDES OF AMERICANS  
OVER 45 YEARS OF AGE  
ON VOLUNTEERISM**

**PREPARED FOR:  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
RETIRED PERSONS**

**BY:  
HAMILTON, FREDERICK & SCHNEIDERS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**SEPTEMBER 1988**

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**Volunteerism Resource Center  
at ENERGIZE ASSOCIATES  
6450 Wissahickon Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19145**

## KEY FINDINGS

- Americans over 45 are active participants in a variety of volunteer programs, are doing so for personal enjoyment and fulfillment, and some are increasing the investment of their time in these programs.
- Two-in-five (39%) older Americans have given their time as a volunteer in the past year. Of these volunteers, 56% have spent 10 or more hours per month at this activity and 32% say the time they spend volunteering is an increase from the time they spent three years ago.
- The most frequently cited reason for participating in a volunteer program is for personal enjoyment (42%). Others are responding to societal concerns -- 26% say volunteering is their responsibility, 20% mention people needing help.
- Americans volunteer for a variety of programs, but most are working for a church group (57%) or in some type of community service (40%). Nearly a third are involved in school/youth programs (30%), and 27% are participating in social or civic organizations.

- Time constraints (48%), physical limitations (24%), and family concerns (14%) are the most common barriers to participation in volunteer programs. Few (8%) say they are uninterested.
- Nearly one-third of those who are currently not in a volunteer program (31%) say they would be interested in volunteering in the future.
- Compared to AARP's 1981 study of volunteerism, these findings reflect an increase among Americans over 55 in volunteer program participation, time spent volunteering, participating for personal enjoyment, and interest in volunteering by non-volunteers.

I  
INTRODUCTION

The following summary analysis is based on the results of a public opinion survey of 2,001 Americans over the age of 45, commissioned by the American Association of Retired Persons. Hamilton, Frederick & Schneiders conducted a telephone survey from December 4, 1987 through December 21, 1987 at the direction of AARP'S Research and Data Resources Department.

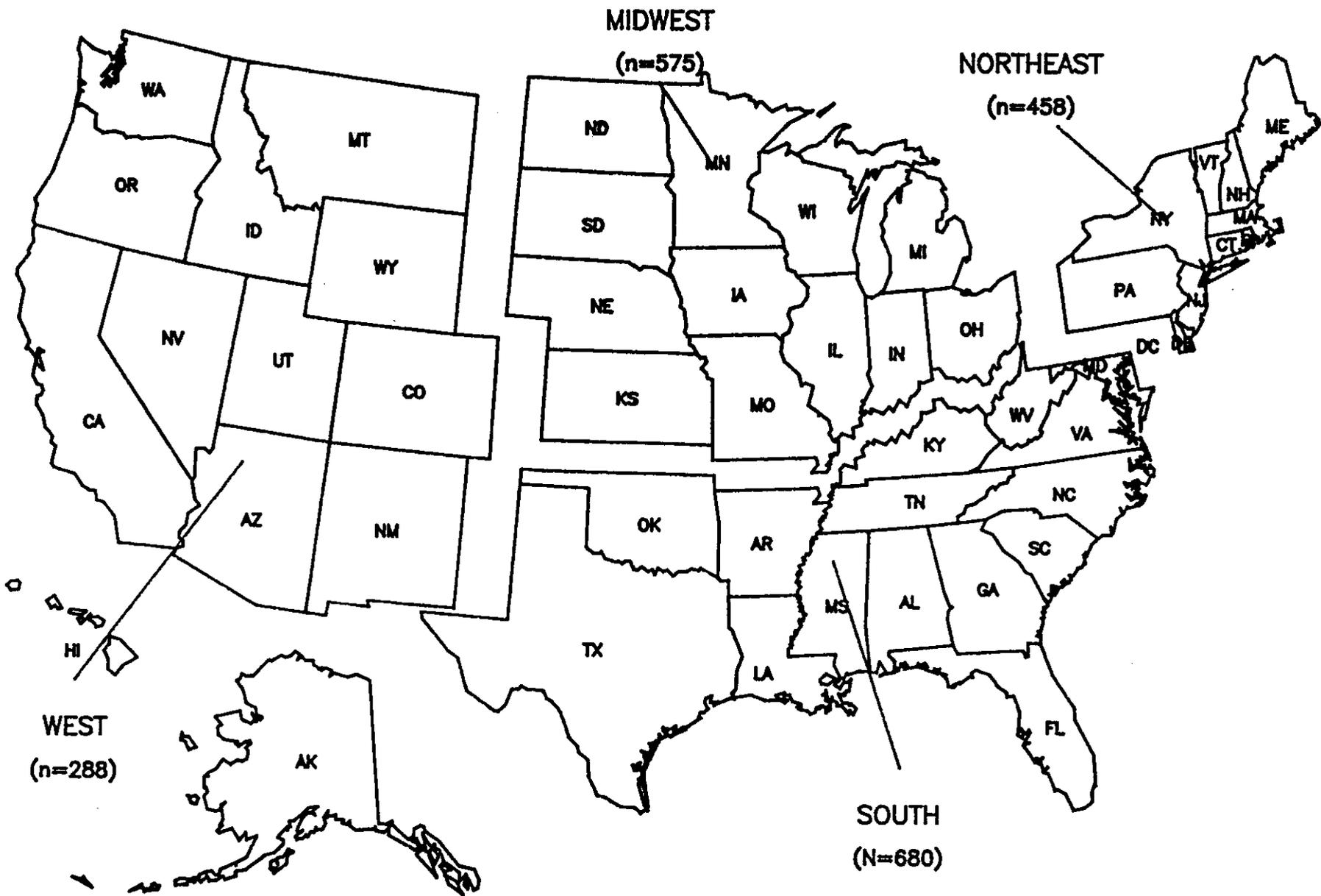
A map follows which shows the geographic distribution of the sample.

This analysis includes a discussion of only those questions in the survey which covered the issue of volunteerism, as well as a comparison of trends in volunteerism from a July, 1981 AARP survey (n=1001 Americans over 55).

The maximum sampling error is plus or minus 2.2 points with 95% confidence.

Any questions related to the contents of this report or findings of the survey should be directed to Judith Helein, AARP Office of Volunteer Coordination, at (202) 728-4248, or Margret Straw, AARP Research and Data Resources Department, at (202) 662-4902.

