Service in Action

"Give your hands to serve, and your hearts to love."
- Mother Teresa

Service in Action:

Community Service is well integrated into the Round Square ethos. Service work can be done individually or in collaboration with a group of people with the goal of benefiting others. You usually choose to work in an area that is in close proximity to where you live thus benefiting your own community. It provides no monetary gain, people volunteer their time and resources without selfish motives. It is an opportunity to give back to society and garner a sense of being one with the community while championing a cause. Round Square has made service one of its institutional pillars as the 'S' in the IDEALS, the foundation of all that is Round Square.

Introduction: **"Service in Action"** is an innovative **Community Service Initiative (CSI)** being launched by the South East Asia and the Gulf Region of Round Square. Inviting Round Square schools globally to step up their service activities over the month of April culminating in a virtual conference during the first week of May. Participating schools will have the opportunity to showcase their completed CSI project and learn how to envision, create and implement a community service initiative under the Do, Make, Fix, Host, Teach, Donate and Volunteer platforms. Service Activities take on a whole new picture, with a focus on the virtual instead of in person. Challenging all normal perspectives of what community service looked like in the past, forcing students to think of new and creative acts of service that can be done via the virtual mode. This month-long event is in commemoration of 'The International Day of Service', globally recognized and celebrated annually on May 7. Our goal is to complete as many Acts of Service before the International Day of Service, impacting as many communities globally and reaching out during these challenging times; while engaging the youth.
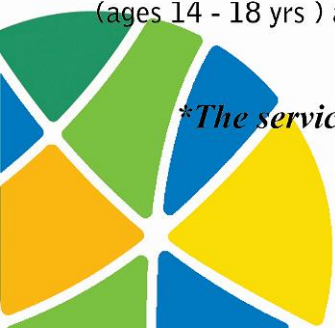
IDEALS: This event will not only cover Service but also touch on Internationalism, Environmental Stewardship and Leadership depending on the type of service activity / activities selected and undertaken by the participating school.

Mental Health Benefits : COVID - 19 has put the world in quite a predicament, presenting unheard of challenges and precipitating mental health issues. Resilience has become the buzzword in coping with these difficult and stressful times. Participating in community service improves the quality of life and health including longevity of those who donate their time. Volunteering improves not only the communities in which one serves, but also the life of the individual who is providing help to the community. Volunteering can provide a healthy boost in self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. Doing good for others and the community provides a natural sense of accomplishment and a sense of pride and identity. Thus building this ever important resilience and developing a coping mechanism of one's own.

Learning Outcomes: students will gain experience and life skills required for all their future career choices. It would provide a chance to improve skills important for a workplace, such as communication and organizational skills, collaboration, planning, problem-solving, critical and creative thinking and task management skills.. Furthermore, individuals could first look at an attractive career through volunteering before leaping to a long-term commitment.

Event Details: This Event will start on April 3 when registration opens and the *'Service in Action virtual conference will be on May 6, 2021 from 4:30PM - 7:30PM (IST).* Each School can register 7 - 8 participants (ages 14 - 18 yrs) and one Chaperone Teacher. The venue will be held on the Zoom platform.

The service activity can be as elaborate as you want or as simple as spreading smiles

Agenda :

Opening Session	15 min
Welcome Speech & Itinerary overview and instructions	
Keynote Speaker & Question and Answer Session	40 min
Barazza Session Service in Action Presentation - 3 minutes for each school Brainstorming and creating the Way Forward outline for your Barazza's Service Type	60 min
Quick Break	5 min
Closing Session - Reflection & Way Forward 5 - 7 min presentation from each Barazza (all seven)	60 min

Dates to Remember:

April 3	:	Launch of 'Service in Action' Project
April 3-25	:	Registration of Round Square School via Google Form
April 5- May 5	:	Implementation and documentation of Service in Action Project by participating Schools
April 25	:	Registration Deadline
May 2	:	Submission of 'Service in Action' presentation to event coordinator
May 6	:	'Service in Action' Virtual Conference, Timing 4:30pm – 7:30pm (IST)

Instructions for Schools: *Service activities should be virtual in nature, keeping in line with COVID 19 Health and Safety Regulations of your region.* Each School can register only one service project. Follow these seven steps to participate in this event. School teams will have the entire month of April to complete their service activity and document it into a 3 minute presentation. Each school can only showcase one service activity.

