

Local Action, Global Conversation Toolkit



Spring 2019

Local Action, Global Conversation

A day of service, dialogue, and civic engagement

Welcome

This Spring, in celebration of National Volunteer month, CARE Action advocates from across the country will engage in a day of action in their local communities while committing to act globally. This toolkit is designed to help you organize a local volunteer opportunity with new and existing CARE supporters in your community and engage your volunteer group in a discussion on global issues. In this kit, you'll find tips on how to find a local volunteer site, how to promote your CARE Action service event, how to facilitate a conversation on global issues tied to your volunteer experience, and how to engage new recruits on behalf of CARE Action and your advocacy work.

Thank you for taking the time to volunteer in your community, share CARE Action's message, and for encouraging others to act locally in the fight against global poverty.

Why a local volunteer opportunity?

As a CARE Action advocate, we know you are motivated and passionate about both domestic and global social justice issues. *Local Action, Global Conversations* allows advocates like you to engage in action and dialogue that helps to link your passion for serving locally while making a global impact.

When the desire to do good taps into our human nature to find purpose, people witness how their actions change lives and the results are powerful. *Local Action, Global Conversation* provides the opportunity to experience this feeling of purpose through a tangible, hands-on experience. This opportunity can serve as an entry point to introduce new supporters to the CARE Action advocates in their community.

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Act Local

Ready to affect change near and far? Let's get started! First, you will begin with organizing your "Act Local" service event.

Organize your event:

1. **Find an organization** to volunteer with in your community. There is a list of suggestions on page 4 and 5 of this toolkit.
2. **Contact the organization's** volunteer department or sign up on the website and confirm your service date and time. Make sure you ask if there is a training or special requirement involved. Also, ask if there is a volunteer limit and when the organization will need to know the final count. (Pro Tip: Make sure you confirm your volunteer shift and participant number as soon as possible to give the organization time to prepare and to give volunteers ample notice.)
3. **Let us know your event details** so we can share it on the CARE Action website. Email your name, event location, and time to Jane.Kim@care.org
4. **Advertise your event.** Share location and event details with the volunteers you've recruited. This can be done via email, social media, phone calls or another creative format. Make sure everyone knows they are welcome to participate!
5. **Check in** with the organization's volunteer department regarding final details and participant numbers as soon as you can but no later than a week out from the event. Inquire if there is any additional information you should know or share with the other members of the group.

Get the Word Out!

Here is some language that may be useful in emails or messages recruiting participants.

Email Subject: Sam, Do good with CARE Action on National Volunteer Month

Body:

Hi, Sam!

CARE is bridging their global work with local volunteer opportunities for 'Local Action, Global Conversation.' On 4/13, we'll be volunteering at a [selected food bank or refugee organization], then heading to [insert coffee shop name] to talk more about how our volunteer work connects with efforts to make changes across the globe. I really hope that you can join us!

[Include location, time here, and RSVP Link]

Do good with CARE Action on National Volunteer Month— **hope you can join us!**

Best,

[First Name]

Facebook Event: Social media is a great tool for recruitment. A Facebook event link will be provided soon to help people get signed up.

Suggested Volunteer Organizations

Looking for a volunteer site? Check out our list below of organizations across the country that fight hunger or help with refugee resettlement and find one near you. Having trouble finding a local volunteer site? Let us know how we can help by emailing Jasmine.Payne@care.org

Hunger: CARE works to cultivate food and nutrition security across the globe by empowering women and girls with access to equal resources, whether that be through innovative agricultural techniques or improved access to nutritious foods. In 2017 we supported 18.6 million people increase their food security and resilience to climate change. CARE Action supports these efforts by advocating for policies that support female farmers and improve nutrition globally. The following organizations work to ensure food access in the United States.

- Feeding America- Feeding America is the largest domestic hunger-relief organization. Its network of over 200 food banks distributes to soup kitchens, food pantries, schools, etc. to feed 46 million people each year.