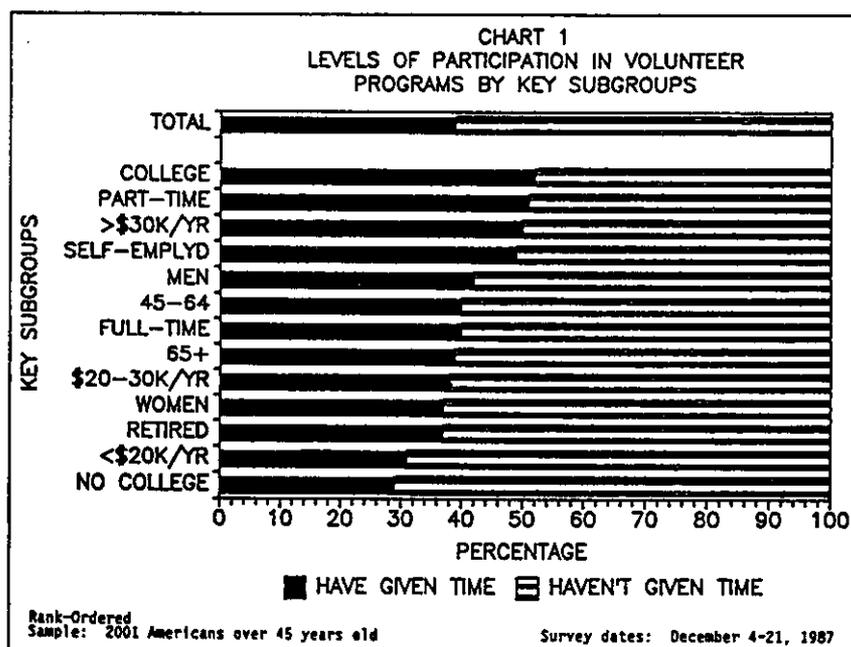
# AARP SAMPLING MAP



## II VOLUNTEERISM TODAY

MANY OLDER AMERICANS ARE VOLUNTEERING IN A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS AND SPENDING A GOOD DEAL OF TIME PER MONTH WORKING AS VOLUNTEERS. - THEY ARE PARTICIPATING IN THESE PROGRAMS FOR PERSONAL ENJOYMENT AND FULFILLMENT.

Two-in-five Americans over 45 (39%) have given time in the past year for some type of volunteer activity (Chart 1). Education and income appear to be factors related to volunteering. More than half of those with any college education (52%) have volunteered in the last year and 50% of those earning over \$30,000 have participated in a volunteer program. Those with a graduate degree have an even higher level of participation -- 57% volunteered. By gender, men are slightly more likely to volunteer than women (42% to 37%).



Those aged 45-to-49 (46% volunteer) are more likely than any other age category to have participated in a volunteer program. There is, however, a slight gain in volunteer participation among certain older groups -- 65-to-69 year olds (41% volunteer) and 75+ (41% volunteer).

By employment status, those who work part-time (51%) or who are self-employed (49%) are most likely to volunteer. Four-in-ten full-time workers (40%) volunteered their time in the past year. Retirees (37%) are somewhat less likely to volunteer; however, as a group, retirees are older, poorer, and less well-educated than non-retirees -- all factors that are related to lower rates of volunteering.

The most often cited reason for participating in a volunteer program is for personal enjoyment (42%). Others, however, volunteer for charitable reasons -- either a feeling of responsibility to society (26%) or because people need help (20%). Some are involved because it keeps them active (9%).

TABLE 2  
REASONS FOR  
PARTICIPATING IN A VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

	<u>n=783*</u>
Personal enjoyment/ fulfillment	42%
Responsible to society/ Obligation/Duty	26
People need help	20
Keeps me active	9
Other	5

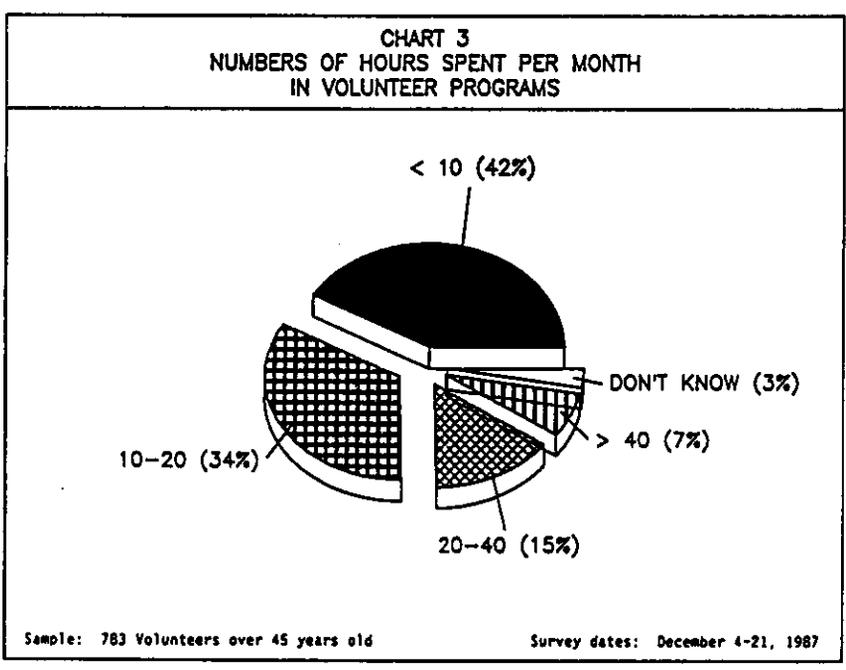
\* Volunteers over 45 years old

Men and women vary little in their reasons for volunteering, but Americans over 65 mention "keeping me active" as a reason twice as often as those under 65 (14% to 7%). Those with a higher education and those with upper incomes are most likely to volunteer out of a feeling of societal responsibility (38% and 33% respectively) than older Americans in general.

(A random selection of verbatim comments of older Americans [identified by those under and over 65] on why they participate in volunteer programs has been included as Appendices A and B.)

Most volunteers were recruited for their work through a friend or family member (30%) or through their church (28%). Others became involved through community organizations (14%) or in some other manner (13%).

