



THE FUTURE OF VOLUNTEERING ISN'T WHAT IT  
USED TO BE OR WHY VOLUNTEERING IN THE  
FUTURE WILL BE JUST LIKE VOLUNTEERING IN  
THE PAST, BUT COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

Martin Stewart-Weeks Public Purpose Pty Ltd Sydney November 2015

# Volunteering has always been about these things...

- Getting stuff done
- Activism and engagement
- A way of life, a sense of service
- Solidarity, community and participation
- Belonging and identity
- Sacrifice
- Resilience

...and in the future, those things will still be important, maybe even more so.

There are three things that will matter for volunteers (assuming that's what they call themselves) in the future

Identity and belonging

Solidarity and resilience

Choice and empowerment

# But let's not kid ourselves...

“...volunteering faces a number of challenges if it is truly to fulfil its potential. There is declining trust in institutions both public and private; there is growing sectarianism as communities turn inwards in the face of rapid change; we are increasingly risk-averse and consumer-oriented; and many feel that in the last few decades we have lost something important – a sense of neighbourliness, community and collective sympathy.

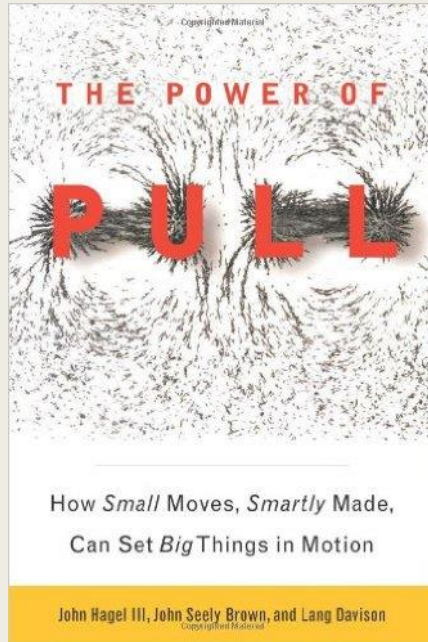
Some people might describe us as a society where we are, increasingly, cash-rich, but time-poor (although we have not forgotten that many people are cash-poor too). We have also not worked out how to make the most of old age, in an era where more of us will live to experience it, and for a longer period than most previous generations.”

[http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Society/documents/2008/01/29/Manifesto\\_final.pdf](http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Society/documents/2008/01/29/Manifesto_final.pdf)

So the question is how to tap into the deep human instinct for engagement and contribution in a way that makes sense in contemporary conditions...

And that means taking into account three trends or factors

# We now live in a world of “pull”, not “push”



“Push operates on a key assumption – that it is possible to forecast or anticipate demand...Push models treat people as passive consumers whose needs can be anticipated and shaped by centralised decision-makers.”

“A key to the pull approaches is the use of “platforms” (as) open ended and designed to evolve based on the learning and the changing needs of the participants.”




Networked (social)  
communications  
**technology** changes  
everything



# The interaction between new modes of choice, control and power




Let's look at some examples and stories...


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# INTRO TO THE SKILLS-BASED VOLUNTEERING COMMUNITY





**Emily Laskodi**  
NYC Course Producer, General Assembly


**Tashay Green**  
Program Manager, ScriptEd


**Richard Demato**  
Co-Founder, Project X & The Give


**Mary Ellen Sullivan**  
Director of The Community Corps, NPower

**Tyler Manley**  
Senior Partnerships Manager, Catchafire

**Alethea Hannemann**  
VP of Product and National Programs, Taproot



 **Thursday, 19 November**  
6:30 – 8:30 pm EST

 **GA New York City (East)**  
902 Broadway, 4th Floor  
New York , NY 10010

Regular Ticket **FREE!**

**Attend**

For this session, General Assembly will host a conversation to introduce NY professionals to ways to use their skills to support the causes that they care most about.

Skills-based volunteering allows professionals to make an impact using the skills that they know the best and can be a great way for professionals to build up a portfolio of work as they level up.

Tech, design, and business acumen are some of the most-in-demand skills both in the job market and for non-profits. Come learn about skills-based volunteer opportunities in NYC, how to get involved, and how to showcase your efforts!

<https://generalassemb.ly/education/intro-to-the-skills-based-volunteering-community/new-york-city/18001>

## The rise of 'extreme' volunteering

By the end of 2014 the concept of volunteering will move away from the soup kitchen and become an integral part of how our communities operate, says Lindsay Levkoff  
Lynn

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Extreme volunteering is not what you might think. It doesn't involve jumping out of planes (like extreme sports) or eating unbelievably spicy habanero peppers (like extreme food).

