

matches between groups in need of help and volunteers with busy lives. Once you register with them at VolunteerMatch.org, you can immediately get paired with something just right for you. They've made over 6,000,000 referrals, and host very useful free web seminars full of information on who they are, volunteering in general, and the organizations with whom they partner. I really had a "welcome to the future" moment on their website.

THE Q CENTER | PDXQCENTER.ORG

Portland's LGBTQ Community Center, located on Mississippi Avenue, is a great resource for all things Q. Whether you want to volunteer directly for them, or another program such as SMYRC — an LGBTQ youth program, helping is simpler than you'd think. I went in and spoke to a front desk volunteer named Michael Lecker. He's a PhD student that wanted to get involved at a local level, and emailed Q Center through their volunteer link. In two days he had a brief interview scheduled that quickly landed him a part-time desk position.

He also said that nonscheduled volunteering is easy too. You can work various one-time events, and I recalled the intense mayoral Q&A some weeks ago, and regretted not volunteering for it. For those who did not attend, let's just say that the candidates were very colorful, and a few were downright entertaining.

If Michael is an example of the kind of person that volunteers for the Q Center, then I want to be there too. You don't have to look far to see the great amount of good they do in the community, and being a part of that is one email away.

THE PIXIE PROJECT | PIXIEPROJECT.ORG

What Portlander doesn't want to volunteer with animals? The Pixie Project runs a newly expanded atypical animal shelter with amazing pet owner support, and a fully stocked non-profit pet supply store. They do pet-to-owner matchmaking, and have some of the most positive attitudes I've encountered in this kind of work. From their website you can get info on volunteering. Some of these opportunities include dog walking and working in their cattery. A cattery? Me-wow!

I'm impressed by how easy and positive talking to these organizations was. Thanks to everyone who got back to me with information. I think it's pretty clear that any laidback Portlander can easily lend a hand. \$

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