



2015 Charity event to raise funds for the International movement to promote access to education along with the [International Baccalaureate](#)

Volunteering: How helping others helps you

My name is Claudia Brauer and I became a trainer of translators and interpreters in 2011, after 35 years of experience as a translator and interpreter. Today, however, I want to talk to you about my experience as a volunteer translator and interpreter.

But first, I want to thank all of you who scheduled time and gave funds to attend my June 12, 2015 session on today's topic, which had to be cancelled due to an unfortunate health-related circumstance. Thank you so much for your understanding and your wishes for my speedy recovery!

Lets talk then about volunteering. From the days of my early youth, I have been keenly aware that **almost 50% of humanity lives on less than US\$2.50 a day and about 80% on less than \$10 a day.**¹ I have therefore always volunteered in one way or another and consider it my duty for the simple fact of being born to a middle-class family with certain privileges, having the means, the education, and the government to express myself

and my needs, and not being directly subject to the horrors of war and violence. Volunteering is therefore central to my identity as a human being. It reminds me never to take for granted the many gifts of a "simple" life!

A couple of years ago, the Grameen Foundation awarded me one of my dearest distinctions: Diamond Volunteer² for my work in many of their revolutionary anti-poverty tools and efforts.

At the time, I stated something true to this day: **"It has been my honor and privilege to be part of a volunteer experience that allows me to make a difference in the world... without leaving the comfort of my own desk!** I had always admired Muhammad Yunus and his concept of ending poverty, one family at a time. Now that the internet has eliminated geographical barriers, I am proud to work as a translator and interpreter, helping eliminate the last barrier to reach all corners of the world, regardless of local language."

1 <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/poverty-facts-stats-vishwanathan-mercy-ruler>

2 To read the full article, copy and paste the following path: <http://bankerswithoutborders.com/sites/default/files/Diamond%20Volunteers%20Book.pdf>



Many translators and interpreters have written to let me know how important these words were in their lives: as freelancers, many of us have very limited time and resources and this option of volunteering online for a cause dear to our hearts opened the doors to that possibility.

This is the essential message I would like to convey to you. There are many ways of giving back to the communities you care for, and volunteering as a translator and interpreter is one of great value.

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In doing so, I have learned so much about courage and resilience, about hope and forgiveness, about how little our mundane problems are when seen in the context of those around the world who are really in need: the victims of war and violence, the forgotten, the struggling poor, the abused, the children left behind.

In a world with so much pain and injustice, being their brave voices is an honor without parallel. We become essential to their well-being and make a real difference in the lives of people who, without us, have no voice in the world.



Margaret Mead Quotes



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead



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Why volunteer?

I would say that it is the most rewarding way of doing what we thought was impossible. We suddenly become part of something so much larger than ourselves and yet, each of our individual contributions is essential to the whole.

We are able to be active participants of the human experience in ways we never even imagined. Suddenly, those few hours a month that we devote to being the voice of those without a voice become the most rewarding time in our busy schedule.

Mind over matter: we discover how to be highly meaningful human beings among the chaos of our daily lives!



In today's interconnected global village, digital communication has made it possible for us to **be volunteers not only in person (which is still a valid and noble option), but now also remotely, over the phone, internet or web-based platforms.** There are many ways to be a volunteer. I will review some I have experienced. Not because they are better than others, but because I know them personally. Maybe you want to join one of these organizations I mention, or maybe another entity out there that best fits your profile. Use my experience as a template from which you can take off on your personal journey. There are so many groups around the world that I do not mention only because of ignorance or lack of space.

Do your homework.

Find what you WANT to do, where and how you CAN do it, and then, **JUST DO IT!**

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I want to quote here another important take on volunteering, found at the ServiceLeader.org³ website:

“Instead of considering volunteering as something you do for people who are not as fortunate as yourself, begin to think of it as an exchange... Adding your effort to the work of others makes everyone's lives better...most people find themselves in need at some point in their lives...today you may be the person with the ability to help, but tomorrow you may be the recipient of someone else's volunteer effort... [maybe] last month the volunteer ambulance corps rushed you to the emergency room...”

My challenge to you: If you are not already a volunteer, make it a purpose to become one within the next three weeks. 21 days is my challenge. Will you accept it?