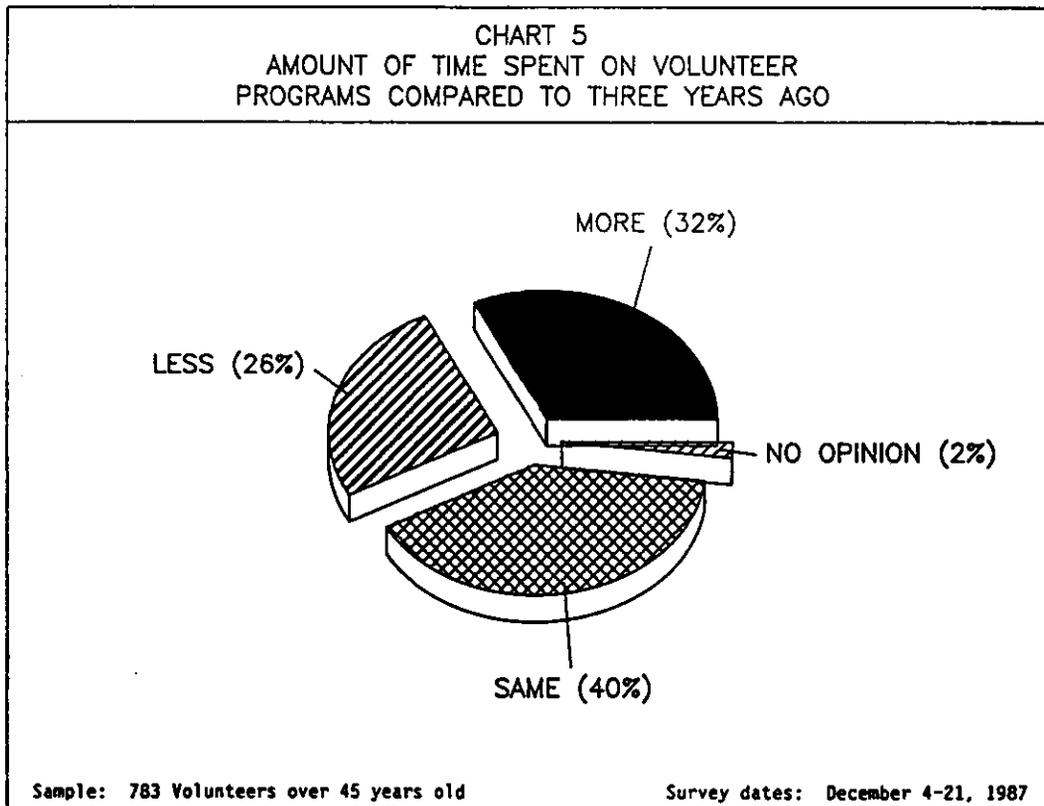
Four-in-ten volunteers (42%) spend less than 10 hours per month volunteering, while 34% work 10-20 hours, 15% work 20-40 hours, and only 7% spend more than 40 hours per month volunteering (Chart 3).



Those in older age groups (60+) appear to give more time per month for their volunteer activities than those under 60 (Table 4).

AGE CATEGORY	-----HOURS PER MONTH-----			
	<10	10-20	20-40	>40
45-49	50	30	12	7
50-54	40	34	16	8
55-59	50	31	11	5
60-64	34	40	20	4
65-69	38	34	17	6
70-74	34	33	18	10
75+	39	37	12	8

A plurality of volunteers over 45 (40%) indicate this is about the same amount of time they spent volunteering three years ago, while one-third (32%) have increased the number of hours they work as volunteers, and one-fourth (26%) say they have cut back their volunteer time. Women are slightly more likely than men to have increased their volunteer time (34% to 30%) and those aged 60-to-64 years old are also more likely to have increased their hours (41%) than any other age group.



Most volunteers are involved in church or community-oriented programs. A majority (57%) work for their church group, 40% are involved with some type of community service organization, 30% work with a school/youth group, and 27% participate as a volunteer for a social or civic group. Only 3% specifically mention working with the elderly.

Those aged 45-to-49 years old (53%) are much more likely to be involved with school or youth volunteer programs than other age groups. Blacks also differ in their volunteer program preferences: 71% volunteer for church programs.

Of specific volunteer programs tested, AARP was the program in which volunteers were most likely to have participated (8% volunteer). Four percent (4%) worked with the Retired Volunteer Service Program and 4% with the Senior Companion Program. Only 2% have worked with the Foster Grandparents Program. Those over 65 are the most likely to have worked in an AARP volunteer program (10%).

Time constraints (48%), physical limitations (24%), and family concerns (14%) are most frequently mentioned as reasons for not participating in a volunteer program. Few (8%) gave lack of interest as a reason for not volunteering (Table 6).

**TABLE 6**  
**REASONS FOR NOT**  
**PARTICIPATING IN A VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

n=1221\*

No time/too busy	48%
Physical/health problems	24
Family concerns	14
Not interested	8
Lack of access	4
Don't know how or where	3
Other	4

\* Non-volunteers over 45 years of age

Men and those aged 45-to-49 years old are the most likely to cite lack of time as a reason for not participating (56% and 72% respectively), as do those who are employed either full-time (80%) or who are self-employed (79%). For those over 65 and for retirees, physical problems are the most frequently cited barrier to participation (43% and 42% mention, respectively).

(A random selection of comments of older Americans [identified by those over and under 65] on why they do not participate in volunteer programs has been included as Appendices C and D.)

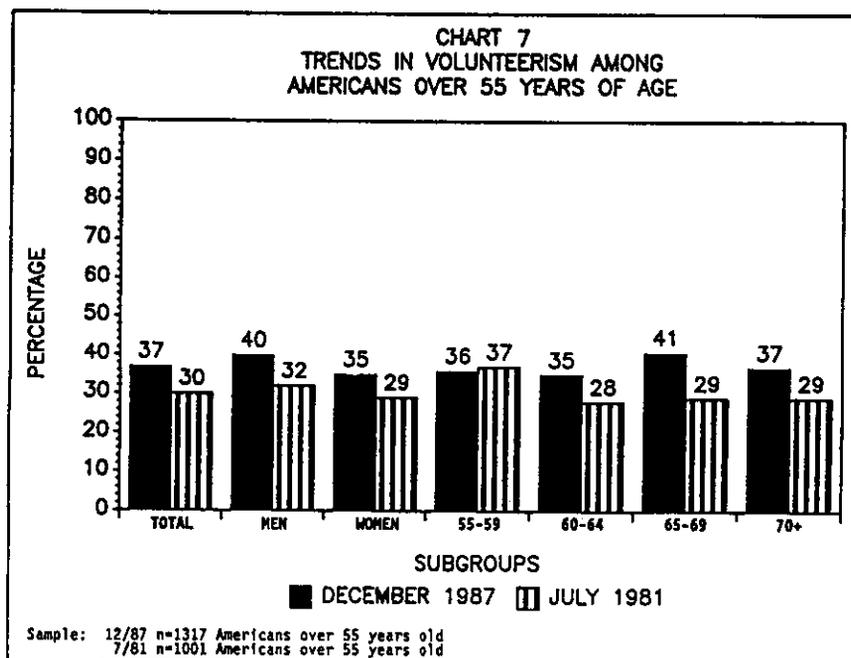
Among those who do not volunteer, 31% express interest in the possibility of volunteering. Those non-volunteers who express the most interest in possibly volunteering in the future include those with graduate degrees (45%), blacks (43%), 50-to-54 year olds (39%), and those earning over \$30,000 per year (39%).

Of those possibly interested in volunteering, 21% would consider working for programs for older persons. The same number would be interested in programs drawing on their own experiences (21%) and 18% would be interested in school or youth programs. Those most interested in possibly volunteering in programs for the elderly include blacks (35%), women aged 45-to-54 (33%), and those earning over \$30,000 per year (27%).

**III**  
**TRENDS IN VOLUNTEERISM**  
**AMONG AMERICANS OVER 55 YEARS OF AGE**

**MORE AMERICANS OVER 55 ARE PARTICIPATING IN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AND ARE SPENDING MORE TIME PER MONTH AS VOLUNTEERS THAN DID OLDER AMERICANS IN 1981. ADDITIONALLY, NON-VOLUNTEERS ARE EXPRESSING MORE INTEREST IN VOLUNTEERING THAN THOSE WHO WERE NOT VOLUNTEERING IN 1981.**

More Americans over 55 have given their time for some type of volunteer activity in the last year than did respondents in a 1981 AARP survey (Chart 7). Overall, 37% of those over 55 in the 1987 study say they have worked as a volunteer in the last year, a 7-point increase from July, 1981 when 30% said they volunteered. Men and those aged 65-to-69 have the highest increase in levels of participation (+8 points and +12 points respectively).