Step 1	Form a 'Service in Action' Team to coordinate (7 Students from each School)
Step 2	Brainstorm which type of service activity you are going to do under the following (Do it, Make it , Fix it, Host it , Teach it, Donate, Volunteer)
Step 3	April 5- 25 , Register school Team for 'Service in Action" via Google Registration Form
Step 4	Arrange for material or items needed to complete service project
Step 5	During the Month of April implement your 'Service in Action' project and document it into a 3 minute presentation. Presentations can be in the following formats: 1. Two PPT slides with pictures 2. Digital Picture Story 3. Short Documentary Video
Step 6	May 2 - Submission of Service in action presentation (3 minutes only) to Event Coordinator
Step 7	May 6 - Attend Virtual Conference present 'Service in Action'

Types of Service Activities: All service activities fall under the following types. Virtual service projects are preferred. listed below is a small explanation and some examples of service activities that can be done, your challenge is how to make them virtual.

'Do it' – Some of these take a few minutes, and others a bit longer, but they all help out in some way or the other. Especially try pitching in to do tasks for neighbours who can't do them themselves, like folks who are ill, elderly, or busy with work or childcare. All of the following service types also fall under this category. 'Do it' means to do something for someone, literally anything. Examples: feed the animals near your home, clean up a common area in your apartment complex, organise a sports activity for the underprivileged kids in your area, help a grandparent or neighbour in the use of a Smartphone or the computer.

'Make it' – There's something special about receiving a handmade gift, and we're sure there are plenty of people and places that would really appreciate it. Make and send items to folks at elderly care facilities, family shelters, or hospitals to make their days a little brighter. example: make reusable masks for an orphanage, bake cookies and snacks for food pantries, write letters to seniors in care facilities, make quilts or blankets for kids in hospitals, build birdhouses for your neighbours or community area, design a community mural, put together first aid kits for local schools, produce a community newsletter.

'Fix it' – If you see a problem in your community, consider doing something about it! Sometimes the best service we can give to the places we love is to take care of them. Examples : start a little free library, clean up your local park, beautify your area with seed bombs, help a neighbour or community org to paint fence or building, spruce up a run-down playground, offer to patch up clothes and stuffed toys, organize books at the library, 'Give IT' help to local adults.

'Host it' – Here's your chance to flex your event-planning muscles and put on something that will bring folks together. After all, the only thing better than community service is doing it with friends. Examples: host a bake sale, host a clothing swap, host a holiday meal, host activities for kids in hospitals. host a study group, host a gardening party, host a competitive book drive, host an online fundraiser, run an advocacy campaign on the need for vaccination.

'Teach it' – Everyone has something that they are talented at, **so** why not share those skills with others? Examples: Help kids with their homework, teach safe social media practices by running an online campaign, give free music lessons, coach a youth sports team, teach adults in your life internet skills, organise a seminar on driving safety, teach CPR (after getting certified), help English language learners practice with conversation, teach people how to register to vote.

'Donate' – If you look around your community, you'll probably find at least a few places that accept donations; like food pantries, family shelters, and schools, just to name a few. Examples of things you can collect to donate: school supplies, backpacks, non-perishable food items, hygiene products, masks, stuffed animals, footballs, books and masks (COVID- 19).

'Volunteer' – The best thing about volunteering is that you can do it just about anywhere (even online!), so hopefully this gets you thinking. Examples: volunteer at your local library, volunteer to chaperone a field trip, volunteer with a local non-profit, volunteer at an animal shelter, volunteer to do social media for a local NGO, volunteer to help set up a community event, volunteer at a food pantry, volunteer to organise the waste segregation in your community.

Our gratitude to all our partners. This event is a collaborative effort and can only be completed with the active contributions of the following Round Square schools: