

The Student Volunteer Army.

What are volunteers? Volunteers help their communities and aid others in need. They are incredible people who do kind and compassionate things to help out in their community, without being paid a single cent. The Student Volunteer army is a large group of extraordinary people.

In September 2010 a huge 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck Christchurch, a city in the South Island of New Zealand. Many buildings crumbled and shattered; the city was wrecked. Sam Johnson, a University of Canterbury student, worked with some other students to create a Facebook page called 'Student base for earthquake clean up.' He and a team of 11,000 students, shovelled mountains of silt off the streets of Christchurch. The Student Volunteer Army was born.

The Student Volunteer Army (or SVA) did a lot of hard and tiring work during the Canterbury earthquakes. Imagine a team of 11,000 patrolling the streets doing jobs for people in need, shovelling silt and clearing streets. This is simply a great demonstration of humanity at its best. The people in Christchurch were astounded at the kindness, compassion and energy of the students as they worked around the city, day in and day out. Even the world looked on in amazement at the courage and kindness of these university students. When the second earthquake hit, five months later, the Student Army volunteers didn't hesitate to help.

New Zealand has just recently come out of lockdown during the COVID 19 pandemic. The Student Volunteer Army worked incredibly hard during this time as well. They simply just helped everyone in need. Some people, like the elderly, weren't able to go out so they did essential shopping and tasks for them. They spent their time helping others. Instead of sitting in front of a TV, which I think is what most of us did.

The Student Volunteer Army doesn't always help in times of crisis, they also do kind and generous things when people need them during their everyday lives. They provide childcare for busy parents, work with pharmacists to deliver medication to people who cannot pick it up themselves, and that's just to name a few. The Student Volunteer Army now has programmes running to encourage children of all ages to help out and get into volunteering. The students choose a task to help out in their local community and act on it. The Student Volunteer Army aims to encourage children to be lifelong volunteers.

The student volunteers were originally just from Christchurch but now they have spread all over New Zealand. They are now based in many towns and cities so they can operate all over New Zealand to help people in need. All over the world, people admire the great work of this

army, as they carry out tasks and work in their communities. The Student Volunteer Army now has many partners to support and sponsor the students.

The Student Volunteer Army is an incredible group of young volunteers. They have helped out during times of crises such as the Christchurch earthquake and the COVID 19 pandemic which we are still persevering through now. They encourage children to become volunteers and help others during their daily lives. This organisation is still going strong and will continue to help other people in need. The Student Volunteer Army works selflessly for the benefit of others.

References:

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