Volunteers are more likely to be participating in a program for reasons of personal enjoyment and fulfillment in 1987 than they were in 1981 (45% to 28%). Other reasons given for volunteering were mentioned with similar frequency in 1987 as in 1981 except for "people needing help" which was also cited more frequently in 1987 than in 1981 (20% to 13%) (Table 8).

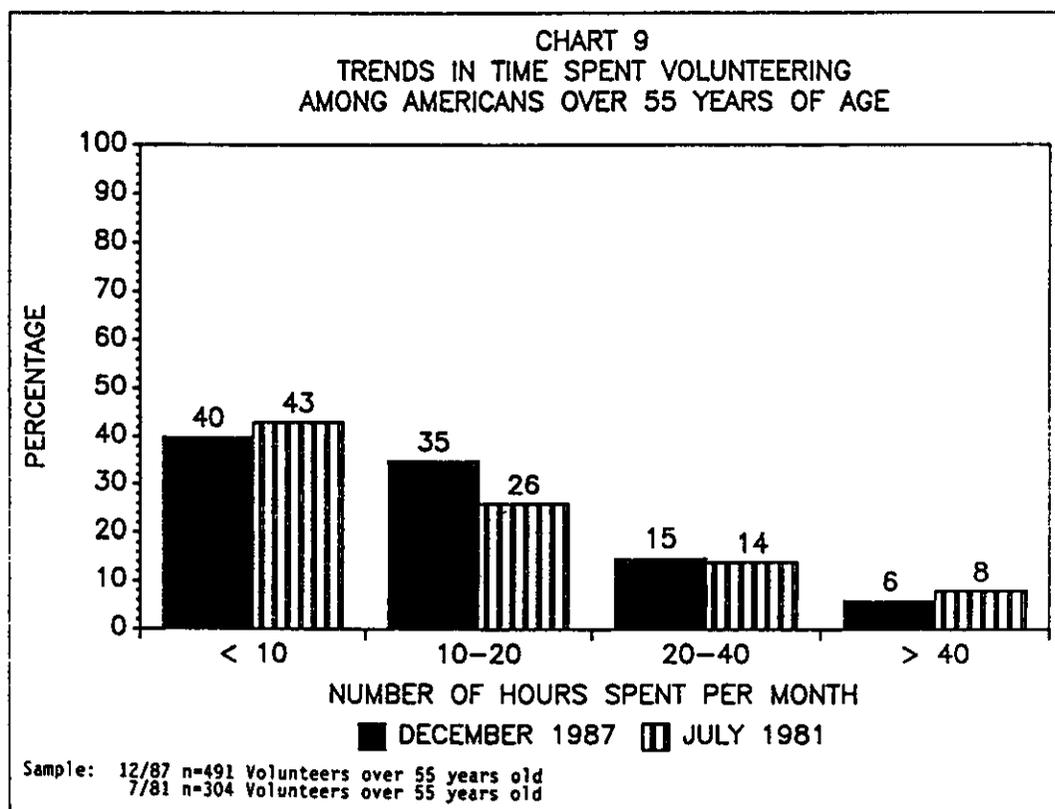
TABLE 8  
TRENDS IN REASONS FOR  
PARTICIPATING IN A VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

	<u>12/87</u> n=491*	<u>7/81</u> n=304*
Personal enjoyment/ fulfillment	45%	28%
Responsible to society/ Obligation/Duty	23	23
People need help	20	13
Keeps me active	11	15
Other	5	14

\* Volunteers over 55 years of age

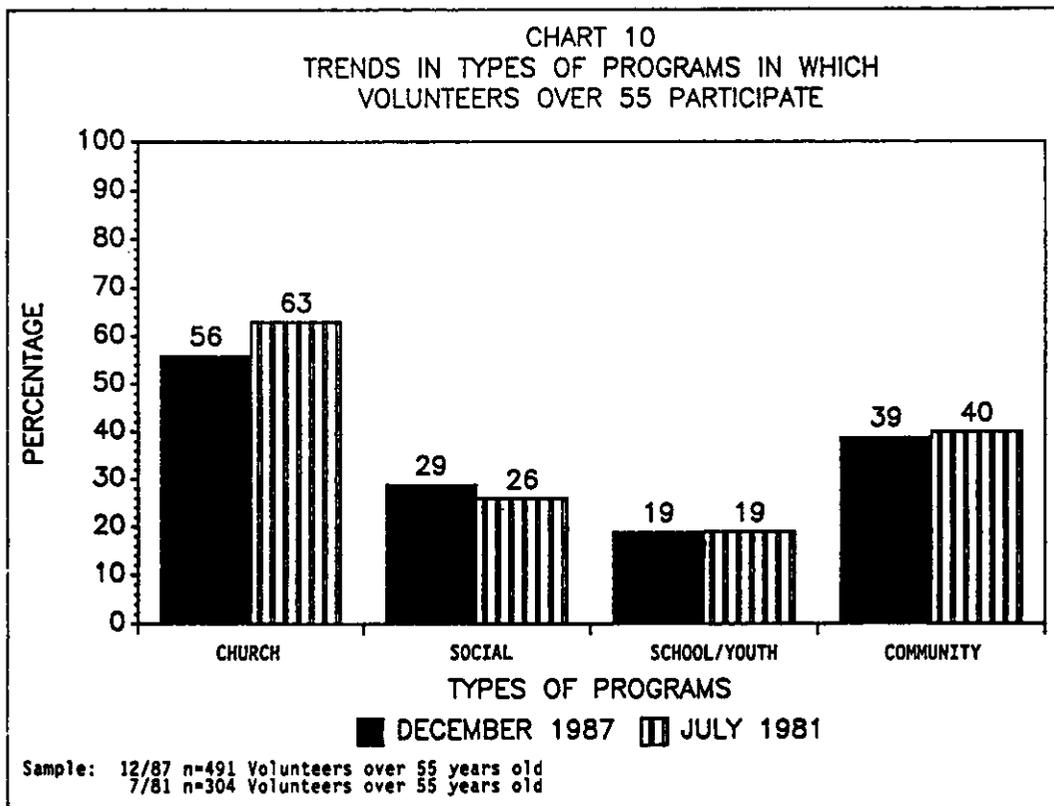
Volunteers are also spending more time in 1987 at their volunteer activities than they did in 1981. Two-in-five volunteers (40%) currently say they spend less than 10 hours per month volunteering which is similar to the percentage who said they spent this amount of time in 1981 (Chart 9). The proportion of volunteers who spend between 10 and 20 hours per month, however, has increased from 26% in 1981 to 35% in 1987.

