



Skills for Cities Midwest

April 2021 Impact Report



Celebrating National Volunteer Week in the Midwest



Volunteer Reflections

Skills for Cities April 2021 was dedicated to building the capacity of nonprofits across the Midwest. Thanks to the region's rich nonprofit and corporate sectors, the Midwest is well-positioned to reap the benefits of skills-based volunteering, and that's just what happened when we brought an incredible group of volunteers and social impact leaders together during National Volunteer Week.

The last year has underscored the vital role that nonprofits play in community well being. When we unite those organizations with individuals from across sectors who want to have a role in fighting inequity and companies who want to activate their values and commitments, transformational impact is possible - just check out these results!

"This was one of my best volunteer experiences!"

"I felt like we were able to make a long-lasting impact."

"While it is clearly a difficult time for many organizations, hearing it directly from people involved and the impacts that the pandemic is having on non-profits really drove home some of the challenges and put a very real human face on them."

Impact Snapshot

43

volunteers

5

corporate partners

7

nonprofit partners from 3 states

\$78K

in pro bono services delivered in one day

Skills-based support for:

- Marketing & Communications
- Human Resources
- Data Analytics
- Information Systems & Technology
- Client Relations

Community Conversation



A high point of the day, which volunteers described as an "inspiring session", was the discussion between Midwest social impact leaders Monique B. Jones from Forefront and Bevon Joseph from The Greenwood Project, moderated by Common Impact's Danielle Holly. The trio focused on [what post-pandemic success looks like for the social impact sector and how individuals and companies can support that recovery](#). Watch the entire community conversation [here](#).

"A donation is different than an investment. If you're truly invested, let's talk about a 3-5 year relationship."

-Bevon Joseph, The Greenwood Project

"BIPOC-led organizations during COVID saw a tremendous increase in the need for services, but in comparison to non-BIPOC-led peers, they didn't see an increase in donations. Simply ask organizations what they need."

-Monique B. Jones, Forefront

"We worked with such a phenomenal group of volunteers who came prepared for the day and asked such insightful questions that really helped uncover some of the roots of the project. Their recommendations will extend beyond just the scope of this project and will help strengthen our organization as we continue to work and evolve in the future."

- Teach for America, Ohio

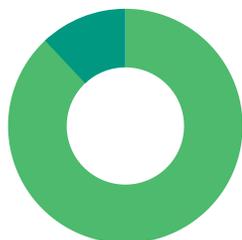
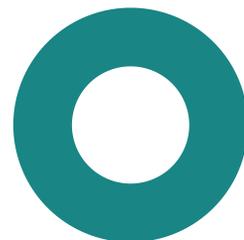
"We didn't really understand the degree of expertise your partners bring to the table - it's huge. We didn't know what to expect. We are thrilled with the results."

- The Greenwood Project

Nonprofit Impact

100%

of nonprofits that had never participated in a skills-based volunteer opportunity before said they were **very likely to use skills-based volunteers again**



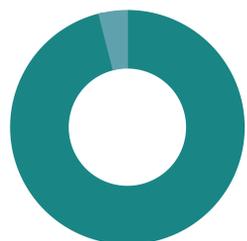
88% of nonprofits said this **saved their staff time**

100%

of nonprofits **made a new connection to an employee or company**



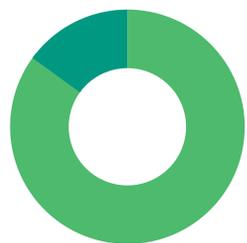
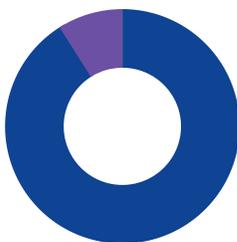
Volunteer Perspectives



96%
strongly agreed or agreed that their work at Skills for Cities **made a real difference for the nonprofit**

91%

said **working on a multi-company team was useful**



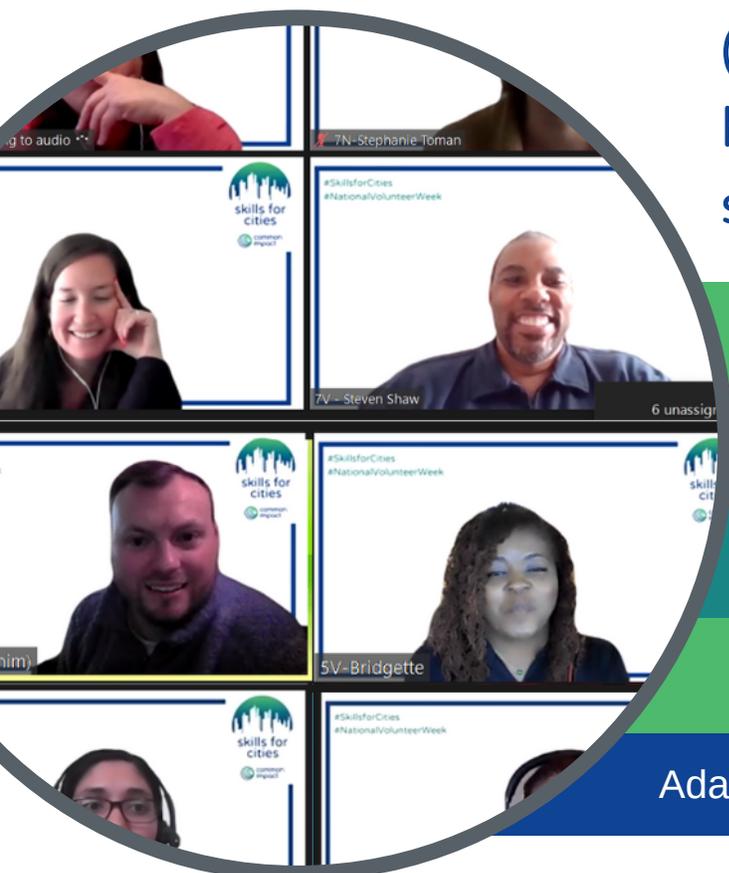
85%
said they **felt more connected to the community after Skills for Cities**

"This was a unique and engaging experience that brought some of the skills that I use daily into a totally different context."

It was most rewarding to see the contributions of individuals of various backgrounds and experiences, working together to produce something valuable for our nonprofit"

"This was a great way to get exposure to other organizations and feel like we get to help in a different way."

In just one day, volunteers (73% of whom were new to skills-based volunteering) reported sharpening these skills:



Collaboration & Teamwork

Creative Thinking & Innovation

Client Focus & Empathetic Approach

Problem-Solving & Navigating Ambiguity

Adaptability & Synthesizing Ideas in Real-Time

To all our Skills for Cities partners and participants,

thank you.

We hope you will continue your commitment to support nonprofit organizations using your skills in your own community and beyond.



Want to join us in October for the next Skills for Cities? We'll be serving BIPOC-led and racial justice organizations as we all take action for racial equity. [Read more](#) and [reach out today](#).

www.commonimpact.org