*Volunteer Center Network Update: July 29, 2020*

**2020 DAY OF CARING – MESSAGE TO THE VOLUNTEER CENTER NETWORK**

Every September, hundreds of individuals and groups across Sheboygan County participate in United Way’s Day of Caring to make their community a better place through collaboration, service and lending their expertise.

With the evolving status of the pandemic in our area along with the needs of our community, this year’s Day of Caring will look a little different. We still plan to coordinate actions across our county in ways that keeps our partners, staff and volunteers healthy and safe while meeting community needs.

2020 Day of Caring will be focused on virtual and remote projects primarily. Below includes details and examples of how your agency can utilize 2020 Day of Caring in new ways to engage volunteers.

**EVENT UPDATE**

* **NEW Date:** Thursday, October 1, 2020
* **NEW Acts of Kindness Challenge** for community members to engage in 2020 Day of Caring. The purpose of this challenge is to encourage giving back in even the smallest of ways as we know sometimes it is the little things that can make a BIG difference. The kindness actions listed in this challenge are meant to be fun and thoughtful activities to promote and celebrate shared moments of happiness. This challenge will be promoted throughout the county through United Way’s business campaign contacts and have an adjacent social media campaign for anyone to engage in.
* To be included in this opportunity, please submit your kindness opportunity to volunteer@uwofsc.org by the first week in August. All submissions will be considered and notified prior to the official listing going public at the end of August. *Examples of these activities are included on the second page.*
* **Volunteer Opportunities**
Register your opportunities for 2020 Day of Caring through advanced events. \*Instructions available online.
	+ **NEW Virtual or Remote Volunteer Opportunities** are encouraged and will be the primarily focus for 2020 Day of Caring. *Examples of these types of opportunities are listed on the second page.*
	+ **In-Person Volunteer Opportunities** may be appropriate as agencies follow CDC guidelines and the recommendations of our public health department. All in-person volunteer opportunities will be reviewed by UWSC staff prior to publishing the opportunity.
* **Other changes this year include…**
	+ Plan for participating in a virtual kick-off event. We are looking at fun new ways to engage our community virtually this year. Stay tuned for more details!
	+ Day of Caring T-shirts will be available for purchase to the public so participants of any type of volunteer need or acts of kindness can wear their passion for giving back.

Next Steps:

* **Register your remote/virtual volunteer opportunities (not live to public):** First week in August
* **Your Volunteer Opportunities go LIVE to the public:** Week of August 24th
* **Next Virtual Volunteer Center Network Meeting (if necessary):** Wednesday, August 26th

**VIRTUAL OR REMOTE VOLUNTEER IDEAS FOR DAY OF CARING**

**Kit Ideas**

* Backpacks School Supplies
* Educational Kits
* Client Kits (supplies for at home)
* Comfort Bags (<https://www.pointsoflight.org/resources/comfort-in-a-bag/>)

**Drive Ideas**

* Hygiene Products
* Books
* Diapers
* Electronics (Reboot? Or Schools?)
* Masks/Sanitizer

**Virtual Meet & Greet** – host a virtual meet and greet to introduce potential volunteers to the work you do. This is a great opportunity for promoting ongoing volunteer opportunities you may have. Ask a current volunteer to help share why they share their time with your agency.

**Special skills**

* Assisting with marketing needs (Editing videos, social media content, website update, etc.)
* Host a brainstorming session (this could include new ideas for a fundraiser, new ways to engage current clients or help spread awareness for your program or service)
* Have volunteers submit a ‘How to’ video that explains how to do their favorite hobby (like knitting, painting, planting, building)
* Scanning old photos or documents to make them accessible digitally

**Other Virtual Volunteer Ideas**

* <https://www.pointsoflight.org/virtual-volunteering-opportunities/>

**ACTS OF KINDNESS IDEAS**

* Make a meal for someone else
* Write a thank you card to someone who made a positive impact on your life
* Record yourself reading one of your favorite childhood stories and send it to friends/family with children
* Mow your neighbor’s lawn or help with yardwork
* Drop off a care or wellness package
* Write kind chalk messages for your neighbors
* Clean up litter
* Bring water to a dog park
* Leave nice notes in the pockets of clothes you donate
* Paint rocks with inspirational words and leave for someone else to find
* Write words of encouragement in a book to drop off at a free outdoor library
* More kindness ideas: <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/kindness-ideas>

Submit your to volunteer@uwofsc.org by the first week in August to be considered for the public listing.