

The Council Chambers
City Hall
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

A Proclamation

- Whereas:** National Volunteer Week was created in the 1940s to pay tribute to those who provided humanitarian services during the Second World War, saw a resurgence in 1974 and led to the creation of National Volunteer Month, recognized worldwide in 1990; and
- Whereas:** Presidents of the United States throughout the years have proclaimed National Volunteer Month to salute the unparalleled services of the volunteers who have given countless hours for the betterment of mankind, our communities, and the American way of life; and
- Whereas:** While Volunteer NH! a non-profit group was established in 2000 to promote volunteerism and community service, Portsmouth has created a long-standing culture of volunteerism, achieving unparalleled levels of volunteer service to the arts, education, churches, sports, social services and some of our most beloved institutions, thanks to the very capable, generous and unflagging support of literally thousands of volunteers who are fundamental to the success of our own non-profits and their missions; and
- Whereas:** Here in this state, the true “New Hampshire Advantage” is that citizens don’t wait for someone else to tackle big problems and big needs. Instead, residents rally to their community and organize grassroots efforts to provide assistance – sometimes until the ‘supply chain’ of resources can catch up like the groups who hand-made facemasks for the most vulnerable when the pandemic hit – and sometimes for the life of a cause the way Gather has fed hungry families since 1816; and
- Whereas:** We might take for granted the legions of volunteers who literally burnish the natural and built environment that is the foundation for what we call the ‘quality of life’ that puts Portsmouth at the top of so many lists of ‘best places’ to live, work and play; and
- Whereas:** With the same conviction that, as Mayor Mary McEachern Keenan said when she dedicated the fountain in Market Square in April 1986, “the spirit of volunteerism is the greatest resource of our community,”

Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council and the citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire as

Volunteer Appreciation Month

and urge all citizens to celebrate the essential contributions of citizen volunteers to the past, present, and future of Portsmouth.

Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 3rd day of April 2023



Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth