Making Volunteering Exciting: 3D Printing Prosthetics

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Introduction:

The benefits of volunteering are many. Perhaps the biggest benefit is the satisfaction of incorporating service into their lives and making a difference in their community. Along with pride, sense of accomplishment, volunteering helps to solve problems, strengthen communities, improve lives, connect to others and transform lives.

3d printing affords new ways of volunteering. Prosthetic hands are very expensive. Using 3d printers, prosthetic hands can be made at a fraction of the price. A spool that costs fifteen dollars can print over one hundred parts. 3d printers vary in size and cost. They can range from a hundred dollars to over $50,000. Some of the more well-known desktop 3d printers are the CR-10, Prusa i3, Flashforge Creator Pro, Cube, and the Ultimaker 3. These generally cost above $500, but there are many kits that cost about $100. With 3d printers becoming less expensive and the support becoming easier, even children are beginning to learn to use these machines. 3 d printed hand can help a child who was lost a hand, which is a very rewarding experience. According the current research, those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer.

Comparisons of the health benefits of volunteering for different age groups have also shown that older volunteers are more likely to receive greater benefits from volunteering. This may be because they are more likely to face higher incidence of illness or because volunteering provides them with physical and social activity and a sense of purpose at a time when their social roles are changing. Volunteers who devote about 100 hours per year or more are most likely to exhibit positive health outcomes.

3d printing technology is evolving into an exciting way to volunteer. After a child receives a prosthetic hand, the child uses the prosthetic hand and gives feedback to the creator regarding the functionality of the prostheses. This helps the creator to tweak the design of the prosthetic hand to make it more useful. Helping children to function using prosthetic hand is a very satisfying experience.