

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
Volunteer Survey**

**(104/213 = 49% response rate)**

**Number of People Who Volunteer (N=104)**

	Yes		No	
	N	%	N	%
Volunteer for an organization	78	75%	26	25%
Volunteer by helping relative, friend, or neighbor	36	35%	68	65%
Volunteer for both	27	26%	77	74%

**(Among Those Volunteering for an Organization)**

**Number of Organizational Commitments? (N=67)**

	N	%
One	15	22%
Two	24	36%
Three	13	19%
Four or more	15	22%

**(Among Those Volunteering for an Organization)**

**How People Learned About Their Current Volunteer Opportunity (N=78)**

	N	%
Relatives, friends, neighbors, work colleagues	37	47%
Word of mouth	30	39%
Recruited by an organization	18	23%
Other	14	18%
Newspaper	11	14%
Email	10	13%
Organization website	7	9%
Brookline Senior Center newsletter	6	8%
Brookline-CAN internet website or newsletter	3	4%
Internet website	2	3%
Uncertain	1	1%

**Which Newspapers?** Globe (1), Tab (3)

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**(Among Those Volunteering for an Organization)**

**Open-ended Comments for "Other" Ways of Learning About Volunteer Opportunity**

Being a retired social worker, am familiar with many organizations, was my recent choice to try hospital  
Church  
Coolidge Corner library  
Found issues of interest  
Had worked for the organization when I lived in NY  
Invited to the Caros for an exploratory meeting 2 years ago  
My church in Boston  
Personal initiative  
Poster in library  
Saw the need!  
United Parish Church in Brookline Hearts and Hands Program  
Volunteer fair  
Volunteered for them in the past  
Volunteered on my own

**(Among Those Volunteering for an Organization)**

**Was the Process of Finding a Volunteer Activity Easy or Difficult? (N=71)**

	N	%
Easy	48	68%
Somewhat easy	15	21%
Somewhat difficult	7	10%
Difficult	1	1%

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**(Among Those Volunteering for an Organization)  
What Made the Process of Finding a Volunteer Opportunity Easy?**

A friend told me about the organization and there was the opportunity to be on the board. My other volunteer work at this time is babysitting for my daughter and she simply asked me to babysit.

Application process easy; discussion with potential volunteer site prior to volunteering.

Availability of opportunity

Because I was interested and the volunteering was available at the time.

Brookline web site, work site

Came to me for my skills

Connecting with appropriate people

desire to help

Easy because Council on Aging asked me to serve.

Easy because of prior knowledge

Following in the footsteps of my father

I called and asked to be on the discount committee with Gail Gordon.

I had their phone number and contacted them

I had read an article in the TAB and/ was recruited

I knew about the organization and new of it's needs

I knew the organizations to contact.

I saw an ad for a position that interested me, there was a name and phone number of the person to contact, and I reached her easily.

I was asked to join the Board of two organizations.

I was greeted with pleasure and put right to work.

I was involved in the organization as a professional and personal interest.

In three cases I accepted, and in the other I was readily accepted when I called to offer.

interest in the subject, proximity to home

Interview Process - Tax Work Off Program.

It was easy. I just showed up.

Just interacting in Brookline you hear about them

Knowing about an organization from friends is an easy way to choose a volunteer opportunity.

Lots of information available at all three organizations.

My personal interest

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**(Among Those Volunteering for an Organization  
What Made the Process of Finding a Volunteer Opportunity Easy (cont.)**

Neighbors and friends let me know about it.

Once I found out about the organization, I was able to contact the person in charge and to find out what opportunities were available.

People like my ideas and cooperated.

People were friendly and welcoming

Personal network.

Proximity to the source

Relative and group that I am active in

Talked to librarian

There is always a need for volunteers.

Not sure

There were specific needs and it was logical for me to fill them.

**(Among Those Volunteering for an Organization)  
What Made the Process of Finding a Volunteer Position Difficult?**

Difficult to find a good match between my interests and skills and an appropriate opportunity

Difficult? Figuring out what I was getting into.

