This year marks the 23rd anniversary of Days of Caring! With 2,984 volunteers, our impact on the community was tremendous. Since 1993, nearly 53,484 volunteers have participated in this great event.

United Way Days of Caring is the largest volunteer event in Dane County. Beginning August 16th and ending August 31st, this year’s Days of Caring provided the community 12 days to volunteer throughout Dane County. And volunteer they did—working on 252 projects, volunteers helped 68 agencies clean, garden, renovate, and mentor students, among other activities.

Days of Caring is also the kick-off for United Way of Dane County’s annual campaign. Designed to engage community members in multiple forms of giving, this event encourages people to give, advocate and volunteer.

Volunteers also enjoy the opportunity to engage with local nonprofit agencies while learning about social issues and understanding the challenges facing our community and how we can work together to make Dane County a place where everyone can succeed in school, work and life.

“I did volunteer today! It was honestly a life changing experience!”
- Gilberto

Days of Caring in a Snapshot

- 2016 Days of Caring mobilized 2,984 volunteers.
- Volunteers collectively donated 8,910.75 hours of their time. It would take one volunteer 371 days of nonstop volunteering to reach the same level of impact.
- While the value of a volunteer’s time is priceless and unmeasurable, data on wages and salaries provide a barometer to measure the monetary value of Days of Caring volunteerism. According to data from the Independent Sector, the value of Days of Caring volunteers’ time comes to $209,937.27 (based on the estimated dollar value of a volunteer time of $23.56 per hour).
Signature Project: Job Readiness Fair

A focus of our work this year is helping people gain economic stability. So our Days of Caring provided a wealth of resources to prepare people for employment or better employment.

Help with Résumé and Interview Techniques
Participants met one-on-one with HR professionals to go over résumés and interview techniques. They also received a flash drive filled with employment related resources.

Clothing “Store”
Thanks to the many companies that donated professional/work clothes as part of Days of Caring, we had a free clothing “store” where participants could shop for a new outfit for interviews and/or a job. Volunteers helped people find the right outfit for their needs to build their confidence for their next job interview.

“It was wonderful to put a smile on people’s faces and see them fall in love with some new clothes and the opportunities they can bring!” - Leah

Personal Hygiene Products
Products like shampoo/conditioner, soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, and dental care products were available to participants.

Hair and Makeup Stylists
Hair and makeup stylists provided professional style tips to participants.

Financial Planning and much more...
Participants also received financial planning counseling on how to save money when they become employed or how to budget their money while unemployed. The QTI Group, 4-C (Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc.), United Way 2-1-1, Madison College, The Road Home, and the United Way HIRE Initiative were available to provide resources to participants.

Did the fair meet your expectations?
“The Job Readiness Fair provided me with the resources I needed to be successful in my employment search” – Participant

87 community members are now better prepared for interviews and employment!

51 volunteers dedicated their time and talents to serve the community through this fair!

Donation Drive
United Way collected thousands of high quality items for the Job Readiness Fair for this year’s Donation Drive. Items included professional work clothing like slacks, jackets, dresses, skirts, blouses, and work shoes. Additionally, we collected personal hygiene products like shampoo/conditioner, soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, and dental care products.
Days of Caring Impact

United Way's Days of Caring has a tremendous impact on the volunteers donating their time, the agencies receiving help, the United Way campaign, and the community as a whole. The impact of the event is spread across the families being served by the 68 nonprofit agencies, the 252 different projects, many volunteer-shifts, 8,910.75 volunteer hours and the 2,984 volunteers that participated.

Here is a snapshot of the value and impact of Days of Caring on our stakeholders:

Volunteers
- Volunteers enjoy the rewarding opportunity to give back to the community in a tangible way.
- Teams value the opportunity to choose their own projects online and appreciate having 12 days of projects to choose from.

Agencies
- Nonprofits benefit directly from the service provided by volunteers. They also benefit from the exposure to potential long-term volunteers.
- Days of Caring serves as a platform to spread the word about the mission of their agency, the important issues they address and the impact they are making in the community.

Companies
- Days of Caring provides a great platform for businesses to get involved in their community.
- Companies benefit from unique and meaningful team building experiences which are created during a Days of Caring project.
- Days of Caring offers people who may not otherwise volunteer an opportunity to donate their time and skills.