In 1987, fifteen percent (15%) say they work between 20 and 40 hours per month and 6% say they work over 40 hours (both of which are similar levels to 1981).



The type of volunteer programs in which volunteers participate has changed little in the past six years. Most volunteers, both in 1987 and 1981, are or were involved in church or community-oriented programs. Slightly more volunteers in 1981 worked with religious or church programs than did in 1987 (63% to 56%) (Chart 10). The same number worked at community service organizations, such as the United Way, the Red Cross, or the Salvation Army in 1981 as did in 1987 (40% to 39%).

School and youth programs, such as the PTA or Big Brother, or coaching sports also experienced no change in volunteer participation among older Americans with 19% volunteering for these types of programs in both 1981 and 1987. Approximately one-fourth of volunteers from both studies participated in a social, fraternal, or civic organizations such as the Lions, Rotary Club, the Masons, or Sertoma (29% in 1987, 26% in 1981).



The reasons cited for not being able to participate in a volunteer program were also comparable in 1987 to 1981 (Table 11). Older Americans today, however, are

much less likely to say time constraints are the biggest hinderance to their participation and are slightly more likely to cite physical problems than they were in 1981.

**TABLE 11**  
**TRENDS IN REASONS FOR NOT**  
**PARTICIPATING IN A VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

	<u>12/87</u> n=822*	<u>7/81</u> n=697*
No time/too busy	39%	54%**
Physical/health problems	31	26
Family concerns	14	--
Not interested	9	15
Other	11	12

\* Non-volunteers over 55 years of age

\*\* Mentions include busy in general,  
busy at work, and at home

Nearly three-in-ten (28%) of those not volunteering in 1987 say they would be interested in working in some kind of volunteer program in the future. This overall level of potential interest is an increase from 1981 when only one-fifth (21%) said they would be interested (Table 12).

TABLE 12  
TRENDS IN INTEREST IN  
VOLUNTEERING BY NON-VOLUNTEERS

	<u>12/87</u> n=822*	<u>7/81</u> n=697*
<u>Do you think you would be interested</u> <u>in participating in any kind of</u> <u>volunteer work?</u>		
Yes	28%	21%
No	67	71
Don't know	5	8
<u>Would you be interested in volunteer</u> <u>work involving . . .**</u>		
Programs for older persons	18	13
School or youth programs	14	10
Activities drawing on own experience	18	14
* Non-volunteers over 55 years of age.		
** Asked only of those who expressed interest on previous item.		

As Table 12 indicates, interest levels have also increased slightly for specific types of volunteer programs in which non-volunteers may be interested in participating. Eighteen percent (18%) of non-volunteers over 55 who would consider participation in volunteer work expressed interest in work involving older persons, compared to 13% in 1981. School or youth programs and activities drawing on personal experience have also gained in interest levels (+4 points each).

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APPENDIX A  
REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

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I ENJOY SEEING THE FRUITS OF IT -- BRINGS A LOT OF HAPPINESS TO PEOPLE YOU ARE HELPING.

MY GOOD NAME; TO HELP OTHERS.

WELL, I WORK IN A RETAIL STORE SO I AM INVOLVED IN CRISIS SITUATIONS AND I WANT TO HELP PEOPLE TO BALANCE THE OTHER SIDE OF MY LIFE.

I ENJOY HELPING PEOPLE.

TO HELP THE KIDS OUT; TO BE SUPPORTIVE.

BECAUSE I'M A CHRISTIAN.

TO BE ACTIVE IN SOMETHING; TO USE TIME IN SOMETHING HELPFUL.

WELL, I'M RETIRED AND I HAVE THE TIME; MAKES ME FEEL NEEDED.

I AM A MISSIONARY LAY PERSON; I LIVE WITH MISSIONARIES THEN COME BACK AND REPORT TO THE CHURCHES -- IT'S ALL VOLUNTEER WORK; THIS IS THE MINISTRY -- I FEEL GOD HAS CALLED UPON ME.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER -- HELP TERMINALLY ILL AT HOME.

WELL, I LIKE IT; IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO GET OUT AND PARTICIPATE.

BECAUSE I ENJOY DOING IT -- IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD.

BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE IT.

I LIKE TO HELP THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN MYSELF.

---

APPENDIX A  
REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

---

I'M CONCERNED FOR QUALITY OF LIFE OF MY FELLOW CITIZENS.

SELF-SATISFACTION; THE NEED IS THERE, THE NEED IS OBVIOUS;  
BECAUSE I SEE THE NEED AND I FEEL SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT.

GIVES ME SOMETHING TO DO.

MAKES ME FEEL BETTER; GIVING BACK TO OTHERS WHO ARE LESS  
FORTUNATE.

IF A PERSON NEEDS HELP, I FEEL OBLIGATED TO HELP.

TO HELP PEOPLE; TO TAKE CARE OF THE SICK.

HELP OTHERS WHO NEED MY HELP.

I BELIEVE IN IT; I BELIEVE IT'S WORTHWHILE AND IT'S NEEDED.

BECAUSE I WAS ASKED AND NO ONE ELSE WOULD DO IT.

MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD.

I ENJOY GIVING MY TIME.

A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY; I ALSO FEEL RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
THE ART AND HUMANITIES.

GET OUT AND HELP OTHERS.

ASKED -- I THINK IT HELPS THE COMMUNITY AND MYSELF.

I HAVE SEVERAL FRIENDS WHO HAVE DIED AND I GET INVOLVED  
BECAUSE OF FRIENDS WHO GAVE ME HELP WHEN I NEEDED IT.

---

APPENDIX A  
REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

---

PEOPLE NEED THE HELP.

I LIKE WORKING WITH PEOPLE; WHEN THERE'S SOMEONE THERE TO HELP, THEN THINGS GET DONE BETTER.

JUST HUMANITY I GUESS.

BECAUSE I FEEL THE NEED FOR IT AND I HAVE ACTIVELY BEEN ENGAGED IN CHURCH STRUCTURE.

I JUST WANTED TO HELP OUT -- SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY.

I ENJOY IT; I GET A LOT OF SELF-SATISFACTION FROM IT.

TO BE HELPFUL; TO HELP OUT.

I WANT TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO HUMANITY; I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING EXTRA.

I HAVE CERTAIN SKILLS, AND SERVICES ARE SHORT OF DOLLARS.

IT WAS FOR A RELATIVE OF MINE.

IT FILLS THE GAPS IN SOCIETY -- BETWEEN WHAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES AND WHAT PEOPLE NEED.

NECESSARY -- THE COMMUNITY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS OR ELSE WE'LL BE TAXED.

SO MUCH INFORMATION NEEDS TO GO TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE IT.

SELF-SATISFACTION.

I THINK IT'S A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF PEOPLE TO GIVE THEIR TIME FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

---

APPENDIX A  
REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

---

WELL, IT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD AND I LIKE TO HELP PEOPLE.

I ENJOY IT; GIVES ME A SENSE OF FULFILLMENT.

I BELIEVE THE LORD HAS MANDATED THAT I DO THAT.