Initial difficulty recruiting enough members of an early stage dementia support group

Over the years I kept reaching out to agencies and organizations in Brookline in response to published needs for help, but none called me back or followed up. This became very disappointing

It was somewhat easy because I am curious and like to do research. However, I did want to find out about opportunities in Brookline and this was not so easy.

Trying to find the right fit was hard

I didn't know where or how to begin looking.

It took sometime before I was approved

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
Volunteer Survey**

**(Among Those Volunteering for an Organization)  
Where Are People Volunteering? (N=78)**

<b>Types of Organizations</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Community/civic	37	47%
Human service/social service/family	22	28%
Education/youth	17	22%
Health/mental health/disability	16	21%
Religious	14	18%
Arts/cultural/historical	12	15%
Neighborhood	9	12%
Political	9	12%
Governmental	8	10%
Environmental	7	9%
Housing	5	6%
Organization with focus on low income assistance	5	6%
Recreational	0	--

**Open-Ended Comments for "Other" Types of Organizations**

- Brookline League of Women Voters
- Brookline Council on Aging
- Civil rights and economic and social justice
- Helping a friend with ALZ
- International--microfinance
- Legal assistance for seniors
- Lifelong learning institute - educational with seniors
- MSPCA
- Museum of Science, Boston
- Senior Center
- Senior services
- Volunteer consulting to nonprofit organizations

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**(Among Those Volunteering for an Organization)  
What Types of Volunteer Activities Are People Engaged In? (N=78)**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Committee work	39	50%
Working one-on-one with people or working in groups	38	49%
Organizational/ administrartive	30	39%
Advocacy	20	26%
Fundraising	12	15%
Writing/editing/grant writing	7	9%
Environmental	6	8%
Finance	4	5%
Computer/web design/internet	3	4%
Transportation	3	3%

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
Volunteer Survey**

**(Among Those Volunteering for an Organization)**

**Open-Ended Comments for "Other" Types of Volunteer Activities People Engage In**

Board leadership  
Board membership  
Community outreach  
Educational  
Emergency response and medical - Brookline  
Historical/architectural walking tours  
I work thru PetPals  
Wheelchair transport of residents in long-term care fac  
Information & intake mainly phone work  
Language conversation group  
Legal assistance for seniors, affordable housing organization  
Making flyers, buttons, etc  
Meeting and Talking with patients  
Program development, nominating comm., strategic planning  
Recording for print-impaired  
Several Boards  
Teaching  
Teaching ESL to group and tutoring one person  
Town representation  
Volunteer mediator

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**Are People Interested in Learning More About Volunteer Opportunities  
in Brookline and the Surrounding Area?**

	<b>Organizational Volunteer (N=68)</b>		<b>Other (N=22)</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N, %</b>
Yes	36	53%	16	73%	52, 58%
No	32	47%	6	27%	38, 42%

**Open-Ended Comments from People Interested in Learning More**

**Currently Volunteering for an Organization**

Depends

Some time in future when I might have time

If use my skills and if parttime

Interested in what is out there but pretty full schedule right now.

Not at the present time

Not at this time; I'm pretty busy with current commitments

Not now - leaving the US for 6 mo. - Volunteer in Africa

Not sure

Yes, but I am not available until July, 2012

**Other (Not Currently Volunteering for an Organization)**

I am working full time so have limited time available for volunteering. That could change at some point, however.

If I had more time, I would love to volunteer--but I work full time and teach in my spare time.....

Maybe next spring

Medical issues are full time. want info from Bcan about elevator buildings without steps

Not at this time but will be in the future

Probably not. At 74 I'm still working full time.

