**Class Notes:**

Volunteering is contribution of time, effort and talent to a need, cause or mission without financial gain.

Volunteering is all about you being able to contribute some of your own time to help people in our communities. Volunteers support our communities and add to them in their own unique way using a wide variety of skills, knowledge and experience.

**Definition of formal volunteering:**

* It differs from the previous definition as some volunteering now is done in for profit organizations, hospitals, other events.
* Although it is time given willingly, recipients are required to do volunteering, but the assumption is that they are doing this willingly.  They may not have a choice, but they are willing to contribute and learn new skills whilst they receive their entitlements

**Principles of Volunteering**

* Volunteering benefits the community and the volunteer
* Volunteer work is unpaid
* Volunteering is always a matter of choice
* Volunteering is not compulsorily undertaken to receive pensions or government allowances (this definition is currently under review as Government policy currently requires certain job seekers to look at volunteering as an opportunity)
* Volunteering is a legitimate way in which citizens can participate in the activities of their community
* Volunteering is an activity performed in the not for profit sector only. Volunteering is not a substitute for paid work
* Volunteers do not replace paid workers nor constitute a threat to the job security of paid workers
* Volunteering respects the rights, dignity and culture of others
* Volunteering promotes human rights and equality.