United Way of Dane County
- Days of Caring enables us to continue our work in the Agenda for Change by creating awareness for the work we do and how community members can be involved.
- This event benefits United Way’s campaign by engaging our stakeholders. Volunteering encourages our donor base to take action and engage with our organization in more ways. Days of Caring recruits potential donors by exposing them to United Way’s work with and for partner agencies.

What Volunteers Had to Say

“I picked weeds for an apartment building with Porchlight. While it was a very hot day, it felt very rewarding and it was so sweet to hear the residents greet and thank us. The before and after was impressive!” - Tiffany

“Great experience! Always good to help those in need!” - Brenda

“Beautiful day! Happy to be part of the United Way Day of Caring!” - Lindsay

Media Coverage

Days of Caring had great media presence. Madison365 and 92.1 FM invited community members to participate in this event. In addition to pre-event editorials in the Wisconsin State Journal and Capital Times, Days of Caring had great coverage by WKOW, WISC-TV, and NBC 15.
Middleton Days of Caring

The Middleton Days of Caring Committee planned their event to recruit mentors for Madison-Area Urban Ministry’s Mentoring Connections program and volunteers for the Northport and Packers Community Learning Centers.

The Mentoring Connections program serves children living in Dane and Columbia County who have a parent incarcerated, or awaiting transfer to a correctional institution. The Northport and Packers Community Learning Centers provide programming for housing residents and members of the wider community seeking education and employment opportunities.

Nearly 100 volunteers had the experience of interacting with children and teenagers ages 4-17 at a picnic at Lakeview Park in Middleton.

Many fun and exciting activities took place including fishing, crafts, games, and a storybook station. Middleton Police and Firefighters brought their vehicles and taught children about safety. Each child took home new reading books, donated by Middleton Public Library.

In addition to helping plan this event, Middleton Outreach Ministry coordinated the distribution of school supplies, backpacks and fishing poles to the youth.

UW Law Students Days of Caring

Each year, the University of Wisconsin School of Law holds a Days of Caring as part of their orientation to welcome new students. This is an opportunity for students to build stronger bonds with each other and the community from day one.

This year 163 students volunteered in six different projects.

“...a big part of Law School is giving back to the community. During orientation we try to set a day to give back to the community. We figured that helping an elementary school to get ready for the kids was a good way to do that.” - Maria

Days of Caring & Business Volunteer Network (BVN)

The BVN members played a BIG role in Days of Caring!

- Of the 89 Days of Caring companies and Groups, 18 were BVN members.
- From those companies and groups, 1,058 volunteers were engaged in making a difference in our community.
- Several BVN companies held Donation Drives for work clothes and/or personal hygiene items.
- Their volunteer time totaled over 3,273 hours.
- BVN was very involved in this year’s Signature Project - Job Readiness Fair.
Campaign Kick-Off!

Our annual Campaign Kick-Off took place at the Madison Mallards Duck Pond at Warner Park. This year’s theme was a community festival. Activities included yard games, zip lines, and a live band. Thanks to generous donations from Madison Mallards and Schoep’s, participants enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, and even ice cream to help beat the heat. There were interactive games and information booths to engage participants in the work United Way does in the community.

The event could not have been possible without the generous support provided by American Family Insurance. We thank American Family Insurance for their dedication to United Way and community volunteerism.

Volunteering at Kick-Off

Kick-Off wouldn’t be possible without the help of our many volunteers. Leadership Giving volunteers helped with set up and the donation drive. READI (Retired Employees Are Dedicated Individuals) volunteers were busy at the grills despite the heat.

Additionally, there was an onsite volunteer opportunity at the Volunteer Center booth where participants decorated a Meals-on-Wheels bag for homebound individuals.

Campaign Kick-Off Highlights

- Approximately 500 people attended this year’s event.
- United Way of Dane County’s CEO Renee Moe and Campaign Chair Kevin Conroy of Exact Sciences gave a meaningful call to action, encouraging attendees to give.
- In addition to sponsoring Days of Caring, American Family Insurance continued its commitment to volunteerism by hosting Days of Caring from June through October. The Volunteer Center has coordinated 70 projects for over 799 American Family employees.
THANK YOU!