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**(For Those Interested in Learning More, N=55)  
What Types of Organizations Might Be of Interest?**

	N	%
Arts/cultural/historical	28	51%
Education/youth	24	44%
Human service/social service/family	22	40%
Health/mental health/disability	20	36%
Community/civic	20	36%
Environmental	18	33%
Neighborhood	14	26%
Political	11	20%
Organization with focus on low income assistance	9	20%
Uncertain	8	15%
Governmental	7	13%
Recreational	5	9%
Housing	5	9%
Religious	4	7%

**(For Those Interested in Learning More)**

**Open-Ended Comments for "Other" Types of Organizations**

(computer problem -checking function not working.) Arts, Ed., Health, Housing, Political, Human service

Conservation, Historic Preservation, Legal, Political

Folk music

International

I would consider myself a community activists and educator/counselor

Newly arrived adults (not elderly)

Reproductive Rights

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**(For Those Interested in Learning More, N=57)  
What Types of Activities/Tasks Might Be of Interest?**

	N	%
Working one-on-one with people or working with groups	34	60%
Committee work	16	28%
Uncertain	15	26%
Organizational/ administrative	14	25%
Advocacy	14	25%
Writing/editing/grant writing	12	21%
Environmental	12	21%
Computer/web design/internet	5	9%
Finance	4	7%
Transportation	3	5%
Fundraising	1	2%

**Open-Ended Comments for "Other" Types of Activities That Might Be of Interest**

Advocacy, committee work, working one-on one with individuals or working in groups

Consulting on governance, strategic planning, performance indicators

English as second language

Folk music

Most of my recent jobs were clerical. Do you need help with mailings, list maintenance, etc.?

Teaching

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**(For Those Interested in Learning More, N=58)  
If People Were Looking for a Volunteer Activity,  
What Resources Would Be Most Helpful?**

	N	%
Brookline-CAN internet website or newsletter	33	57%
Relatives, friends, neighbors, work colleagues	31	53%
Email	29	50%
Organization website	26	45%
Brookline Senior Center newsletter	24	41%
Newspaper	21	36%
Town of Brookline internet website that links to local volunteer activities	20	35%
Internet website	13	22%
Mail	9	15%
Uncertain	6	10%
Brookline Cable	3	5%
TV or radio station	3	5%
Other website (not organization)	2	3%

**Newspapers?**

Boston Globe (4)  
Brookline TAB (8)  
Metro (1)  
Brookline Patch (1)  
JP Gazette (1)

**Internet websites?**

Town (4)  
BCAN (1)  
Craiglist (1)  
Idealist (1)

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**(For Those Interested in Learning More, N=53)  
What Obstacles Might Hold People Back From Volunteering**

	N	%
Personal schedule too full	30	57%
Don't know what volunteer opportunities are available	24	45%
Difficult to find challenging and personally meaningful volunteer work	17	32%
Work commitments	14	26%
Don't know what I want to do	11	21%
Don't know where the greatest need is	9	17%
Don't know who to contact or where to look	8	15%
Health/disability	7	13%
Lack of transportation	7	13%
Don't know if I have the necessary skills	7	13%
Uncertain	5	9%
Need to focus on finding paid work	4	7%

**Open-Ended Comments for "Other" Obstacles**

Time, I run out of it

Health/disability, work commitments are uncertain

Little swamped at present, but I will be looking

Trying to balance making a commitment to something vs. keeping a flexible schedule so I can travel

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**General Open-Ended Comments About Volunteering**

**Organizational Volunteer**

**What Makes a Volunteer Experience Meaningful?**

Helping a nonprofit, relatively unique in its field or with a lot of unfulfilled potential, develop a strategic plan and healthy governance

I enjoy learning and helping people if I can

I like challenging and meaningful work at a high level of cognitive ability.

I love volunteering and in many ways feel that my volunteer work is more meaningful and makes more of a difference in the world than my paid work.

Meaningful: When there is a need for someone to build or accomplish something necessary that has not been done. Or when the needs are not even known yet, and the volunteer works to figure that out. Non-meaningful: When the volunteer is just asked to (computer program couldn't accommodate more words)

Satisfying to know that my participation in the activity might make a difference in someone's life

There is an incidental social value to being part of a dedicated group of other volunteers as well as the benefit of having a regular activity in retirement.

