

For Immediate Release

Volunteering This Holiday Season? You're More Likely to Have a Higher Education Level *Infographic from Open Colleges Illustrates Connection between Volunteerism and Education*

December 2012 - Open Colleges, one of Australia's leading providers of distance learning, released "[Can We Teach Compassion?](#)" an infographic illustrating the connection between volunteerism and education on December 5, International Volunteer Day.

During the holiday season, many people embrace the spirit of giving back, often through volunteering for local organizations, but what motivates them to do so? The key to understanding why they take up the call to give back to their communities may be found in their educational backgrounds.

"I stumbled upon a fascinating study that associated education with volunteerism and decided to dig deeper," says Andrianes Pinantoan, a member of the Open Colleges team. "Students these days are vilified as lazy, self-obsessed individuals in popular media, but the truth couldn't be further from that: as we get more educated, we tend to show more compassion towards others."

In fact, a 2005 study by the Corporation for National and Community Service found that 55% of adolescents enrolled in school volunteer, compared to only 26% of those not enrolled. High school graduates that go on to college continue to be exposed to more opportunities. College students are twice as likely to volunteer as those not enrolled, and 38% of student volunteers are introduced to volunteering by their student union or university.

And it's not just school requirements motivating students to donate their time. Though some schools do make volunteering an obligatory part of students' educational experience, statistics published in the *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* found that most students (82.6%) participate beyond what's mandatory.

And their volunteerism doesn't end after graduation either. The higher the level of education that an individual attains, the more likely they are to donate their time. College graduates volunteer twice as much as high school graduates and four times as much as high school dropouts, according to a study from *Monthly Labor Review*.

Get a visual look at the data through the detailed infographic on the Open Colleges blog: <http://newsroom.opencolleges.edu.au/features/can-we-teach-compassion/>

About Open Colleges

Open Colleges (formerly Cengage Education) is one of Australia's leading providers of distance learning. Established in 1910 as the International Correspondence School, Open Colleges has educated more than 700,000 Australians. They deliver a comprehensive range of nationally recognised courses and professional certificates to students across Australia - from Broome to Bankstown.

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