Days of Caring would not be possible without the participation of the following agencies, companies and groups. We appreciate your support!

### Agencies

- 100 Black Men of Madison, Inc.
- Access to Independence, Inc.
- Agrace
- Aldo Leopold Nature Center - Monona
- Arboretum of UW-Madison
- ARC Community Services
- BadgerBOTS Robotics
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County
- Blackhawk Church Food Pantry Garden
- Canopy Center Inc.
- Capitol Lakes Retirement Community
- Catholic Charities
- Catholic Multicultural Center
- CDA Triangle
- Center for Families
- Colonial Club Senior Activity Center
- Community Action Coalition for South Central WI. Inc.
- Community GroundWorks
- Community Coordinated Child Care Inc.
- Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds
- DeForest Area Community and Senior Center
- Domestic Abuse Intervention Services
- East Madison Community Center
- East Madison/Monona Coalition of The Aging, Inc. (EMMCA)
- Epilepsy Foundation Heart of Wisconsin
- Family Service Madison
- Gilda's Club Madison
- Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Badgerland
- Goodman Community Center
- Habitat for Humanity Dane County
- Home Health United
- Ice Age Trail Alliance, Dane County Chapter
- Independent Living, Inc.
- Kennedy Heights Community Center
- Lake View Elementary School Outdoor Classroom
- Linda & Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice & Sustainability
- Lussier Community Education Center
- Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens, Inc.
- Madison Senior Center
- Middleton Outreach Ministry
- Movin' Out, Inc.
- MITLP, Inc.
- NAMI Wisconsin
- North/Eastside Senior Coalition
- Oak Park Place
- Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge
- Oakwood Village University Woods Retirement Community
- Porchlight, Inc.
- Schumacher Farm Park
- Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin
- Shelter from the Storm
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- SouthernCare Hospice
- St. Mary's Adult Day Health Center
- State Natural Areas Volunteer Program
- The Rainbow Project
- The River Food Pantry
- The Road Home, Dane County
- The Second Wind Foundation
- Three Gaits, Inc.
- Triangle Community Ministry, Inc.
- United Way of Dane County
- Urban League of Greater Madison, Inc.
- Walbridge School - WI - Madison/Dane County
- West Madison Senior Center, Inc.
- Wisconsin Public Television
- Wisconsin Youth Company
- YWCA Madison

### Companies

- AAA Wisconsin
- ABS Global, Inc.
- Accuracy
- Alliant Energy
- American Family Insurance
- American Girl
- American Printing Company
- AT&T
- BOARDMAN & CLARK
- CapSpecialty, Inc.
- Covance
- Credit Union National Association
- CUNA Mutual Group
- Dane County Credit Union
- Deloitte
- Demo
- Empower Retirement
- ERDMAN
- Exact Sciences
- Festival Foods
- First Business
- First Weber, INC.
- Flad Architects
- Foley & Lardner, LLP
- Forest Products Laboratory
- GE Healthcare
- GHC-SCW
- Godfrey & Kahn
- Goodman Foundation
- GREATER MADISON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
- Hausmann-Johnson Insurance
- Heartland Credit Union
- Honkamp Krueger & Co.
- J.H. Findorff & Son Inc.
- J.P. Cullen & Sons, Inc.
- Johnson Bank
- M3 Insurance
- Madison Gas and Electric Company
- Madison National Life Ins.
- MassMutual Wisconsin
- Meridian Group, Inc.
- Monona State Bank
- Monona Terrace
- Morgan Murphy Media
- Murphy Desmond S.C.
- National Guardian Life Insurance Company
- North Central Group
- nPoint, Inc.
- Oakbrook Corporation
- Quarles & Brady LLP
- Roundhouse Marketing
- SAFC Pharma
- Smith & Gesteland, LLP
- Spredfast
- Springs Window Fashions
- Stark Company Realtors
- State Bank of Cross Plains
- Strang, Inc.
- Summit Credit Union
- TDS Telecom
- The Alliance

### Groups

- Business Volunteer Network
- City of Middleton
- Foundation and Alumni Association
- Local Contributors
- Middleton Days of Caring Picnic
- Middleton Library
- READI Group
- Rosenberry Society
- Tocqueville Society
- United Way of Dane County

Another huge THANK YOU to our sponsors

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