

# How Volunteering Can Impact Your Career

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ALEX POLLACK & BRIAN AMBIELLI

# Two Tales of Volunteerism



**Alex:**

**Northwestern**

WEINBERG COLLEGE  
OF ARTS & SCIENCES



**NORTHERN  
TRUST**

**Brian:**

**McCormick**

Northwestern Engineering



**Expedia®**

# Outline

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1. Alex's Background & Perspective
2. Brian's Background & Perspective
3. What makes a good Volunteer Opportunity?
4. How to get involved?
5. Questions



# Helping Others Reach Their Full Potential

- NU Club of Columbus board member
- Metro Achievement Center for Girls tutor
- Tutormate tutor
- United Way ambassador
- Community Involvement Committee chair
- NU Club of Chicago board member
- NAA Alumni Engagement Committee member
- NU Mentorship program
- Step Up mentor



United Way of  
Metropolitan Chicago



# NU Clubs of Columbus & Chicago

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# Northern Trust Community Involvement Committee

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Jane Addams  
Resource  
Corporation, 2016



# Tutormate (2017)

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# Metro Achievement Center (2017)

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# Why I Volunteer

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- **Helping** others is rewarding
- I have made **best friends** through volunteering experiences
- Practice **negotiation and teamwork skills** out of the office
- Great **stories for grad school and job interviews**
- Building a **network** of professional and personal contacts
- Learned **how to plan events** and **lead a group** of people working on different tasks

## According to Deloitte

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- **Only 1 in 3 job seekers mentions unpaid community service on his or her resume**

## According to Deloitte

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- **Skills-based volunteering makes candidates better at communicating**



# Career Impact

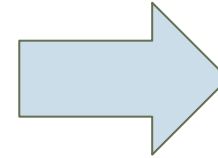
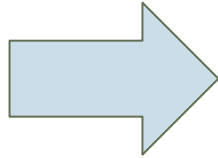
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- Develop a network of individuals outside of Northern Trust
- Learn career tips from others
- Network with Northern Trust leaders
- Asked to lead an investment associate program
- Lead a 10-member committee
  - Oversee budget, event planning



# Personal Impact

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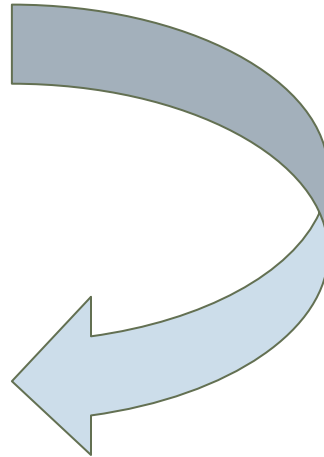
# Personal Impact

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M E T R O  
ACHIEVEMENT  
C E N T E R  
F O R G I R L S



- Great stories for interviews



# Possible Interview Questions...

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- What is a significant contribution you have made outside of work?
- How did you help a team to achieve a goal?
- Tell me about a time you assumed a leadership role and how you handled it
- Tell me about a time you went above and beyond
- Tell me about a time you made a lasting impact



# Teaching and Mentoring Focused



Tutormate Program



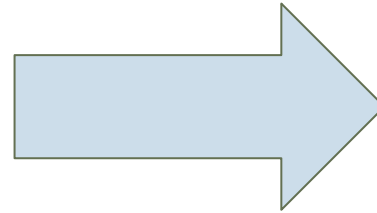
Chicago Tech Academy “Power Lunch” Series

<http://promo.g2crowd.com/ita/>



# From Salt Lake to Chicago...

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<https://www.tealsk12.org/>  
for more information^^^

- **AP Computer Science Teacher**
- Learned about the program...  
**from a Google search!**
- **Full Year Commitment** - class in morning, then off to work



Depaul College Prep - **Go Rams!**



# Personal Benefits & Career Impact

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- Each Class was a **Technical Refresher**
- Long term student growth
- **Unexpected:** Summer Teacher Training
- Classroom Ops → analogous to Running Meetings



# Northwestern | CODING BOOT CAMP

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- **TA** for WebDev Bootcamp
- Learned about the program via **LinkedIn**
- **6 month Commitment** - M/W after work + Saturdays





# Personal Benefits & Career Impact

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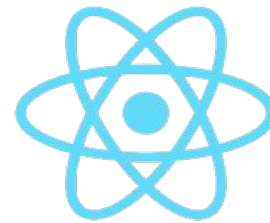
- Mentoring Junior Engineers
- Communicating technical topics to non-technical audiences
- **Unexpected:** How many student questions I couldn't answer!
- Fun to get back on the Evanston Campus.



## Recently at work...

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Approached by a engineer developing React.js curriculum internally



# React

*I now have experience teaching React + Web Technologies from my volunteer work with NUCBC*



## Moral of My Story

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Everyone works in a technical field



Apply your technical skills to opportunities outside of work!