Extreme volunteering is about regular people going beyond the usual levels of volunteering. It is a deeper and more intensive form of volunteering, and I predict we will see more of the people in the years to come.

Let me give you a few early examples from the UK:

- Giving a whole year of your life to volunteering - Young people spend a year at university or work to support behaviour and academic schools.



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### DAY IN THE LIFE AT CITY YEAR UK

Find out more about what to expect at City Year UK.

Find out more

### WHAT IS CITY YEAR UK?

WE BRING TOGETHER 18-25 YEAR OLDS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

### About City Year UK

City Year UK challenges young adults to tackle inequality through the life-changing power of a year of service in schools.

This year we have almost 200 young people serving in 24 schools in three cities.

Could it be you next year?

### Sign up to our newsletter

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## SharedLivesPlus

THE UK NETWORK FOR SHARED LIVES AND HOMESHARE

Text Size - +

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## A Shared Life is a Healthy Life

Shared Life Healthy Life

Member Login

Log into Invision Zone

While we polish the new members area you can still log into the old members only area [here](#)

## Shared Lives in my area

Shared Lives plus has projects throughout the UK.

Find out more about Shared Lives Plus in your area.

Read More

## About Shared Lives Plus

Shared Lives Plus is the UK network for family-based and small-scale ways of supporting adults. Our members are Shared Lives carers and workers, and Homeshare programmes. Shared Lives used to be known as Adult Placement.



## Shared Lives week

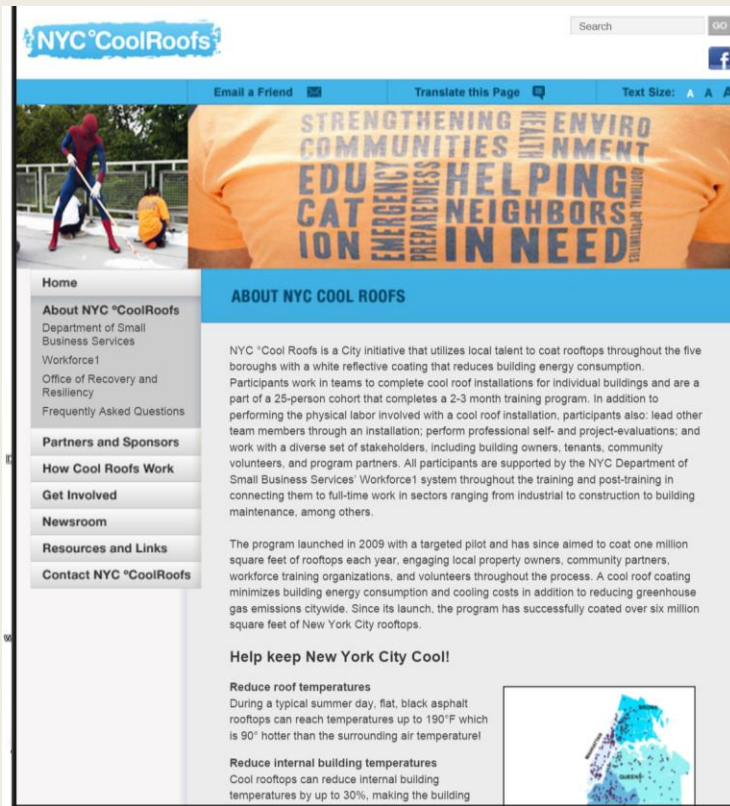
Extreme volunteering... <http://www.nesta.org.uk/news/14-predictions-2014/rise-extreme-volunteering>



- There is a long tradition of people helping people, but there is the potential for far more to be done by people alongside and within public services.
- Public services could do more to be open and create opportunities for citizens to use their talents and capabilities to support each other through social action.
- In England, the economic contribution of social action in and alongside public services is £34 billion –

<http://www.nesta.org.uk/publications/people-helping-people-future-public-services#sthash.gkldJXMK.dpuf>





<http://www.nesta.org.uk/blog/giving-purpose-what-impact-volunteering>

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## Welcome

We are a global network of volunteers trained and ready to collaborate online in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster.

We exist to effectively assist crisis affected communities through co-operation with local and international responders.

We aim to increase the ability and skills of SBTF volunteers through a continuous dialogue and coordination with other tech and crisis mapping

PHOTOS FROM OUR DEPLOYMENTS

[Menu](#)

You are here: [Our Projects](#)

## People Powered Health

The People Powered Health programme ran between 2011 and 2013. It supported the design and delivery of innovative services for people living with long-term health conditions. [Show more](#)

### Who's working on this?

Meet the team behind this project

### Read the reports

Discover [what we've learned](#) from People Powered Health.

