

I have been a volunteered many times over the past ten years at AAA and have always come away from the experience feeling good about myself, good about the employees who I participated with and good about knowing that AAA has made so many volunteer opportunities available to us.

Volunteering has indeed developed my leadership skills. I took the Red Cross Shelter workshop at the Main Office in San Francisco several years ago. It inspired me to do more emergency training and I ended up taking the Community Emergency Response Team training (CERT) in Richmond. I have since participated in quite a few of the volunteer Disaster Recovery trainings in West Contra Costa that AAA has participated in. These events have allowed me to get to know and work with other AAA employees who work in different departments and Divisions that I would never usually come into contact with. Working as a team with our AAA volunteer shirts in a group outside the office has given me a sense of pride, especially when during the evaluation the speaker would recognize AAA for the number of volunteers participating.

Volunteering to dig post holes and mix concrete at the SF Zoo, cleaning vintage cars at the Hyde Park Pier, cleaning up garbage at Ocean Beach, painting at Habitat for Humanity, the volunteer opportunities have been endless and always rewarding.

Best of all has been the importance our Department/Division has shown towards volunteering. As always we have meetings, reports and deadlines that have to be met, but someone would email to the group – hey, they need volunteers to stuff bears – why don't we make it a team building experience. Instead of talking about the next deadline, we are talking about whether we should add a bow and laugh at the stencil drawing we just made.

Thank you!

Carrie Joy