



[#10Ways to Support Charity Through Social Media](#)

July 14th, 2009 | by [Josh Catone](#)

This post is a collaboration between [Mashable's Summer of Social Good](#) charitable fundraiser and [Max Gladwell's "10 Ways" series](#). The post is being simultaneously published across more than 100 blogs.

Social media is about connecting people and providing the tools necessary to have a conversation. That global conversation is an extremely powerful platform for spreading information and awareness about social causes and issues. That's one of the reasons charities can benefit so greatly from being active on social media channels. But you can also do a lot to help your favorite charity or causes you are passionate about through social media.

Below is a list of 10 ways you can use social media to show your support for issues that are important to you. If you can think of any other ways to help charities via social web tools, please add them in the comments. If you'd like to retweet this post or take the conversation to Twitter or FriendFeed ([F](#)), please use the hashtag [#10Ways](#).

5. Find Volunteer Opportunities

Using social media online can help connect you with volunteer opportunities offline, and according to web analytics firm Compete, traffic to volunteering sites is actually [up sharply in 2009](#). Two of the biggest sites for locating volunteer opportunities are [VolunteerMatch](#), which has almost 60,000 opportunities listed, and [Idealist.org](#), which also lists paying jobs in the non-profit sector, in addition to maintaining databases of both volunteer jobs and willing volunteers.

For those who are interested in helping out when volunteers are urgently needed in crisis situations, check out [HelpInDisaster.org](#), a site which helps register and educate those who want to help during disasters so that local resources are not tied up directing the calls of eager volunteers. Teenagers, meanwhile, should check out [DoSomething.org](#), a site targeted at young adults seeking volunteer opportunities in their communities.