# Why should you volunteer?

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- Soft skills development - communication
- Make new friends
- Work with those higher-up at your organization
- Practice leadership skills
- Make a difference in your community
- Add to your resume
- Have fun!

# What Makes a Good Volunteer Opportunity

- Aligned with your interests
  - I.e., interested in animals, education, arts & culture, humanitarian causes
  - Since this is your free time, it should be fun & meaningful

# What Makes a Good Volunteer Opportunity

- Adequate resources
  - The non-profit should be organized, with low required monetary costs
  - The opportunity should be well-defined and necessary items provided for

# What Makes a Good Volunteer Opportunity

- Appropriate time commitment
  - Know in advance how much time you can give, so that you do not let down the organization and other volunteers depending on you
  - But still try to make it **substantial enough** that you're committed!
  - You'll make the most impact with a longer-term commit.

# One-time vs Ongoing Opportunities

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- One-time opportunities
  - Get a taste of the organization without a full commitment
  - Low time requirement
- Ongoing opportunities
  - Make a bigger impact
  - Develop lasting relationships and skills

# How to get involved?

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- Work
  - Business resource councils, e.g., “Advancing Professionals Resource Council”
  - Many organizations have mandatory or optional “volunteer days”
    - Use these days to “try out” an organization before committing
- Corporate philanthropic involvement
  - Ask your community affairs team at work what causes the organization supports & go from there

# How to get involved?

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- On your own
  - Ask others where they volunteer & why they enjoy it
  - Look for organizations that support causes you believe in
  - Try out an organization by organizing a group event
  - Google search :)

# How to get involved?

## • [VolunteerMatch.org](https://www.volunteermatch.org)

The screenshot displays the VolunteerMatch.org website interface. At the top, the browser address bar shows the URL: <https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/index.jsp?r=msa&l=60827#k=&v=false&s=&o=distanceBand&l=Chicago%2C+IL&r=msa&sk=&specialGroupsData...>. The website header includes the VolunteerMatch.org logo, navigation links for VOLUNTEERS, NONPROFITS, SIGN IN, REGISTER, and social media links for Facebook and LinkedIn. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail shows: Join > Opportunities > Organizations > Volunteer Stories.

The main content area is titled "We've found 1,929 volunteer opportunities near Chicago, IL". It includes a search filter section on the left with options for "NARROW YOUR SEARCH" (Keywords, Advanced Search), "LOCAL or VIRTUAL" (Local, Virtual), and "CAUSE AREAS" (Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Community, Education & Literacy). The search results are displayed in a list format, showing the first two opportunities:






























- ON-GOING** Get into shape by walking shelter dogs! with Tails Humane Society. PURPOSE OF POSITION: To help ensure that the shelter dogs receive at least the minimum recommended number of walks/exercise each day and... 2250 Barber Greene Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115. It's Flexible! We'll work with your schedule. [Learn More](#)
- ON-GOING** Foster Puppies with Tails Humane Society with Tails Humane Society. Tails Foster program is an integral part of our mission to save the lives of companion animals through rescue, adoption and...

On the right side of the page, there is a featured volunteer opportunity titled "Host an International High School Exchange Student! with SHARE! High School Student Exchange Program..." and a map showing the location of the search results near Chicago, IL.

# How to get involved?

- Filter for what you care about

Choose your cause areas:

- |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Advocacy & Human... (186)    | <input type="checkbox"/>  Emergency & Safety (31)  | <input type="checkbox"/>  LGBT (22)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Animals (188)                | <input type="checkbox"/>  Employment (41)          | <input type="checkbox"/>  Media & Broadcasting (22) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Arts & Culture (200)         | <input type="checkbox"/>  Environment (125)        | <input type="checkbox"/>  People with... (157)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Board Development (38)       | <input type="checkbox"/>  Faith-Based (96)         | <input type="checkbox"/>  Politics (33)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Children & Youth (479)       | <input type="checkbox"/>  Health & Medicine (522)  | <input type="checkbox"/>  Race & Ethnicity (14)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Community (902)              | <input type="checkbox"/>  Homeless & Housing (152) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Seniors (531)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Computers &... (64)          | <input type="checkbox"/>  Hunger (149)             | <input type="checkbox"/>  Sports & Recreation (93)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Crisis Support (146)         | <input type="checkbox"/>  Immigrants &... (70)     | <input type="checkbox"/>  Veterans &... (121)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Disaster Relief (18)       | <input type="checkbox"/>  International (41)     | <input type="checkbox"/>  Women (142)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  Education & Literacy (309) | <input type="checkbox"/>  Justice & Legal (31)   |                                                                                                                                        |

**CANCEL** **SEARCH**

# More Volunteering Sites

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- [Chicagocares.org](http://Chicagocares.org)
- [OneGoodDeedChicago.org](http://OneGoodDeedChicago.org)

# Questions?

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[linkedin.com/in/bambielli/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bambielli/)  
[bambielli.com](https://bambielli.com) ← blog



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[alexandrapollack.com](https://alexandrapollack.com)