Volunteering in Your Community

Pre-reading

Questions:
• What does the title of this reading mean?

Definitions:
• Elderly – old or aging

Reading

A community is an important place. Why? It’s where you live, work, and play. It’s where you raise your family and find care for your children. It’s where you greet neighbors and make new friends.

Your community is made up of helpful people and places. Some of the services in your community are: fire and police department, schools, hospitals, libraries, and places of worship. You may use some of these every day. These services help keep a community healthy and safe.

You also have a part in keeping your community healthy and safe. Being part of a community means helping those around you. There are many needs in communities. All people, young or old, can help meet those needs by volunteering.

• A retired woman is a crossing guard at school. She helps school children get across busy streets safely.

• A 10 year old boy walks an elderly neighbor’s dog after school.

• A mom drives people in her neighborhood to their place of worship.

• A teenage girl helps at the local hospital.

• A business or family “Adopts a Highway.” They clean ditches along roads in the fall and spring.

These helpful people volunteer. They do something good without getting paid. They give freely of their time and talents. They help others and feel good about themselves. It is fun and rewarding to volunteer.

Volunteering helps make a community a better place to live, work, and play. Do you want to make your community a better place? Volunteer today!
Understanding
1. What does volunteer mean? ____________________________________________________________
2. Why should people volunteer? ________________________________________________________
3. Where can people volunteer? _________________________________________________________
4. What are some services in your community? _____________________________________________
5. Who can volunteer? __________________________________________________________________
6. What is a community? __________________________________________________________________
7. What does reward mean in this reading? ________________________________________________

Writing
Option A: Is your community a healthy and safe place? Why or why not? What can you do to make it better?
Option B: Write about volunteering you’ve done. Where did you do it? What did you do? How did you feel about it?