### Our partner

We're proud to partner with

FEATURING

REPORT | 21.07.15

PEER ECONOMY, ACCESS ECONOMY, GIG ECONOMY, COLLABORATIVE CONSUMPTION, SHARING ECONOMY, ON-DEMAND ECONOMY, CIRCULAR ECONOMY, PEER ECONOMY, SHARING ECONOMY, COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY...

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Slivers of Time provide neutral vendor solutions to recruit, book and reward the right people to be in the right place at the right time.

Technology to help build caring communities, manage volunteers and temp workers more efficiently, and with a social heart.

#### What we do

Neutral vendor solutions to recruit, verify, match, book, vet, rate and reward people.

[Solutions](#)

#### Who we help

Helping your sector recruit the right workers or volunteers in the most efficient way.

[Sectors](#)

#### How it works

Intuitive, secure, hosted technology available from any internet connected device.

[Technology](#)

#### Get started

Opportunities for employers, charities, job seekers and volunteers.

[Get started](#)

Slivers of Time online systems will help you:

Our solutions are modular so can be configured for your specific needs



# JOIN THE ABLE MOVEMENT

"BUILDING COMMUNITIES FOR THE FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITY - IN THE COMMUNITY, IN EDUCATION, AND IN THE ECONOMY."

JOIN NOW!!

## BLOG

Life on the Back Roads

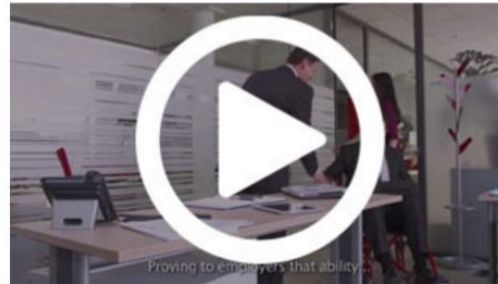
Two steps forward...?

Nathan Basha – advocating for jobs for people living with intellectual disability

NDIS rollout plan overdue and a matter of urgency

Clickability, the tick of approval for essential services

Count Me In – SANFL inaugural match between Norwood and North Adelaide creating awareness

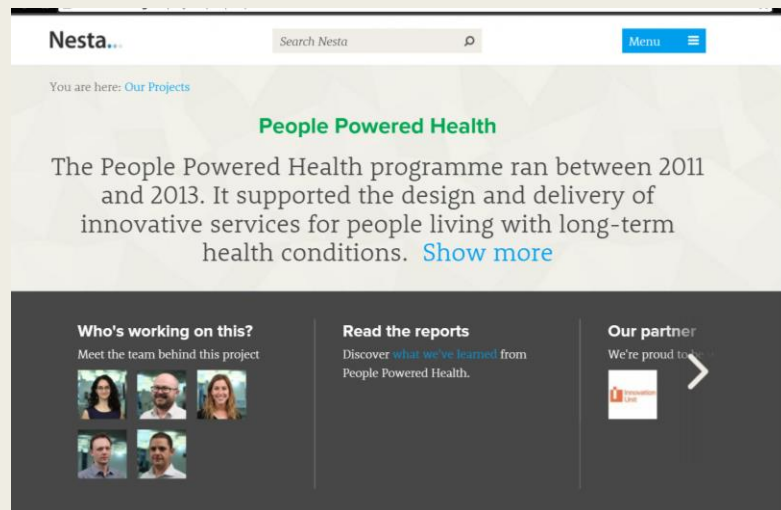


**WHAT IS THE ABLE MOVEMENT ALL ABOUT? WATCH THE VIDEO!**

Show your support by joining us today!

*"We have started the Movement to bring about change. This is your platform to create the change you want to see in your community where you live, work and play."*

New to The Able Movement? Want to know more? Click [here](#) for all the details.



- Co-design and co-production
- Engagement and participation
- Choice and control
- The people are the service
- Platforms and connections
- Augmented individuals

Some principles

- Volunteering is a form of co-design and co-production
- You have to pull people to the cause, not push the cause to them  
(volunteering is an invitation to people to do what matters to them, not necessary what matters to you...)
- Self-interest and new forms of (often digitally enabled) collective action are creating new opportunities for engagement and participation
- People are happy to make sacrifices, but they don't want to feel exploited or abandoned
- An old ethic of volunteering is being re-written into a new script of engagement and participation (but without losing its persistent values of generosity and commitment to a collective and common cause)