

Volunteers' Motives for Joining Third Sector Boards

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Voluntary organizations are run by boards whose members are volunteers, and they also generally operate volunteers who work directly with their clients in the field. Are these "direct" and "indirect" volunteers completely different, or are they similar in most features, differentiated only by their voluntary roles? This study compared the motives for volunteering of board members with those of direct volunteers in 52 voluntary organizations in Israel. In all, 239 voluntary board members were sampled from the organizations and compared with 410 field volunteers in the same organizations. The study revealed that the board members had different motives for joining the organizations than did their colleagues in the field. They were motivated by predominantly administrative motives, such as control, research and independence, while the direct volunteers were motivated more by social needs and the desire for knowledge.

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