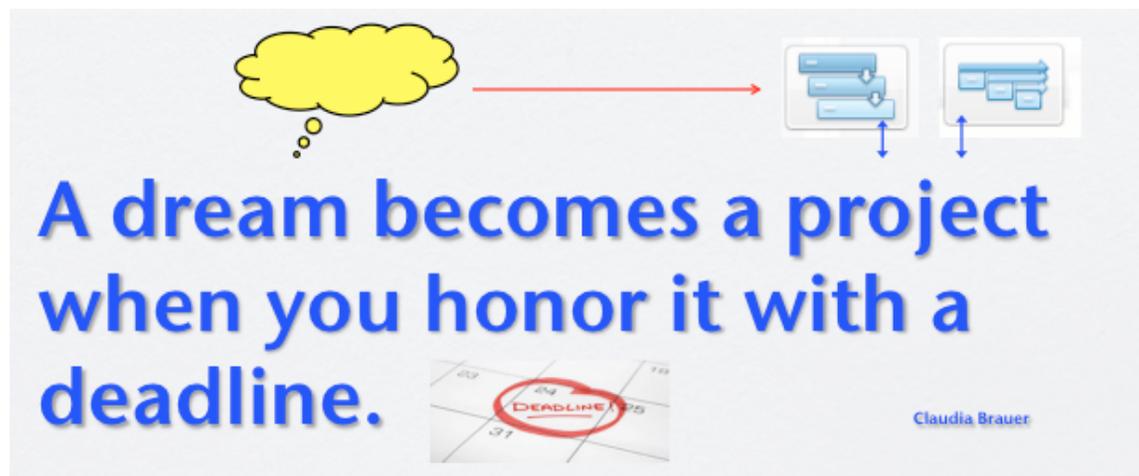
If you are already a volunteer, congratulations! Are you comfortable where you are, with what you are doing? Do you want to contribute in a different way, or more time, or to another organization? Then, again, do it within 21 days.

A dream becomes a project when you honor it with a deadline.

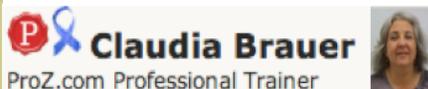
**Make this your project,
not a dream.**

Monday, July 13. What will you be doing? That is 21 days from today.

(Or mark your calendar 21 days from the day you read this)



³ <http://www.serviceleader.org/volunteers/why>



Volunteering: My personal favorite opportunities

Translators without Borders in association with ProZ.com

<http://www.proz.com/screening-platform/overview?cid=1197983>

Translators without Borders is an independent non-profit association dedicated to helping NGOs extend their humanitarian work by providing free, professional translations. The funds saved through the use of volunteer translations can then be used by the NGOs in the field, enabling them to extend the scope and reach of their humanitarian work.



25,733,598
Words translated



2,835
Volunteer translators



464
Humanitarian organizations



Welcome to the Translators without Borders screening center.

This area has been established to facilitate the posting and reviewing of test translations as part of screening of translators who have volunteered for Translators without Borders.

There is a fast track for certified translators. If you are member of ProZ.com's **Certified PRO Network** or have been a member of the **American Translators Association** or an equivalent association you are not required to perform a test translation.



Claudia Brauer
ProZ.com Professional Trainer



Volunteering: My personal favorite opportunities

Grameen Foundation via Bankers without Borders

<http://www.bankerswithoutborders.com/volunteer>

Grameen Foundation helps the world's poorest people reach their full potential, connecting their determination and skills with the resources they need. Grameen Foundation provides access to essential financial services and information on agriculture and health, assistance that can have wide-scale impact by addressing the specific needs of poor households and communities.



19,709

VOLUNTEERS REGISTERED

278,769

HOURS DONATED

\$15,419,733

VALUE OF IN KIND SERVICES



Since 2008, **Bankers without Borders** has connected skilled volunteers, like you, with some of the world's most promising social enterprises to help increase their organizational capacity, transfer skills and knowledge to their workforces, and deepen their impact.



Volunteering: My personal favorite opportunities

Women for Women International

<http://www.womenforwomen.org/get-involved>

[Women for Women International](http://www.womenforwomen.org) is a nonprofit humanitarian organization that provides practical and moral support to women survivors of war. By utilizing skills, knowledge, and resources, she is able to create sustainable change for herself, her family, and community. Women for Women International supports the most marginalized women in countries affected by conflict and war, so they can earn and save money, improve health and well-being, influence decisions in their home and community, and connect to networks for support.

My personal favorite? Sponsor a Sister.

You can send her messages of hope

Just a few words of encouragement can have a profound effect on your sponsored sister.

SPONSOR A SISTER TODAY





Volunteering: Other opportunities you may explore

U.N. Volunteers

<http://www.unv.org/en/how-to-volunteer/register-to-be-a-un-volunteer.html>

UN Volunteers are women and men with professional skills and academic qualifications or training, who are willing to contribute their time and expertise as international volunteers, outside their own country, or where UN programs exist in their own country, as national volunteers. Volunteers have proven specialized experience in their professional field and serve in assignments with diverse UN agencies to support peace and development.

The vision of UNV is a world where volunteerism is recognized, within societies, as a way for all people and countries to achieve peace and development through the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion.

