

## Press Placement

Volunteer, Give, Talk: 19 Actions and Ideas for a Better 2017

[www.bkmag.com](http://www.bkmag.com)

<http://www.bkmag.com/2016/12/20/volunteer-give-make-better-2017/>

For December 20, 2016

**BROOKLYN**

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## Volunteer, Give, Talk: 19 Actions and Ideas for a Better 2017

BY RACHEL MILLER

12.20.16. 10:55am



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Does everything seem normal again? Has your pure terror following November 8, 2016 given way to *Westworld* or *La La Land* or “which lotion should I give my mom this year”? If so, stop reading this **and go read this**, a reminder from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. She writes, among many smart things, “Now is the time to refuse the blurring of memory...”

Nothing is normal again! And we need to work harder than Beyoncé in *Lemonade* to make 2017 a year worth preserving, unblurred. You’ll recognize some familiar faces on this list of things you can do, change, or throw money at: Planned Parenthood and the ACLU appear here. But where does your money go if you donate to Planned Parenthood? How does the ACLU actually work? We discuss that and other lesser-known, vital organizations, and include a list of ways you change your habits (for free) and what you consume (it’s easy) to make 2017 livable for everyone.

*Local and national organizations that will take your money or your volunteer hours, in no particular order:*



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### OPPORTUNITIES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Want to build a United States that elects thoughtful leaders? Invest in education for everyone. Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow picks up where most public education leaves off, with coding classes, a medical administrative assistant training program, job and internship-seeking support, and a range of immigrant services. Almost 4,000 adults and children were trained last year, and 85 cents of every dollar donated goes to services. [You can donate here](#) (\$100 supports two weeks of ESOL classes!), or [hire an OBT grad here](#).

### COOL CULTURE.

Like OBT, Brooklyn-based Cool Culture picks up where arts and education funding dries up: through grants and donations, this organization connects diverse youth and their families to vital arts and culture experiences; their base reflects the diversity of New York, in that 52% of participants are Latinx and 30% are black. [Donate here](#).

### TRANSGENDER LAW CENTER

There's an urgency now for trans people to update official documents to match their chosen gender identity. The Transgender Law Center site gives step-by-step instructions for this process as well as legal advice. In addition, this Oakland-based center works to change laws in the United States that discriminate against gender self-determination and trans people. The future is only female if it has the right to self-determine! [Donate here](#).



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**Rachel Miller**

Rachel probably does and likes a lot of the same things you do and like.

