**COMMUNITY SERVICE 104 FINDING A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN**

**TIME TO SELECT HOW YOU WILL IMPACT**

**TOPIC 1**

First and foremost, Paths4life has taken the liberty to provide you lots of potential ideas to complete Service For Others. Many times there are too many options and that is why we asked you to look inside yourself to figure out your passions.

Besides creating your own non-profit, which will be discussed in CS 105, we have created a Virtual List of opportunities for you that can be found in the Paths4life Community Service Library. There opportunities can be done from your location even though each may be in other cities, states etc.

Additionally we have created a list of 20 or so opportunities that are based on large cities you live by. If your city is not in our library or you desire more opportunities just let us know as we can normally list 100's of opportunities if need be.

Below are different types of organizations you may have an interest in; consequently, we felt it was necessary for you to understand each one individually in order to make the right choice for yourself. The bottom line is you MUST DO SOMETHING!

**Nonprofit Organization**

In the United States, there are over 1.6 million nonprofit organizations. Nonprofits serve the public interest and are mostly categorized as tax-exempt by the IRS. There are 27 different types of nonprofit organizations. Each designation has its own set of rules for:

* Eligibility
* Lobbying
* Electioneering
* Tax-deductible contributions

**Public charities, foundations, social advocacy groups, and trade organizations** are common types of nonprofit organization. Any profits generated by these organizations is not distributed to shareholders or owners. Additionally, nonprofits do not issue stock.

**Social Advocacy Groups**

Social advocacy groups are classified under 501(c)(4). Social advocacy groups lobby or promote some sort of social or political effort. Funds typically come from donations or membership dues. Examples of social advocacy groups include Greenpeace, NAACP, ACLU, and the National Organization for Women. They also engage in fundraising, lobbying, and efforts to educate the general public about their cause.

**501(c)(3) - Charitable Organizations**

Most nonprofit organizations fall under 501(c)(3). This includes religious, educational, charities, scientific, and literary organizations. Donations made to 501(c)(3) groups are tax deductible.

Public charities are the largest type of 501(c)(3) with nearly 1 million registered in the United States. Some examples include food banks, museums, art groups, amateur sports, colleges, low-income housing organizations, and animal welfare organizations. Charities are typically funded through donations, government grants, or membership dues. All income for 501(c)(3) groups are tax exempt.

**Foundations**

There are an estimated 103,430 foundations in the United States. Typical missions include funding other nonprofits and sponsoring events and programs for awareness or education. Most foundations focus on finding worthy nonprofit organizations to support through donations and guidance. Foundations are usually established by wealthy individuals or businesses.

In order to remain classified as a foundation, it must donate a certain portion of its income on an annual basis. This is to prevent the misuse of a foundation for personal gain or tax avoidance. Foundations are also prohibited from any sort of political activity, although it may support organizations that engage in political lobbying. Two examples of well-known foundations are the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

POTENTIAL NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICORPS

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps>

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE ASSOCIATION

<https://uscommunityservice.org/>

GREENPEACE

<https://engage.us.greenpeace.org/>

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

<https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/>

GUIDESTAR

<https://www.guidestar.org/>

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 1**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* THERE ARE MANY ORGANIZATIONS YOU CAN CONNECT WITH BUT THE BIGEST HURDLE IS ANSWERING THE QUESTION –**

***Where do I start looking? (Please answer)***

We have provided you several national links to start the process. However, we have also created an amazing Library of Community Service opportunities that are VIRTUAL, BY THE FIELD OF YOUR CHOICE, BY CITY ETC….

PLEASE GO TO OUR LIBRARY AND SEARCH FOR THESE INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITIES.

**\*\*\*\*\*\* NEVER hesitate to email us or call for more guidance.**

**If you prefer to start your own opportunity then CS 105 will help create your GAME PLAN.**

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 2 – SET UP CALL WITH THE DEAN**

**Please have your questions and assignments available to discuss in a 15-30 minute block.**