

2019

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty



Volunteer Engagement Tool

The Volunteer Engagement Team
UNITED WAY OF PIERCE COUNTY
volunteer@uwpc.org ♦ (253) 272-4263 ♦ www.uwpc.org



UNITED WAY OF PIERCE COUNTY

CHANGE STARTS HERE. CAN WE COUNT YOU IN?

LIVING UNITED means working from the heart to unite caring people to tackle our community's toughest challenges! United Way of Pierce County is committed to creating lasting, positive change to break the cycle of poverty for families in Pierce County by focusing on Basic Needs, Stable Individuals and Strong Families.

We can't do it alone. That's why we bring people together to roll up their sleeves and dig into our work. Volunteering is a great way to give back, whether you have an hour or an afternoon, we provide you with a quality experience. Change happens when communities work together.



Employee Teams

United Way connects employee teams to meaningful volunteer experiences that impact lives within our focus areas. Whether it's a one-day activity or quarterly teambuilding projects, we can assist you through the entire process.



Individuals

Many employees may be inspired to do more volunteering as an individual. There are many opportunities for individuals to stay engaged in helping others throughout the year.

*"Alone we can do
so little; together
we can do so
much."*

Helen Keller

VISION

We envision a compassionate, vital community where people have the education, resources and opportunities to achieve their highest potential.

By addressing the interconnected issues affecting children and families in our community, we are ensuring that families are stronger, individuals gain stability and kids are more successful. Moving the needle on challenging, complex issues like poverty requires individual and cross-sector collaboration that is focused on results. United Way can and does facilitate that work – we are tackling poverty, one family at a time.

BASIC NEEDS & COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

We make investments and participate in community collaborations to provide basic needs to ensure families receive services that move them from crisis to stability. Food insecurity in particular, is a huge problem in our area and we know that we can't face it alone. We have partnered with several organizations in our area to tackle it from all angles, including food banks, educators, foundations, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and local farmer's markets.

STABLE INDIVIDUALS

Meeting the basic needs of people in our community and helping them develop skills to become more stable and reduce their dependence on services is critical. We are helping address the immediate basic needs of people right here in our community — providing food, shelter, transportation and medication. Operating South Sound 2-1-1 and investing in essential health and human resources ensures a critical component of the community safety net.

STRONG FAMILIES

Self-sufficient individuals and families are integral to strong and thriving communities. When families who are economically secure, they can invest time in their children's education, save for the future, weather financial emergencies, and they have a greater likelihood of becoming homeowners, promoting stronger neighborhoods that increase positive outcomes for children.

CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT:

WHAT DOES VOLUNTEERING DO FOR YOUR COMPANY?

BUILD YOUR TEAM:

Engaging current and prospective employees in a community partnership strengthens talent retention, boosts morale and provides staff development opportunities.

BUILD YOUR BUSINESS:

Community involvement helps you reach a broader audience. You can see increased sales and improved client relationships.

BUILD YOUR REPUTATION:

Community focus strengthens you as an industry and community leader with stakeholders, employees and customers.



1. To organize an activity for your team that aligns with United Way's work to break the cycle of poverty, email volunteer@uwpc.org to request a form for a group project. ***Please allow at least 3-4 weeks* to develop a quality engagement opportunity for your team.*** Our Volunteer Engagement Team will work with you to identify and develop the right opportunity for you.
2. Once you have selected an activity and the project is confirmed, a member of the Volunteer Engagement or Resource Development Team will continue serving as a liaison to ensure your volunteer day is well organized.
3. Please give at least one-weeks' notice for project cancellations and changes.*

*Policies & Procedures

- 4-6 weeks required for planning of multiple projects or a series of dates.

We understand that plans and schedules change, but we ask that companies give at least a week's notice for project cancellations and changes. Our partner organizations rely on volunteers to help serve the needs of their clients, so if an agency is holding a project date for a group, they are not offering that date to other potential volunteers. A last minute cancellation can leave agency staff short-handed and unable to serve their clients effectively.

STRONG FAMILIES

United to Work

It is difficult to achieve career success and financial independence alone; personal and professional networks provide crucial support and leverage along the way. Career and Workplace Guides are volunteer professionals who help participants build these valuable networks.

Career Guides – volunteer professionals who share their experience, insight and knowledge with individuals interested in working in their particular field.

Workplace Guides – volunteer professionals involved in their organization's interviewing and hiring processes that work with Job Club participants to prepare them to be workplace ready.

Flexible schedule – *will depend on participants' interest in your particular profession or expertise; expectation of six-month commitment with at least two participant sessions completed*

BASIC NEEDS & COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Launch into Literacy (LIL) Readers

Volunteers read and share activities with a small group of preschool-age children in a home-based or small childcare center. Training and materials are provided in collaboration with Pierce County Library.

This opportunity is generally available mid-morning one weekday every other week; expectation of one-year commitment

Read United: Summer

In partnership with the Hunger-Free Pierce County Collaborative, READ United: Summer volunteers visit free summer meal sites throughout the summer to read with kids and give out snack packs and books for children to keep and read at home anytime!

This is a great 'lunch hour' opportunity for corporate teams. Sign up for a single event or adopt a site weekly over summer break...whatever fits your schedule.

Sponsors are also needed to support summer learning activities at low-access, high-need locations. Email volunteer@uwpc.org for more information.

