

Volunteering Impact Nominee

Example Application

Please describe the volunteer program

The Grant a Wish program involves brightening the lives of seriously ill children. Through donations and funds raised, volunteers are able to grant the wish of ill children in Queensland such as meeting their sporting hero or going to a theme park. Volunteers role in the program involves holding fundraisers to generate donations for the wish granting as well as helping organise the logistics of the wish itself before the day and on the day. It is a hands on process that is facilitated largely by the work of volunteers.

Over the past four years, the program has recruited over 700 volunteers across Queensland who participate in a number of different roles. Volunteers are placed into roles that match their strengths such as marketing, administration support, contact centre and so forth. Each volunteer, through their individual role, contributes to the overall mission of the program - granting the wish of an ill child and bringing happiness to their lives.

What positive impact has the volunteer program had on the Queensland community?

Grant a Wish, in its four years, has granted the wish of over 350 sick children in Queensland. Wishes have ranged from going to SeaWorld to visits from the Roar soccer team. The impact that this has had on the kids as well as their families is immeasurable. The kids whom wishes are granted have usually spent extended time in hospital and are isolated from the outside world. The wish granting event allows them a day to forget about the medication, the tests and the operations and to just be a kid again. The wish experience also improves the child's and their family's quality of life and enhances their state of mind by bringing a bit of happiness back into their lives, even if it is just for a day.

What do volunteers say about their involvement in the volunteer program?

Volunteers involved in the Grant a Wish program express a sense of fulfilment at being given the opportunity to better the lives of someone else. Many of our volunteers have achieved their personal and professional goals and the program is an opportunity for them to further their own experiences by helping others.

Our volunteers say that participating in the program has allowed them to grow through the experiences they have had and learn new things from the other volunteers whom they work closely with. They also, furthermore, truly believe that the work they are doing is making a difference in the lives of others.

The families who have benefited from the program have also returned and become volunteers for Grant a Wish themselves. Many state that they want a chance to give back the positive experiences they gained from the program.

Main emphasis:

- Highlight the volunteer program's contributions with clear examples in the past year – it could be economic, social, cultural and/or environmental
- Demonstrate the effects and impact of the volunteer program at a personal, operational and strategic level



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