How to volunteer





Claudia Brauer
ProZ.com Professional Trainer



Volunteering: Other opportunities you may explore

TED Talks Translation

<https://www.ted.com/participate/translate>

The Open Translation Project is a global volunteer effort to subtitle TED Talks, and enable the inspiring ideas in them to crisscross languages and borders



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Our languages

Our Translators

Language Coordinators

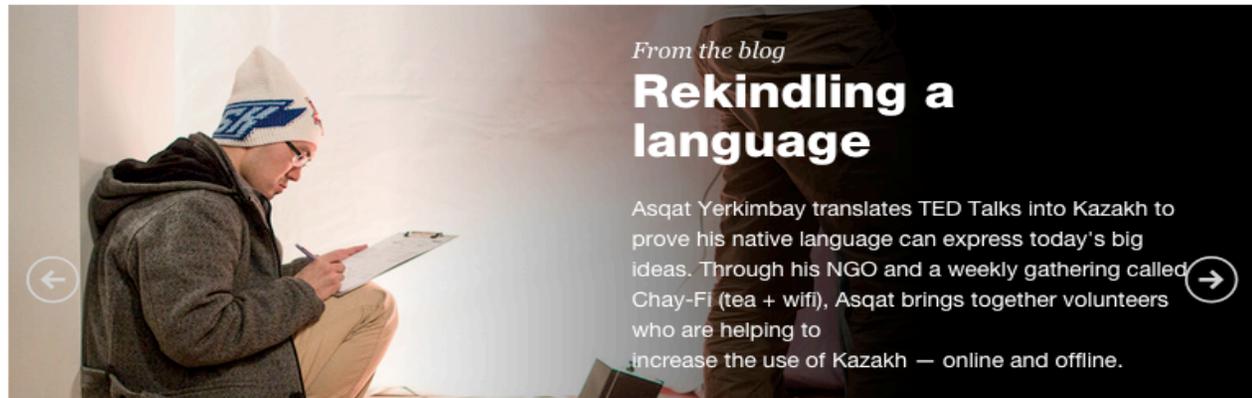
Transcribe

Subtitling resources

Participate ›

Translate

The Open Translation Project is a global volunteer effort to subtitle TED Talks, and enable the inspiring ideas in them to crisscross languages and borders.



From the blog
Rekindling a language

Asqat Yerkimbay translates TED Talks into Kazakh to prove his native language can express today's big ideas. Through his NGO and a weekly gathering called Chay-Fi (tea + wifi), Asqat brings together volunteers who are helping to increase the use of Kazakh — online and offline.



Volunteering: Other opportunities you may explore

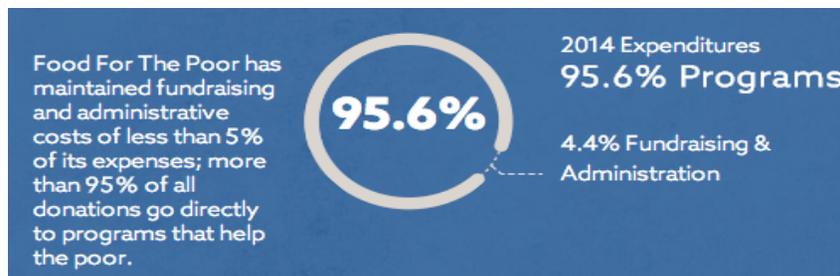
Global Voices

<http://globalvoicesonline.org/about/>

Many of the world's most interesting and important stories are scattered in bits and pieces across the Internet, in blog posts and tweets, and in multiple languages. Global Voices curates, verifies and [translates trending news and stories from blogs](#), independent press and social media in 167 countries by a volunteer community of writers, analysts and translators.

Food for the Poor

<http://www.foodforthe poor.org/participate/>



Helping the poor in 17 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Become a "Listener"

www.7cupsoftea.com/listener/becomeListener.php

An Active Listener is a compassionate, caring volunteer trained to provide confidential emotional support to individuals struggling to cope. Getting started is easy and rewarding. Listeners can earn Cheers, Badges and Compassion Hearts to help qualify their commitment to the community.

<http://www.7cupsoftea.com/about/faqBadgesCheers.php>

World Vision

<http://www.worldvision.org/get-involved>



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.



Volunteering: Other opportunities you may explore

Local NGOs

<http://www.wango.org/resources.aspx?section=ngodir>

Check a list of NGOs by activity and country.



Other Opportunities



Home » Articles » Language » 8 Volunteer Translation Opportunities

8 Volunteer Translation Opportunities

<http://blog.rev.com/articles/language/8-volunteer-translation-opportunities/>

Forums on Volunteer Work

Search ProZ.com

Use this form to search all of ProZ.com. See also: [ProZ.com term search](#)



<http://www.proz.com/?sp=search>
Select ✓ "articles" and "forums"
Type "volunteer"

Articles on Volunteer Work

I found some interesting articles in the ProZ.com database on volunteer translation:

<http://www.proz.com/translation-articles/articles/78/>

<http://www.proz.com/translation-articles/articles/3724/>

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June 12 registrants interested in attending volunteering session Vs. world poverty map

