

Family Volunteering

It takes a village to raise a... community.

We'd like to bring to the Internal Market the ingredients of a family volunteering programme, a taste of what it can look like, and more information about the recipe.

Family volunteering is an unpaid activity that a group of people, members of the same family, carries out together for the mutual benefits of participants and people served. It creates opportunities for parents, children, and other family members to spend time together, contributing to the community and the cause they care about.

The concept is not entirely new, but it's not yet widespread either. We believe - and studies support us - that by including families together in our volunteering programs, we can bring about plenty of benefits for everyone involved. Families spend quality time together, sharing fun memories and values. The family members develop their relationship further, in an environment that showcases their stronger, kinder sides. The community becomes stronger when the ties between its members are strengthened when everyone is aware of the issues surrounding them and learns how to get involved in finding solutions. For an organization that reaches out to families, programmes like these bring new resources in terms of the variety of the skills and knowledge in their volunteer's pool, and a better potential for long-term retention of the volunteers.

Family Volunteering Programmes can be as different as the organisations that run them, but they do have some important common characteristics. We have carefully researched these characteristics, explored our own experience and the experience gathered by many other organisations and we can only hope that once you know more about it, you will be as excited about this new type of engagement as we are. We want to invite you to join us in exploring this possibility and see if it fits your organisation.

We are 6 European organisations, national, regional and local volunteer centers, and resource centers, joined together by the "Family Volunteering - A new type of engagement" Erasmus+ project. For more information you can check <https://familyvolunteering.eu/>.