Use the food bank locator below to identify the food bank that is closest to you.

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank>

- Meals on Wheels- Meals on Wheels works with more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country in efforts to address senior hunger. With local volunteers and staff, they serve almost every community in America to strengthen communities, senior by senior.

Use their volunteer website (link below) to locate a site close to you.

<https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/americaletsdolunch>

Refugees: Every year CARE works with millions of refugees that have been displaced by conflict and natural disasters. For example, CARE has been able to reach more than 3 million people inside Syria through our humanitarian response and programming, and 14 million people across the globe. To support these efforts, CARE Action builds support for legislation that prioritizes the needs of women and girls in emergencies. The following refugee organizations share similar goals.

- International Rescue Committee (IRC)- IRC helps refugees and special immigrant visa recipients to create refugee-owned businesses, break down gender barriers and resettle in American communities. <https://www.rescue.org/volunteer>
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)- USCRI supports people who have been uprooted by protecting their rights and defending their dignity. Their work involves providing access to healthcare, education, and legal representation. <https://refugees.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

***Volunteers will need to complete a training to volunteer at many refugee locations.**

Next Steps:

Once you've recruited volunteers you will want to stay in touch and make sure they stay up to date with CARE Action. The steps below outline ways to make sure everyone has the information they need:

- Inform them if there is a training required before they can volunteer.
- Keep them updated on any forms they need to complete.
- Tell them how they can identify you the day of the event.
- Brief volunteers about suggested or mandatory clothing or materials the organization requests that you bring.
- Encourage them to think about how their action is going to affect global change in preparation for the discussion that will follow the volunteer event.



Start a Global Conversation

Once you've wrapped up service at your local volunteering project, pull the group together for a debrief and conversation about how your service today is a small piece of the global picture.

- Identify a coffee shop or local space near the organization where you are volunteering. Consider if it has a mission that contributes to your cause.
- Use the links below to find an appropriate meeting spot in your state or do research on your own. Please find some examples below. Note that they are only in some states.
<https://1951coffee.com/>
<http://refugecoffeeco.com/>
- If there are no refugee specific coffee shops in your state, consider supporting a local coffee shop or even businesses like Starbucks that have [committed to hiring refugees](#).

Sample Agenda for Your Global Conversation

1) About CARE

Especially for new advocates, it's always great to share a little bit about CARE and how our programs around the world connect to our local advocacy. Feel free to use the language below or create your own.

- *Who is CARE?*

CARE is a leading humanitarian organization that works around the globe to save lives, defeat poverty and achieve social justice. CARE works in more than 90 countries by providing access to healthcare, food, education, and empowerment with a special emphasis on women and girls.

[The Power of a Box](#) is a suggested video that shows CARE's work.

- *Quick stats about CARE:*

Total people reached in FY 2018: 56 million directly and 340 million people indirectly

Countries where CARE is present: 95

Food and nutrition security and climate change: 15.8 million direct participants

Humanitarian Response: 14 million direct participants

- *Why we advocate with CARE Action?*

In addition to serving more than 80 million people a year around the world, CARE also advocates for women and girls around the world through our advocacy arm CARE Action. Our goals are to encourage the U.S. government to continue investing in foreign assistance and pass legislation that helps combat global poverty and empower women and girls. We do this by advocating Members of Congress in Washington, DC and in local communities across the U.S.

Click [here](#) to see a video about CARE Action advocates! The ["Your Voice, A World of Change with CARE Action"](#) video is also a great resource.

2) Share Your CARE Action Story

Tell everyone about how you got involved with CARE Action. Share what you like most about being a CARE Action advocate and any plans or goals you have for this year.

3) Ask the group: What made you interested in participating in this event? What peaks your interest about CARE and CARE Action?

4) Reflect on your volunteer experience

- Invite a few people to share their favorite parts of the experience.
- Ask if anyone has volunteered there before.