I'M GETTING TO A CERTAIN AGE AND I WOULD WANT PEOPLE TO HELP ME, THAT'S WHY I HELP.

THE SATISFACTION OF HELPING OTHER PEOPLE.

BECAUSE I ENJOY DOING IT -- IT PLEASES ME VERY MUCH.

BECAUSE I WANT TO.

TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.

IF SOMEONE DOESN'T DO IT, THOSE PEOPLE DO WITHOUT.

AS A PARTICIPANT; JUST HELPING THE FELLOW MAN; MAKES ME FEEL I WAS OF SERVICE TO ONE WHO NEEDS IT.

I THINK IT'S NEEDED IN A TOWN LIKE THIS AND SO MANY PEOPLE ARE IN NEED.

TO HELP OTHERS EVEN IF IT'S IN A LITTLE WAY.

IT MAKES ONE FEEL GOOD JUST TO BE ABLE TO HELP OTHERS, THOSE LESS FORTUNATE.

BECAUSE I LIKE TO DO THE THINGS THAT I'M DOING; IT INTERESTS ME.

---

APPENDIX A  
REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

---

IT'S CHURCH; IT'S SOMETHING I LIKE TO DO.

FOR CARE FOR THE FELLOW MAN; FOR SOME WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THAN MYSELF.

I'M JUST CONCERNED ABOUT PEOPLE -- I FEEL THEY NEED MORE ATTENTION.

BECAUSE IT'S GOOD TO GIVE TIME TO SOMETHING THAT HAS A GOOD CAUSE.

BEATS THE HELL OUT OF ME. I WAS BROUGHT UP THAT WAY -- ALWAYS HELPED PEOPLE, SO I CONTINUE TO.

THE SATISFACTION IT GIVES YOU AND ALSO KNOWING THAT THEY NEED IT.

A LOT OF TIMES IF YOU DON'T DO IT, IT WON'T GET DONE.

GUILT -- MY PARENTS WOULD MAKE ME FEEL GUILTY.

JUST TO HELP OUT.

I FEEL LIKE IT'S NEEDED; I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, BUT I FEEL I SHOULD GIVE WHAT I CAN.

TO HELP OUT THE SICK AND ELDERLY.

EVERYBODY IS NOT AS FORTUNATE AS ME, SO I TRY TO HELP OUT.

SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST TOO PROUD TO GET FOOD STAMPS, SO I JUST TRY AND HELP THEM OUT.

I LIKE TAKING CARE OF AND HELPING PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED.

---

APPENDIX A  
REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

---

I ENJOY IT.

I DON'T KNOW -- I FEEL I COULD HELP.

MAKES ME FEEL GOOD AND IT IS NECESSARY.

I WAS A MEMBER OF A CLUB -- I CAN DO THINGS WITH CHILDREN,  
LIKE THE LITTLE LEAGUE.

BECAUSE I AM RETIRED AND HAVE EXTRA TIME.

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APPENDIX B  
REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 65+

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I ENJOY IT MYSELF AS WELL AS DOING GOOD FOR OTHERS.

I HAVE THE TIME TO HELP OTHERS.

PEOPLE NEED IT -- OLDER PEOPLE NEED SOMETHING TO KEEP THEM OCCUPIED.

JUST TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO.

WELL, I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO -- TO HELP PEOPLE -- I WAS BROUGHT UP THIS WAY.

BECAUSE I ENJOY IT; IT KEEPS ME ALERT; MAKES ME REALIZE HOW LUCKY I AM BECAUSE I'M HEALTHY AND BECAUSE I FEEL IT IS MY CIVIC DUTY, MY MORAL RESPONSIBILITY.

I LOVE KIDS AND I DO IT.

I ENJOYED IT.

BECAUSE I WAS IN THE NURSING CAREER AND DECIDED TO HELP OUT.

I GUESS I THINK PEOPLE NEED HELP AND I HAVE THE TIME.

BECAUSE IT'S NICE TO TALK TO PEOPLE; I DO VOLUNTEER WORK EVERYDAY TO SOMEONE DIFFERENT.

I FEEL THAT IF I'M ABLE TO OR WHEN I'M ABLE TO, I DO IT AND IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD, BUT I REALLY DID ENJOY IT UNTIL I HAD ARTHRITIS.

BECAUSE I WANT TO AND I LIKE TO.

VOLUNTEER AT ART GALLERY -- ENJOY DOING THINGS FOR THE COMMUNITY AND BEING WITH PEOPLE.

---

APPENDIX B  
REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 65+

---

SENIOR CITIZEN -- COULDN'T GET A JOB, SO I VOLUNTEERED.

IT'S NEEDED, SO I DO IT.

AT SENIOR CENTER -- SAW SO MANY WOMEN ALONE AND I WORK FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ALSO.

BECAUSE PEOPLE NEED IT; HELP FEED THE HUNGRY.

I LIKE TO BE BUSY; HELP PEOPLE; I LIVE BY MYSELF; IF YOU DON'T REACH OUT TO PEOPLE, YOU BECOME A HERMIT.

AT ONE TIME I NEEDED FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICES AND NOW I'M HELPING THEM; I'M A WIDOWER AND I JUST DONATE TIME TO DIFFERENT THINGS LIKE THAT.

IT'S FOR OUR CHURCH AND I THINK IT COMES FIRST.

IT WAS PERSONAL -- BASIS FOR A FRIEND.

TO HELP OUT THOSE NEEDIER AND LESS PRIVILEGED THAN I.

THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO NEED HELP AND I ENJOY HELPING PEOPLE.

I GOT A BROTHER THAT NEEDS HELP -- HE'S IN A HOME; WHENEVER I GO OUT THERE, I TAKE ALONG SOMETHING FOR OTHERS.

I ENJOY DOING IT; I THINK IT'S REWARDING; I FEEL I'M DOING A SERVICE THAT'S NEEDED.

BECAUSE I LIKE HELPING CHILDREN; I AM THE POTENTATE OF MY TEMPLE -- WE OWN 22 SHRINER'S HOSPITALS.

IT BENEFITS BOTH MYSELF AND OTHERS.

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APPENDIX B  
REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 65+

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I HAVE THE FREE TIME, SO WHY SHOULDN'T I DO IT.

I'M INTERESTED IN PEOPLE.

BELONG TO DISABLED VETERANS OF AMERICA.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

LIKE TO BE WITH PEOPLE AND STAY YOUNG.

HELP OTHER PEOPLE.

BECAUSE THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE WHO NEED IT.

IT'S A GOOD COMMUNITY SERVICE; NOT MUCH TIME NEEDED FOR HELPING THE ELDERLY.

I WANT TO; GOODWILL.

IT GIVES ME SOMETHING TO DO AND GIVES ME A CHANCE TO HELP OTHERS.

BECAUSE I GO TO A NURSING HOME SEVEN DAYS A WEEK TO CARE FOR MY WIFE.

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APPENDIX C  
REASONS FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

---

NO TIME.

