YALINETWORK

THE JOY OF VOLUNTEERING
What Does It Mean to Volunteer?

TRANSCRIPT

[TEXT: Young African Leaders Initiative
YALI Voices]

Hello, I am Mimshach Obioha and this is the Joy of Volunteering.

[TEXT: The Joy of Volunteering, What does it mean to volunteer?]

To volunteer is to give of yourself in service to a cause. It is about freely giving your time to help an organization, your community, or an individual. And this giving of your time and service is done free of charge, without expectation of compensation and without coercion.

To volunteer means to act on behalf of something or someone else. It is done by people with a desire to do good. It is done willingly - by choice. It is done without pay. And it is done to promote positive change or help someone in need.

The idea of giving of oneself for the benefit of others has its origins in early African life. Whether you use the Kiswahili word kujitolea, ubuntu from Bantu culture, or the Botswanan concepts of boithaopo, tirelo, or go thusa batho, these traditional cultural beliefs and practices encourage collective responsibility, solidarity and reciprocity.

These ideas are fundamental to expressing an individual's humanity through his or her social relations with others. And they are the essence of what it means to volunteer.

[TEXT: Learn more about what it means to serve others through volunteering at yali.state.gov./serves]

[TEXT: Written and Produced by Mimshach Obioha, 2016 Mandela Washington Fellow, Celestina Obiekea, YALI Regional Leadership Center West-Africa-Accra Participant]