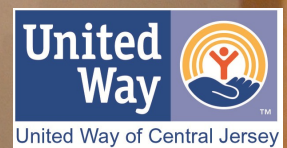




CORPORATE VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT



Corporate Engagement Volunteer Opportunities

United Way can connect your employees to volunteer engagement opportunities that fit your interests throughout the year. **Engagement events** can:

- enhance morale,
- foster team building,
- identify emerging leaders on staff,
- support the community, and
- Increase brand recognition.

Dedicated **service events** can take place for a specific period of time on a specific date. You can clean up a beach, build a trail at a local park, read to children in a local preschool program or decorate a classroom, plant a community garden – the options are endless.

While many volunteer activities take place outside of the workplace, United Way can work with you to **customize** an activity for those who cannot leave the office for any length of time.

Employees can assemble literacy kits for local pre-schools and activity bags for area pediatric hospitals on site in a corporate training room. For those who are interested in longer-term, **skills-based volunteering**, United Way can connect you to those opportunities as well.

Once you have an idea of the type of activity you are interested in United Way can work with you to schedule the event or on-going activity.

Some programs have a cost associated with them and are marked with a “C”. Programs marked with a “G” are group activities that can foster team-building and “I” are also suitable for individuals.

JANUARY

MLK Day of Service—more than just a day off from work or school, the MLK holiday provides an opportunity to honor Dr. King’s legacy. You can participate in our annual VITA Walk, packing information bags that include information on United Way’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, or have a program tailored for your group. I, G, possible C

FEBRUARY

Volunteer Income Tax Preparation—Each year United Way recruits and trains volunteers to prepare tax returns free of charge to eligible residents. Trainings take place in the last fall and early spring with tax preparation taking place at the United Way office and other locations between January and early March. Training dates are posted on the United Way website and are free to attend. I

Community Investment Volunteer—Read program proposals and meet with non-profit agency officials in order to assist the United Way in making funding decisions. Committees meet in the morning or late afternoon (dependent upon the availability and preferences of the volunteers) over a three month period between late February and early April. Committees also visit funded programs and review program and financial reports during the spring and summer months. Volunteer orientation is scheduled prior to reviewing proposals. I, G

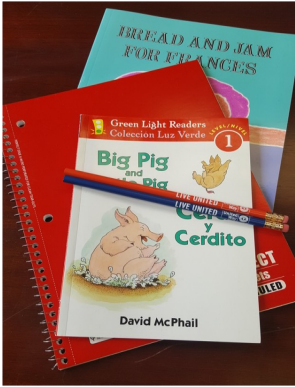
MARCH

March 2nd is Dr. Seuss’ birthday! Celebrate Read Across America Month by reading to children as part of the **United Way Reading Mentors**. Bring your favorite children’s book or read one supplied by the classroom teacher. G, possible C

APRIL

April is the month to celebrate volunteers and the warm weather provides a great opportunity for outdoor activities. Get a group together to **clean up a community park or beachfront**, help clear invasive species or build walking trails in our county parks. Build a **“Born Learning Trail”** to stimulate early learning in an outdoor setting. Your time and efforts will benefit the entire community. G, possible C





MAY

Help students fight the dreaded “summer slide”, the loss of learning that takes place during the summer break. Children who have access to books in the home are more likely to retain what they’ve learned during the school year. By hosting an online **Virtual Book Drive** with our literacy partner, First Book, you can help United Way get new age-appropriate books into the hands of children who need them the most. You can also build “**Tiny Libraries**” to leave at local schools, day care and community centers. I, G, C

JUNE

June 21st National Day of Action—each year on June 21st, the longest day of the year, United Ways around the country hold volunteer events. Your company can work with United Way to organize an event for your employees or you can choose to join a county-wide event. UWCJ hosts an annual “Count the Cans” food drive during the month of June to help replenish the shelves at our county’s foodbank. I, G, C

JULY

Host a drive for baby items, formula and diapers that can be assembled into “**New Mother Kits**” for moms in United Way’s Nurse-Family Partnership program. I, G, C

AUGUST

“Stuff the Bus” School Supply Drive—Each summer volunteers collect school supplies and backpacks to be distributed to children in need. During the month of August the school supplies are sorted and placed into backpacks, which are picked up at a central location. Volunteers are needed to coordinate drives at their workplace and to volunteer at both the drop off and pick up events. I, G, C



SEPTEMBER

September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance – Make personal care packets to send to our enlisted men and women across the globe working to keep us safe here at home. Spend some time volunteering locally at the veteran’s home, assisting with group activities or just visit with the residents. I, G, C



OCTOBER

Become a **Volunteer Reading Tutor for Adults**—What if you couldn’t read a prescription bottle, a bedtime story to you child, or fill out a job application? Too many adults in Middlesex County struggle with low literacy levels. Reading tutors can change their lives. Training is required and there is a cost to register. I, C

NOVEMBER

November brings the opportunities to give thanks and what better way than with a Food Walk to distribute flyers in a local community requesting donations of non-perishable food to ensure that families in need have a Happy Thanksgiving? The United Way office will work with your group to prepare the flyers, select the community and secure approvals from local officials. I, G, possible C

DECEMBER

Through United Way’s **Gifts of the Season** program you can ensure that the holidays are brighter for children and families in need. Families provide a “wish list” of possible gifts. You will be able to select the family size you would like to support. I, G, C

YEAR ROUND PROJECTS

Women in STEM Pre-K Committee—engage with Pre-K students by organizing and executing volunteer activities designed to stimulate interest in science at an early age. Volunteers meet periodically to plan and execute the activities one morning per month throughout the academic year. I, G, possible C

UW LINC—United Way LINC, an engagement group for early career young professionals (ages 30 and under), plans and executes socially fun and impactful events that help millennials meet new people and become connected to the community where they work and live. **LINC stands for Lead, Impact, Network, Change.** Members are invited to attend one (or more) volunteer events or “philanthropy-parties” with a social twist to decide if the group is a good fit before being asked to commit to membership. An employer can also choose to sponsor an employee’s annual LINC membership. I, C

Women United—Women United is a national and local movement of women philanthropists United in their giving and commitment to United Ways. Their collective mission is to “mobilize the power of women to advance the Common Good in our communities”. Local WU members work on areas addressing United Way’s focus on early childhood development. I, C

Jefferson Dinner— Host a “meal with a purpose”. Modeled on the dinners that Thomas Jefferson hosted, these communal meals allow for a free and spirited exchange of ideas by a small group of 12 to 14 participants and focus on a single topic or question. Contact the United Way office for more details. G, C

Custom Volunteer Events —United Way can work with your organization to tailor a volunteer opportunity for your company or group that can take place off or on site. Contact The United Way office for more details. G, possible C

SKILLS-BASED OPPORTUNITIES

Skills-Based Volunteering offers an opportunity for corporations to make a social investment in the community, provide longer-term meaningful experiences for their employees and enhance their reputation in the community. Volunteers can use their skills to assist with fundraising, marketing, public relations and publications, social media and staff training. These activities allow United Way to extend its reach and its impact in the community and frees more funds that can be utilized to support programs and initiatives. Contact the United Way office for more information about skills-based volunteer needs.

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