

INSIDE

What's Your Why?

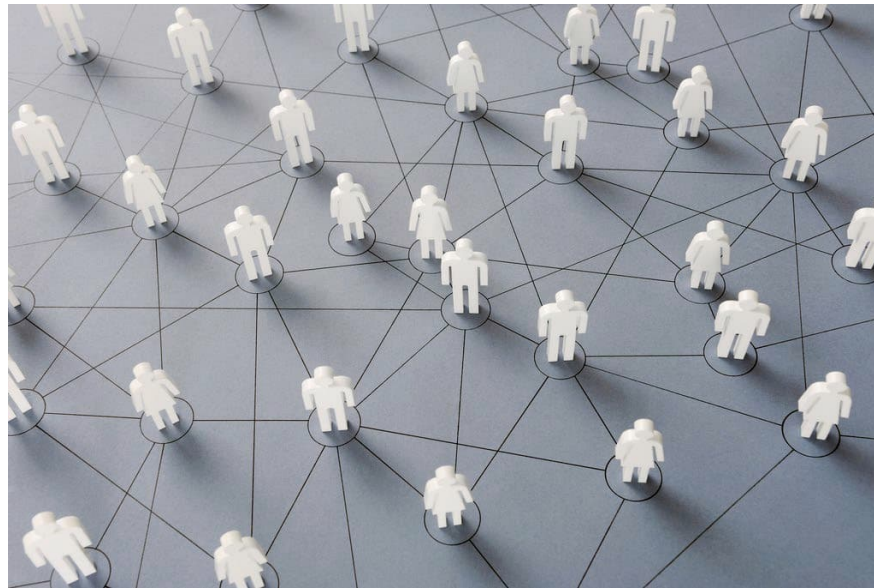
The benefits of
volunteering

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service opportunities in
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What's Your Why?

- By Susan Soto, Member, FBCBA Board of Directors

Why do you want to serve your community? Your "why" might be the values or activities that are important to you. Or maybe your "why" is the contribution you wish to make to others - to family, friends, or the whole community. Whatever your motivation, we know that volunteering in the community improves the community as a whole and enriches the lives of the volunteers.

RealityPathing.com lists eight benefits of volunteering: it fosters **strong relationships** in the community, it can lead to an increase in **happiness** and a sense of **purpose**, it **combats social isolation**, it provides unique opportunities for **personal and professional development**, it cultivates **civic engagement**, it offers **economic benefits to communities**, it creates **positive change**, and it might even boost **physical fitness/health!**

Your bar association's newest initiative, the Pro Bono & Community Service Committee, gives you the opportunity to feed your "why" and to benefit from the results! Would you like more information? Please reach out to me directly at Susan.Soto@HVLPA.org - I'd love to connect with you! You can also find us on *Meetup* as "Fort Bend County Lawyers Social Meetup Group."



Community Service is Served!

Here's a menu of volunteer opportunities:

Volunteering for the **Fort Bend Women's Center** makes a big impact in the lives of survivors: <https://www.fbbc.org/get-involved/volunteer>

Fort Bend ISD encourages community members to volunteer for school district and campus initiatives: <https://www.fortbendisd.com/howtovolunteer>

Volunteers also play a crucial role in supporting student success in **Lamar CISD**: https://www.lcisd.org/92606_3

Sign up for an **estate planning clinic** to be held in Missouri City on August 23 and October 18. Interview your pro bono client on Day One and execute the estate planning package you draft on Day Two: email SSoto@MyAccessHealth.org

Fort Bend County Animal Services welcomes volunteers to assist in animal care: <https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/government/departments/health-and-human-services/animal-services/volunteer>

There are volunteer opportunities for adults and youth 12+ at each **Fort Bend County public library** location: <https://www.fortbendlibraries.gov/volunteer>

The Arc of Fort Bend County needs and appreciates volunteers: <https://arcoffortbend.org/programs/volunteer-opportunities/>

Pro Bono Corner

Did you know that Lone Star Legal Aid has a pro bono division to complement its direct services legal aid model? Houston Volunteer Lawyers depends completely on volunteer attorneys to make its pro bono legal aid model work.

To see what pro bono cases are available through Lone Star Legal Aid, visit: <https://www.lonestarlegal.org/volunteer/>

Did you know that Fort Bend County's largest safety net services provider, AccessHealth, has partnered with Houston Volunteer Lawyers in the county's first medical-legal partnership (MLP)? Visit <https://www.makejusticehappen.org/get-involved/take-a-case/> and look for case summaries that feature the MLP.

This month's featured MLP case is a guardianship for a disabled adult child:

A dedicated single mother in Fort Bend County seeks guardianship of her 22-year-old son through the HVL/AccessHealth Medical-Legal Partnership. Her adult child was diagnosed with intellectual disabilities, ADHD, and a speech impediment, and he relies fully on his mother for all activities of daily living. Despite these challenges, he is an energetic and caring young man with a passion for boxing, arts and crafts, and helping others - especially with lawn care. Client speaks English.