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

WELL, I GUESS I HAVEN'T BEEN ASKED.

I WORK AND HAVE OTHER ACTIVITIES; NO TIME.

I WORK FULL TIME.

I FELL AND LOST THE USE OF MY RIGHT ARM.

TOO BUSY.

I HELP MY AUNT WHO IS SICK AND HELP OUT SOME OF MY NEIGHBORS.

USUALLY DO, RIGHT NOW I HAVE NO TIME FOR IT.

I CAN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE -- I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MY HUSBAND; I HAVE LIMITED TIME.

AGE; MY FAMILY TAKES UP MY TIME.

I'M TAKING CARE OF MY FAMILY; WHEN MY KIDS ARE ALL GONE, I WOULD LOVE TO HELP SOMEONE.

I JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME.

TIRED; LACK OF TIME.

I AM DISABLED MYSELF, OTHERWISE I WOULD. I USED TO.

BECAUSE WE HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER TO TAKE CARE OF AND I FEEL IT SHOULD START AT HOME.

---

APPENDIX C  
REASONS FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

---

I JUST DON'T HAVE TIME, WORKING LIKE I DO.

I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME -- I TAKE CARE OF MY CHILDREN.

A LACK OF TIME; I HAVE A FULL TIME JOB AND A HOUSE TO TAKE CARE OF.

I HAVE A FULL TIME JOB AND I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MY MOTHER.

IT TAKES MILES TO GET ANYWHERE -- THIS A RURAL AREA; I HATE TO SAY I'M GOING TO BE SOMEWHERE AND CAN'T BE THERE -- I DON'T HAVE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION.

TIME -- I HAVE A FAMILY AND I WORK FULL TIME.

I DON'T HAVE TIME -- I WORK 8 HOURS A DAY.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

BECAUSE I HAVE TO WORK ALL THE TIME.

BECAUSE I HAVE A MORE THAN FULL TIME JOB AND NO TIME LEFT.

I'M TOO BUSY.

JUST SO BUSY I DON'T REALLY HAVE THE TIME.

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

TOO BUSY.

FULL-TIME JOB AS WELL AS MOTHER AND WIFE.

I WORK -- I AM AN RN; I AM ALSO A FOSTER MOTHER.

---

APPENDIX C  
REASONS FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

---

I'M DISABLED.

I'M WORKING TRYING TO KEEP MYSELF GOING.

DISABLED, I'M NOT WORKING.

I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS SUCH AS  
HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES AND MAINTAINING OTHER PROPERTY.

WORK FULL TIME WITH CHILDREN.

PHYSICALLY AND FINANCIALLY LIMITED.

JUST HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

I'M AT HOME TAKING CARE OF MY DAD.

BECAUSE I RUN A BUSINESS FULL TIME.

LAZINESS I SUPPOSE; NO OTHER REASON.

TIME -- I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH OF IT.

BUYING A HOME -- SELLING ONE HOME AND BUILDING ANOTHER HOME.

HAVEN'T HAD THE TIME IN LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF WORK.

TIME MOSTLY.

I'M PRETTY BUSY; MY TIME IS ALL TAKEN UP AT HOME AND I DON'T  
HAVE TIME TO GO OUT ANYPLACE ELSE.

I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

---

APPENDIX C  
REASONS FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

---

BETWEEN WORK AND CHILDREN, I HAVE NO TIME.

I JUST NEVER LOOKED INTO IT.

I WORK 8 HOURS A DAY -- WHEN I GET HOME I DON'T DO ANYTHING.

HUSBAND IS DISABLED.

TIME IS LIMITED TO CARING FOR MOM.

I HAVE A CRUSHED VERTIBRAE AND EMPHYSEMA.

I HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED.

I'M NOT WORKING.

NO TIME.

LACK OF TIME.

I WORK AND I HAVE NO TIME TO DO VOLUNTEER.

I HAVE NO TIME BETWEEN MY ACTIVITIES AND I WORK.

I WORK TWO JOBS; NO TIME.

I WAS SICK MYSELF, SO I DIDN'T FEEL UP TO IT.

I JUST REMARRIED AND MOVED AND DON'T REALLY HAVE THE TIME.

BECAUSE I'M A TEACHER AND HELP TO RAISE 90 CHILDREN.

I HAVE FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES -- TAKE CARE OF PARENTS.

---

APPENDIX C  
REASONS FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

---

I HAVEN'T HAD TIME.

I JUST RETIRED.

NO TIME; TOO BUSY.

BECAUSE AFTER WORKING ALL DAY I'M VERY TIRED.

BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T HAVE TIME TO VOLUNTEER AND SOME DO.

PLENTY OF OTHERS TO DO VOLUNTEER WORK.

NO TIME; I WORK FULL TIME IN MY OWN BUSINESS.

WELL, I DON'T HAVE TIME; IF I WERE RETIRED, THEN I MIGHT.

BACK PROBLEMS.

WELL, BECAUSE I HAVE ALL THE WORK THAT I NEED RIGHT NOW.

NO TIME -- I WORK 3RD SHIFT AND I SLEEP MOST OF THE DAY.

I WORK ABOUT 12 HOURS A DAY AT MY PRESENT JOB.

BECAUSE I'VE BEEN EMPLOYED ON A JOB FIVE DAYS A WEEK AND HAVE NO TIME.

JUST RECENTLY MOVED TO THE AREA.

BECAUSE I AM ILL MYSELF.

BECAUSE I'VE BEEN BUSY MAKING MONEY TO PAY TAXES TO SUPPORT OTHER PEOPLE.

---

APPENDIX C  
REASONS FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 45-64

---

TYPE OF JOB -- I'M ON THE ROAD ALOT AND JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

DON'T DRIVE AND I'M NOT HEALTHY.

I HAVE MY OWN PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND MY FULL TIME JOB; MY SON IS VERY SICK AT THIS TIME AND WILL BE SICK FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

I'M NOT ABLE TO -- I'M DISABLED.

NO SPECIAL REASON.

I LIVE TOO FAR AWAY FROM TOWN.

I HAVE A CRIPPLED LEG.

I NEED HELP MYSELF.

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

I DON'T HAVE TIME; I GO FISHING; I FIND ENOUGH TO DO.

DON'T HAVE THE TIME; I WORK A FULL TIME JOB.

THE WORK I DO, I DON'T HAVE TIME.

---

APPENDIX D  
REASONS FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 65+

---

MY HEALTH; I AM NOT ABLE.

I DON'T KNOW.

I HAVE NO TIME -- MY TIME IS SPENT RAISING EIGHT KIDS.

A QUESTION OF TIME.

WE'RE DISABLED.

I HAVE NEVER DONE IT -- I COULDN'T DO IT.

I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY REASON.

BECAUSE I WORK FULL TIME AND I DON'T HAVE ANY ENERGY LEFT OVER -- I'M 65 YEARS OLD.

WELL, WE'RE RETIRED AND I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE MY HUSBAND ALONE TOO LONG.

