

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## VOLUNTEER IDEAS

Workplace volunteering boosts your reputation, engages customers, and motivates employees, driving positive community change through convenient projects.

Onsite or at-home opportunities are impactful for volunteer groups and pair well with conferences, corporate settings & campuses. These often require funding for sustainability.

### SUPPORT OUR INITIATIVES AND PARTNERS BY ORGANIZING A FUNDRAISING EVENT

At home, with your co-workers, or alongside your family and neighbors, you can contribute to all of our initiatives, or choose one you are passionate about, by hosting your very own fundraising event. Try a bake sale, carwash, plant sale, or unleash your creativity to devise a unique concept!

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#### EDUCATION & SCHOOL READINESS

Join us in shaping success from the ground up. Research highlights third-grade reading proficiency as a predictor of academic achievement. United Way is committed to preparing our youngest community members for success. With varied volunteer projects, you can be instrumental in turning this vision into reality. Our initiatives cover Kindergarten orientation, literacy nights, and interventions in high-poverty schools, creating a direct impact on young lives.

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**Cards for Homebound Seniors** A simple card holds the power to bring joy to someone's day. This idea emphasizes the significance of heartfelt gestures. Receiving a holiday or cheerful card can be a source of profound comfort for homebound seniors, reminding them that they're not alone and that someone cares.

**Literacy Kits** combine children's books and interactive activities to bring the joy of reading to life.

**Cost: \$8/kit**

**Alphabet Flash Cards** knowledge of letter names & shapes is a strong predictor of success in learning to read.

**Cost: \$3/kit**

**Magic Reading Carpets** vibrant Magic Reading Carpets inspire young readers and create mobile book nooks that spark excitement for books and reading.

**Cost: \$6/kit**

**Math & STEM Kits** diverse Math Kits foster interactive learning, while STEM Coding Kits use playful activities to introduce coding and problem-solving.

**Cost: \$4-\$6/kit**

**Organize a Book Drive:** boosts book access for young readers, collecting year-round and during our April event to inspire reading passion.

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#### PHYSICAL, MENTAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING & SAFETY

Your involvement in United Way's Social & Emotions Support and Health Access initiatives is an investment in the well-being of individuals across our community.

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### FINANCIAL STABILITY, SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

At United Way, our commitment to community well-being extends to fulfilling the basic needs of individuals & families. Through a range of initiatives, we aim to bridge gaps and provide essential support where it matters most. Additionally, we recognize the importance of family moments and celebrations. Through our these initiatives, we strive to uplift families in times of joy & create memorable experiences that resonate for a lifetime.

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**Hygiene Kits** provide basic self-care items like shampoo, soap, and deodorant to individuals facing poverty or crisis. This volunteer activity helps maintain their hygiene, dignity, and mental health.

**Cost: \$10/kit**

**Organize a Collection** host a collection drive to distribute vital resources in the community—essentials like winter wear, hygiene items, school supplies & more.

**Birthday Bash Bags** ensures every child's birthday is special by providing gift bags filled with party essentials, supporting families in shelters & food pantries.

**Cost: \$14/kit**

**Holiday Adopt-a-Family** unites partners to support families in need, spreading joy & making the season brighter.

**Cost: Varies by family**

### Local Volunteering: Connect with a Non-Profit Partner

United Way's Local Volunteering initiatives provide you with a direct path to creating positive change in your community. Whether you're looking for individual or group opportunities, UWJWC's team will connect you with meaningful ways to get involved.

### Volunteer Website: Your Gateway to Giving Back

Explore the breadth of local volunteer opportunities through United Way's online volunteer matching website. This platform features a comprehensive listing of one-time, ongoing, and event-based volunteer roles offered by nonprofits and organizations in your area. Visit [volunteer.unitedwayjwc.org](https://volunteer.unitedwayjwc.org) to discover how you can lend a hand where it's needed most.

### Volunteer Express Newsletter: Stay Informed, Make a Difference

Stay up to date with our community's pressing needs for one-time and event volunteers through United Way's monthly Volunteer Express Newsletter. This resource equips you with the latest information on ways to get involved and contribute meaningfully. [Sign up or view today](#) to stay informed about opportunities that align with your interests and availability.

### Group Projects: Uniting for a Greater Impact

Volunteering becomes even more rewarding when you do it together. Our United Way Volunteer Center simplifies group volunteering by matching substantial projects with groups. Whether your group is small or large – be it a corporation, a civic group, a place of worship, a public school, or a neighborhood association – we're here to connect you with impactful projects that bring people together for a common cause.