5) Ask discussion questions about how their work made a global impact and how they can support CARE Action's work in advocating for the international affairs budget.

6) Close the meeting

- Charge them with taking action by advocating for legislation that supports international affairs funding.
- Give them the printed or digital version of "Ideas for How to Take Action Going Forward."
- Thank them for coming!



Suggested Discussion Questions:

Food Site Questions

Over 821 million people around the world do not have enough food to eat. Additionally, about three million children under the age of five die from malnutrition each year. Over the last year we've also seen famine-like conditions in a record four countries across the globe. How does our service today connect us to the fight against hunger around the globe? How is volunteering today similar to the work CARE does globally?

Women and children comprise the majority of the world's hungry — especially in countries affected by conflict. Furthermore, changing weather patterns and environmental degradation is putting undue pressure on small-scale farmers, particularly women. How does this compare to those in our local community who also struggle to access nutritious food?

Refugee Site Questions

An estimated 136 million people in the world are endangered due to conflicts and environmental stresses presenting the need for humanitarian assistance. How did your work today support women and families who may have had to escape dangerous situations?

Millions of Yemeni children are out of school as a result of violence and difficult living conditions. Yemen faces the world's worst humanitarian crisis with 22 million people in need of assistance. More than two-thirds of Yemeni girls are married off before they turn 18, compared with 50 percent before the war. Are schools and healthcare facilities refugee friendly for those who relocate in the U.S? What is being done to provide culturally-inclusive resources like CARE's innovation in other countries?

General Questions

How can we connect our local service today with the advocacy we'll do with our Members of Congress on global issues?

What stories can you share from today that capture global issues of food security and the needs of refugees when advocating with CARE Action?



Check list for the Volunteer Day

- Sign in sheet of volunteers downloaded through Google Sheets
- Bring your CARE gear, laptop/ipad, and other materials (don't forget the t-shirts!)
- Check the volunteer website to ensure you have the proper attire and materials.
- Bring the discussion questions for the conversation following the event
- Be present! It's an exciting day and we don't want you to miss a second of your hard work making an impact.

Ideas for How to Take Action Going Forward

- Connect with [CARE Action](http://careaction.org/JoinUs) (careaction.org/JoinUs)
- Come to the [CARE National Conference](#)
- Follow us and post a message on social media and tag your member of Congress [facebook.com/CAREActionNow] [Twitter.com/CAREActionNow]
- Write a letter to your Member of Congress or to the editor of your local paper asking them to support the international affairs budget.

Sample Letter Language:

Sample message: *“Volunteering at the Freestore Food Bank in Cincinnati today was a reminder of the importance of American leadership to address hunger – whether in Cincinnati or Yemen. Maintaining funding for these programs is essential. I urge you to support proposals to fully restore funding for important poverty-fighting programs in the International Affairs Budget.”*

Sample Social Media Messages:

“Volunteering at the International Rescue Committee in Atlanta today was a reminder of the importance of American leadership to address humanitarian crises in Atlanta or Jordan. Maintaining funding for these programs is essential. @YourMemberofCongress, please support proposals to fully restore funding for important poverty-fighting programs in the International Affairs Budget.”

Please also thank the volunteers/advocates.

Example: “Thanks @A @B and @C for coming to volunteer and discuss global advocacy!
@CareActionNow #LocalAction,GlobalConversation” [+ photos from the day]

Tips on pictures to post:



- Show pictures of you in action during the day
- Try to select pictures that emphasize how passionate the group is about the issue and how many people share this enthusiasm.
- Please tag @CAREActionNow



- **Photo Tips:** Make sure to get a group photo during your event. Be mindful of good lighting, and what's in the background. Take multiple photos. Post a clear group photo, tag advocates. If you are holding signs in the photos, make sure they are appropriate (If in doubt, leave it out). Do not post 3+ similar photos -- variety is the spice of life! And remember to smile!

Thank you!