Volunteering keeps you energized and feeling a part of very important community work.

**Other General Comments**

All of them are important to me or I wouldn't be doing them.

Babysitting my own grandchildren 40 hours a week has been the most meaningful unpaid job of my life! I love, love, love them and this opportunity!

I've managed to volunteer in organizations of personal interest, so find most of what I do challenging, learning experiences and often "fun"

I am pretty well booked up, but I like to know what the needs are

I expect to explore volunteering with people whose first language is not English

I love working for Brookline CAN and the Mass. Literacy Volunteers

It's very easy to overload your plate with too many volunteer activities and thereby dilute your contributions to each of them. If you do volunteer, you have to select the ones in which you can contribute quality time.

question #14 has 2 overlapping categories: "unemployed" and "retired".

**Organizational Volunteer (cont.)**

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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Something I think about but too busy with my own consulting firm and family to have the time to figure out what I want to can/do next.

Thanks!

this was too long

Volunteering can be very meaningful and fulfilling. It can also be exhausting, particularly when volunteering takes time away from business and family obligations

Working and volunteering in Brookline is particularly satisfying

I have enjoyed serving on a Board of members of the legal profession working on peace issues; coordinating a group of 30 independent lawyers; and working informally on conservation/historic preservation issues in MA and NH.

**Other (not currently volunteering for an organization)**

As a volunteer to help sick friends I have learned a lot. As a town meeting member I have volunteered for years, however if I could find a job with added income I would be more motivated to work.

Hope to do so in the near future

I would like to perform folk/country music for free to anyone who might want to listen. I play guitar and sing.

I would prefer a volunteering in a museum since I did work in a museum for seven years.

Many years ago when I was unemployed and home raising 2 children, I volunteered for Planned Parenthood, 2 days a week. Now having retired after 30 years of a very demanding and stressful job, I'm not sure just what I want to do.

Need to work part time as semi retired person--no time to volunteer

Second obstacle: too many things have equal priority. How to pick??? Will probably concentrate on the 2012 political campaigns in 2012.

survey not filled out where checking is not possible

Took "Intro Field Camera" course at Brookline Access Television--wish I had time to follow up on that and do more/volunteer there.

Vice-president, president and past president of a teacher's organization which involved running a conference for about 700 people

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**Residence (N=94)**

	N	%
Brookline	94	100%

**Age**  
**Organizational**  
**Volunteer (N=74)**      **Other (N=22)**      **Total (N=96)**

	N	%	N	%	%
Under 50	0	--	0	--	--
50-59	2	3%	2	8%	4%
60-69	26	33%	10	45%	38%
70-79	34	45%	7	31%	43%
80-89	12	16%	2	8%	15%
90	0	--	1	5%	1%

**Sex**  
**Organizational**  
**Volunteer (N=74)**      **Other (N=22)**      **Total (N=96)**

	N	%	N	%	%
Male	12	16%	4	18%	17%
Female	62	84%	18	82%	83%

**Current Employment Status**

**Organizational**  
**Volunteer (N=73)**      **Other (N=22)**      **Total (N=95)**

	N	%	N	%	%
Employed full-time	10	14%	7	32%	18%
Employed part-time	17	23%	4	18%	22%
Not currently employed	6	8%	3	14%	9%
Retired	40	55%	8	36%	51%

**Brookline Community Aging Network  
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**Highest Level of Education Completed**

	<b>Organizational Volunteer (N=74)</b>		<b>Other (N=21)</b>		<b>Total (N=95)</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Did not complete high school	0	--	0	--	--
High School graduate	2	3%	0	--	2%
Some college	6	8%	0	--	6%
College graduate	11	15%	3	14%	15%
Advanced Degree	55	74%	18	85%	77%