

“Century of the Volunteer” Written by Raheem Dilgir ©2012

**A new millennium, a new day has come
For all volunteers, so stand up and cheer
The time is here, it is the Century of the Volunteer.**

**A time to stand tall, a time to be called
A time to have fun, a time to be as one
The time is here, it is the Century of the Volunteer.**

**A time for everyone to know, what makes the human spirit grow
The challenge is great, there’s no need to wait
‘Cause this year we’ll make the world a better place.**

**A time to believe, a time to achieve
A time to reach out, that’s what it’s about
The time is here, it is the Century of the Volunteer.**

**A time for everyone to know, what makes the human spirit grow
The challenge is great, there’s no need to wait
‘Cause this year we’ll make the world a better place.**

**A new millennium, a new day has come
For all volunteers, so stand up and cheer
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“Century of the Volunteer” – Raheem Dilgir

I have grown up with a strong tradition of volunteerism all around me: within my family, within the Ismaili Muslim community, and in the general community. As an adult, I have been inspired time and time again by selfless expressions of volunteerism and seen the impact that these actions have had not only in assisting those in need, but in creating a positive force that helps us to break barriers and develop a strong collective consciousness.

I believe that voluntary service is only growing stronger with time. This concept of timelessness became the premise for my song, "*Century of the Volunteer*". While we dedicate years and decades to various causes, I feel that volunteerism outlasts all of these milestones. It is the spirit of service that binds us, shapes us, and will carry us through difficult times, and I believe that it will be particularly important for us during the 21st century.

I wrote *Century of the Volunteer* to rally, mobilize and energize volunteers. Its message is one of renewal, purpose and inclusiveness, and its tone is celebratory. I warmly invite volunteer leaders of all stripes to download the song and use it in support their goals of promoting volunteerism. Possible uses include: playing the audio at volunteer recruitment or recognition events; using it as the background music for video footage or a slide show that shows expressions of volunteerism; or adopting it as a theme song for young volunteers to learn and sing as a group.

By Raheem Dilgir: lyricist, vocalist, arranger and producer of "*Century of the Volunteer*" ©2012. Please visit <https://soundcloud.com/#rafiki-raheem-dilgir> to hear more of my compositions.