

APRIL 2025

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH



The Power of Volunteers: Driving Progress and Supporting New Jersey's Military Community

April is National Volunteer Month, a time to reflect on the invaluable role volunteers play in New Jersey and beyond. Each year, **1.9 million volunteers** in New Jersey contribute 104.7 million hours—valued at \$3.7 billion—supporting critical programs in food distribution, social services, and disaster relief. Without these volunteers, many of the state's achievements, particularly those impacting veterans and active-duty service members, would be impossible.

Volunteerism in New Jersey and the Military Community

Volunteers in New Jersey support local initiatives like the Garden State Food Bank and *Table to Table*, ensuring food reaches thousands in need. Similarly, military families and veterans rely on volunteers for support during deployments, transitions, and crises.

Military-Related Volunteer Organizations

The **American Red Cross** and its **Service to the Armed Forces** (SAF) program play a vital role in supporting active-duty service members and veterans. Volunteers provide emergency communications, financial aid, and emotional support, helping over 1.5 million military members and families each year. In 2020, Red Cross volunteers assisted with over 1,500 emergency cases, ensuring that military families received timely support.

The Impact of Volunteers

Volunteers are essential in providing food, emotional support, and practical assistance to military families. Without them, these critical services would not exist. In New Jersey, volunteers create a resilient environment for veterans and service members, ensuring they have the resources they need to thrive.

Celebrating Volunteerism

As we celebrate Volunteer Month, we acknowledge the significant contributions of all volunteers, from those helping veterans to those supporting local community efforts. Your dedication strengthens our communities and helps create a brighter future for those who serve. Together, we continue to build a more supportive, resilient community for all.