Power Packs

Many school age children rely on free school breakfast and lunch for foundational daily nutrition, but on weekends, school breaks and holidays this resources is not available. Help make sure children have access to nutritious food so they can learn and thrive!

Volunteers can help with Power Pack packing projects during the school year with one of our Power Pack partners or hold a Power Pack food drive at your company to help fight childhood hunger.

Summer Meals Expansion Program

As with Power Packs, children relying on free school meals are also at risk of going hungry over the summer break. Currently, 80% of eligible children do not participate in free summer meals programs in our community

For more information, visit www.uwpc.org/volunteer or contact us at volunteer@uwpc.org or (253) 272-4263

HANDS-ON VOLUNTEERISM

due to lack of transportation and awareness. United Way is using a variety of strategies to support our summer meals partners in increasing access for kids in need.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and deliver summer meals weekdays from June through August.

Sponsors are needed to help reach hungry children and their families in areas not covered by USDA-funded summer meal sites.

Colorful Cooking Made Easy Food Bank Demonstrations

Do you love the show “Chopped”? Then this opportunity is for you! Trained volunteers provide on-site cooking demonstrations at local food pantries featuring fresh items in stock at the pantry, providing clients with recipes and the ingredients needed to take home and prepare fresh, healthy food.

Flexible schedule – you coordinate your demonstrations with your food pantry contact; Expectation – one-year commitment

Colorful Cooking Made Easy Classes & Grocery Store Tours

Cooking Matters Class and Store Tour leaders provide cooking and nutrition classes and grocery store tours to help families learn to choose and prepare healthier meals. By increasing awareness of healthy choices and shopping with a meal plan in mind, low-income families can maximize household food budgets and benefits while enabling families to make more nutritious meals at home.

Classes will be scheduled based on community need and availability of our partners’ sites. Expectation – one-year commitment with at least two Cooking Matters courses and/or tours completed

United Way of Pierce County's one-time projects are opportunities to get directly involved with our work in a "hands on" way. These signature volunteer experiences are ideal for employee teams, individuals or families.

June 21, 2019	Day of Action: <i>Summer Learning/Summer Snack Packs*</i>
June 24 – Aug 23, 2019	READ United: Summer Learning & Summer Meals*
January 20, 2020	MLK Jr. Day of Service Event: <i>Hygiene Kit Event*</i>



HANDS-ON VOLUNTEERISM

ON-SITE VOLUNTEER PROJECTS & DONATION DRIVES

Onsite* and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Projects are fun and rewarding experiences that are a convenient way for companies and groups to make a difference in the lives of children and families in need any time of year!



Our Onsite* and DIY projects and donation drives enable employees and their families to participate at your location and on your time. On-site and DIY volunteer projects can be incorporated into a workday by:

- Setting up the project in a common space, like a conference or lunch room
- Organizing a volunteer project to kick-off a team or department meeting
- Engaging shift workers around the clock during breaks and shift changes

Some examples of projects and drives that can be set up include:

Strong Families

- Hold a clothing drive to collect business attire for people looking for jobs

Community Collaborations

- Build literacy and/or science kits
- Hold a children's book or school supply drive
- Pack Power Packs – weekend feeding packs for kids
- Hold a Welcome Baby Drive for new moms/parents

Stable Individuals

- Hold a warm winter wear drive (for children and/or adults)
- Build hygiene kits for those who are homeless or living in shelters
- Build soup kits or spice kits to help feed families
- Hold a holiday toy & gift or food drive

***ON-SITE PROJECTS:** Projects where United Way staff bring supplies and materials to your site can be accommodated, but there is a budget requirement (**generally a cost-per-kit charge**). Please email us for more information about specific projects.

To find out more, contact our Volunteer Engagement Team at volunteer@uwpc.org or (253) 272-4263.

Corporate Engagement Profile

Company Name: _____

Primary Company Contact: _____

Contact Email: _____ Phone: _____

Company size (# of employees in Pierce County): _____

What is your company's community engagement vision/philanthropic goal(s)? _____

What level of employee engagement are you aiming for (check all that apply)?

- ☐ **Episodic** (one-time, done in a day projects)
- ☐ **Ongoing** (i.e., employees commit an hour a week to tutoring)
- ☐ **Skills-based/Pro bono** (accountant helps a nonprofit with setting up a new accounting system; software developer provides technical assistance, etc.)
- ☐ **Leadership** (becoming a board or committee group member)

Target frequency for employee engagement opportunities:

- ☐ **Once** (participate in one engagement event/activity each year, such as Day of Action)
- ☐ **2-3 events/activities**
- ☐ **Quarterly events/activities**
- ☐ **Monthly events/activities**
- ☐ **Other/not sure**

Select one or more areas of interest for engagement opportunities:

- ☐ **Successful Kids** (tutoring, reading, classroom support, summer learning activities, etc.)
- ☐ **Strong Families** (financial literacy instructor, volunteer income tax preparer, help with resume writing, mock interviewing, etc.)
- ☐ **Basic Needs** (food collection/distribution, hot meal sites, clothing bank, shelters, etc.)
- ☐ **One-Day Indoor Projects** (painting, building/assembling, indoor clean up, etc.)
- ☐ **One-Day Outdoor Projects** (planting, landscaping, clean up, playground building, etc.)
- ☐ **Advocacy** (raising awareness activities and events, advocating with community leaders/legislators, etc.)
- ☐ **Onsite Project** (there are costs associated with onsite projects – see onsite project page)
- ☐ **Other:** _____