WELL, I'M AN ELDERLY PERSON AND I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

I HAVE BAD KNEES AND CAN'T WALK.

I HAPPEN TO HAVE ALOT OF ARTHRITIS -- I CAN'T STAND OR WALK TOO MUCH.

I'M 88 YEARS OLD.

BECAUSE I'VE BEEN BABYSITTING.

I TAKE CARE OF MY GRANDCHILDREN AND I'M OVER 70 YEARS OLD.

---

APPENDIX D  
REASONS FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 65+

---

I HAVE A PART-TIME JOB AND I'M TOO BUSY.

MY AGE.

I DON'T HAVE TIME AND I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MY MOTHER; I CAN'T GET OUT.

I'M RETIRED AND TOO OLD TO DO VOLUNTEER WORK ANYMORE.

I JUST HAVEN'T DONE IT BEFORE -- NO REASON.

I WORK AROUND HERE ON MY FARM AND I JUST HAVEN'T GOTTEN AROUND TO THAT.

DUE TO MY HEALTH.

I HAVEN'T HAD TIME -- I'M TAKING CARE OF MY MOTHER.

TOO BUSY HELPING DISABLED FRIENDS.

I HAVE TO DO IT AT HOME.

I TOOK CARE OF MY WIFE.

WELL, BECAUSE OF MY AGE AND MY WIFE HAS BEEN SICK.

WELL, I'M PRETTY BUSY AND I HAVE NO TIME.

BECAUSE PHYSICALLY, I'M NOT ABLE.

BECAUSE I'M TOO BUSY AT HOME TAKING CARE OF MY SPOUSE.

I DON'T HAVE TIME, BECAUSE I'M TAKING CARE OF MY WIFE.

---

APPENDIX D  
REASONS FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 65+

---

BECAUSE I'M NOT ABLE TO WORK; I HAVE A BAD HIP AND BAD KNEE.

ELDERLY AND CAN'T GET AROUND VERY WELL.

BECAUSE OF WORKING HOURS; I DID NOT HAVE TIME AND WAS TOO BUSY.

BECAUSE I'M TOO OLD.

I'M RECOVERING FROM AN OPERATION NOW.

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO.

MY AGE AND MY HEALTH.

I CAN'T GET AROUND AS GOOD AS I SHOULD -- I HAVE ARTHRITIS IN MY LEGS AND I'M 70 YEARS OLD; I'M JUST NOT INTERESTED IN THAT SORT OF THING.

NEGLECTFUL; CAN'T DO IT AS I TRAVEL ALOT WITH MY HUSBAND.

HAVE MORE TO DO THAN I KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH.

WELL, I CAN'T SAY -- IT DEALS WITH MY JOB.

I HAVE A BAD KNEE AND I FALL EASILY.

I'M WORKING; NO TIME.

LAZINESS.

TOO MUCH WORK IN MY HOUSE -- BUILDING MY HOUSE.

I HAD A VERY SICK HUSBAND UNTIL SIX MONTHS AGO AND MY HEALTH ISN'T THAT GOOD.

---

APPENDIX D  
REASONS FOR NOT VOLUNTEERING FOR THOSE AGE 65+

---

POOR HEALTH.

I'M TOO OLD -- I'M 83 YEARS OLD.

NOT IN GOOD HEALTH.

WELL, I HAVE NOT BEEN CONTACTED AND I'M NOT PUTTING MYSELF FORWARD IN AN EFFORT.

I'M NOT VERY HEALTHY.

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

I FEEL TIRED; I TOOK CARE OF MY HUSBAND WHILE HE WAS SICK.

I DON'T DRIVE; I CAN'T WALK TOO FAR; BY THE TIME I DO FOR MYSELF, I DON'T HAVE ANY TIME LEFT.

BECAUSE I HAVE A VERY BUSY SCHEDULE WITH MY GRANDCHILDREN AND DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

BECAUSE OF AGE AND HEALTH; I AM WILLING, BUT NOT ABLE.

BECAUSE I HAVE TWO ARTIFICIAL HIPS AND I CAN'T GET AROUND AS WELL AS I USED TO.

I HAVEN'T BEEN WELL SINCE I WAS 73.

HANDS FULL WITH MY TWO NIECES.

I DON'T HAVE TIME RIGHT NOW, MAYBE IN THE FUTURE.

BECAUSE I HAD A STROKE.

## APPENDIX E

### VOLUNTEERISM SURVEY QUESTIONS

	<u>%</u>	
A. During the past year or so, have you given any of your time to work in any type of volunteer activity or not?	Yes _____	39
	No _____	61
	Don't know _____	--

(IF YES) ←

B. What is the main reason why you participate in volunteer work?  
(PROBE)

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--	--	--	--	--

C. And how did you become involved with this volunteer activity? (DO NOT READ CHOICES) (IF R. CONFUSED:) How did you find out about this volunteer activity?	Through a friend, family member _____	30
	Church _____	28
	Work _____	5
	Radio/TV/Paper _____	5
	Other Community Organization _____	14
	Other (WRITE IN) _____	13
	Don't know _____	5

D. About how many hours per month would you say you usually work as a volunteer? (READ CHOICES)	Less than 10 _____	42
	Between 10 and 20 _____	34
	Between 20 and 40 _____	15
	More than 40 _____	7
	Don't know _____	2

E. Do you do volunteer work for any of the following types of groups or organizations?

	YES	NO/ D.K.
1. Religious or church groups _____	57	43
2. Social, fraternal, or civic organizations such as the Lions, Rotary Club, the Masons, or Sertoma _____	27	73
3. School or youth programs such as the PTA, Big Brother, or coaching sports. _____	30	30
4. Community service organizations such as the United Way, the Red Cross, or Salvation Army. _____	40	60
5. Any other type of organization or agency I haven't mentioned? (WRITE IN) _____	24	76

F. Compared with three years ago, would you say you spend more hours, less hours, or about the same amount of hours on volunteer activities now?	More hours _____	32
	Less hours _____	26
	About the same _____	40
	Don't know _____	2

(GO TO Q.J)

(IF NO IN Q.A)

G. What is the main reason why you do not participate in volunteer work? (PROBE)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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H. Do you think you would be interested in participating in any kind of volunteer work or not? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ 31  
No \_\_\_\_\_ 63  
Don't know \_\_\_\_\_ 6

(IF YES)

I. Would you be interested in volunteer work involving... (READ EACH ITEM)

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1. Programs for older persons such as those who need physical assistance?_____	21	79	
2. School or youth programs such as PTA, Big Brother, or services for those who have been in trouble or who are handicapped?_____	18	82	
3. Activities drawing directly on your previous work or life experience?_____	21	79	

J. Are you currently or have you ever in the past worked as a volunteer in: (READ CHOICES)

	YES	NO/ D.K.
1. The Retired Volunteer Service Program - RSVP_____	4	96
2. The Foster Grandparents Program_____	2	98
3. The Senior Companion Program_____	4	96
4. The American Association of Retired Persons - AARP_____	8	92