











Rockton Software 2018 Why We Volunteer

Name	1 1 1	Volunteer Mission	Why	Favorite Story
<p>Mark Rockwell</p> 	<p>I like the 1:1:1 program is because we run into non-profits who could utilize our products but sometimes don't have the budget for it. Their cause is so great, and donating software that makes a profound difference feels great in furthering their mission."</p>			
<p>Sheila Ochoa</p> 		<p>Homeless</p>	<p>I picked the Homeless Shelter because I can't imagine not having a home to go to, especially in the harsh winters we have here in Fargo. So anything I can do to help or let them know they care I will do. It's not about judging, it's about giving. And that doesn't always mean money, just lending a hand, or listening to people goes a long way.</p>	
<p>Kelli Sexton</p> 	<p>Mark & I incorporated the 1/1/1 program after reading about it a few years ago. We thought it was a good idea to tie our "Why" into encouraging our team to give back in a variety of ways.</p>	<p>Intercambio – teaching English as a Second Language</p>	<p>Mark & I travel a lot, but rely primarily on English. We feel very fortunate that the world is so accommodating that we manage to get by without learning the local language. I can only imagine how challenging it would be to immerse in a culture without the language skills necessary.</p>	<p>I have been tutoring English 2 days a week with a mother from Vietnam. She has been in the US for 9 years and has children in the public school. It's been amazing hearing her ask so many questions about why something is pronounced one way vs another, passive versus active verb usage, etc. Each week I am reminded of how much I take for granted in understanding our crazy, irregular English language!</p>
<p>Bryan Page</p> 	<p>I love having the 1-1-1 program, it allows us as employees the ability to go out and help in our immediate communities, as well as help in a broader reach with the software and profit payout. It makes you feel proud to be a part of a company that cares enough to see the need and wants to help where they can.</p>	<p>Valley Water Rescue</p>	<p>I came across their organization while I was helping sandbag and evacuate a house during one of the floods that hit our town. Some of their members came by on an airboat doing welfare checks and evacuations. After talking with them and finding what they do, I felt that I could be an asset to their mission. Being from Duluth, MN, I have always grown up around water, boats, was a certified scuba diver and like to be active and hands-on, so it seemed like a good fit. Since joining the team in 2011 I have been a shore tender, diver, sonar operator, drone pilot and on the Board of Directors.</p>	<p>I really enjoyed volunteering in the Fargo Flood of 2009. It is amazing to see a community come together at the worst of times to help neighbors that you have never met. When things were getting bad, everybody worked together to protect the city instead of just trying to fend for themselves. It is amazing to see what can be done when a large group focuses on a mutual goal. These type of events really bring out the best in people.</p>
<p>Kris Berger</p> 		<p>School projects, Church, YWCA, local food pantry, Feed My Starving Children</p>	<p>I choose to volunteer at the above because they are local to my community and I can see a direct impact of how my volunteer time helps others.</p>	<p>I really enjoyed volunteering together as a company at Feed My Starving Children. Being able to do that as a group, with the support of the executive team, was a great experience.</p>
<p>Sue Roe</p> 	<p>Even though I wind up doing the majority of my volunteer time outside of working hours, and so don't always utilize much of the 21 hours Rockton provides, it really makes a difference to me to know that those hours are available to me. Particularly with the bedside singing, I feel free to "pick up and go" if I'm needed to honor a request for song during business hours. It's so clear to me that the company places a high value on that kind of activity. I feel supported in saying, Yes, I can commit a certain portion of my life to ___ because I know I don't HAVE to cram it all into my off-hours. And I appreciate that it doesn't all have to be through well-known charities. (I love the bedside singing because our culture has such a fear and dread of death and grieving, and with singing we create a mood of comfort and calm that's often as much for any family that's present as for the person who is crossing the threshold. I'm actually comfortable with death and dying, so this is something that I can do that not everyone would want to.)</p>		<p>I volunteer with Sandpoint Threshold Singers, which is part of Threshold Choir International. We sing at bedside, in groups of 2-4 singers, for people who are "nearing the threshold" of death, or are ill or in need of comfort.</p>	
<p>Shawn Strayer</p> 	<p>I think Rockton's 1:1:1 program is a great way for the company to give back some of the success we have achieved over the years. The contributions include both financial giving as well as the equally important giving of our most precious resource: Time. It is through these types of grass roots efforts that we can truly begin to make an impact in our communities and help to make the world around us a better place.</p>	<p>My family has personally volunteered at many events such as: Walk MS, MS MuckFest, Tri for the Cure, Cherry Creek Sneak & Habitat for Humanity.</p>		

<p>Jenn Schoemer</p>		<p>I appreciate working for a company that allows us each of us the time to give back to our communities and/or organizations that are near and dear to our hearts. It is a great feeling knowing our 1-1-1 program is impacting so many communities, business and people just beyond our headquarters location.</p>	<p>Chad Smith Ride for Life – The Chad Smith Ride for Life is a benefit held each year in memory of Chad Smith. Chad was a resident of St. Michael, MN and fought Hodgkins Lymphoma for 10 yrs. Chad's wishes were for our team to continue to help other families in the St. Michael/Albertville area, fighting cancer. This year, my mom was a recipient. I volunteered, and will continue for years to come, with the group to pass out donation fliers, organize contact lists and help with some mailings.</p>	<p>I had always wanted to get involved with the CSRFL group, but never made the time. This year when my mom was chosen as a recipient, I knew that I had to make the time.</p>	<p>All time – Habitat for Humanity. A few years back I was able to volunteer making homes in the 9th ward in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. It was a great feeling being part of the rebuilding process, even though it was a very small part, and great being part of something so much bigger than yourself.</p>
<p>Alicia Weigel</p>		<p>I think it's great to work for a company that cares so much about giving back to their communities. I haven't worked for any other company that intentionally sets that kind of goal for themselves and their employees each year. Getting hours set aside specifically to get out and help someone is pretty remarkable</p>	<p>I've helped at the Great Plains Food Bank for about a decade.</p>	<p>I think that the Fargo community is the greatest town on earth, despite the cold weather. The thought of families and children that are my own son's ages going without a meal breaks my heart. I try to do whatever I can to help change that.</p>	<p>It would have to be with the Chefs' Gala - it's amazing to see such a huge outpouring from the community all working to end hunger in our community. When you see all the volunteers putting in late nights, setting everything up and then tearing it all down, it's really a herculean effort to put it all together! And it is very rewarding to hear that final total raised at the end of the night and just how many meals that will provide that really makes all the stress and work worth it.</p>
<p>Jim Peliksza</p>			<p>I have volunteered at A.W.A.R.E. We helped reinforce some animal cages and sorted through some raptor feathers that they use for treating birds with injured wings.</p>	<p>We love animals, so any chance to work with them or do anything for them is fantastic by us! We would love to do more there, but working with animals generally requires a large time commitment because of the training involved.</p>	