



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DAY OF CARING IMPACTS FAYETTE COUNTY COMMUNITIES

Uniontown, PA – As Thanksgiving approaches, many Fayette County organizations are thankful for something extra this year - the helping hands they received during the annual Day of Caring.

Hosted by the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Day of Caring connects teams organized by Fayette County and area employers, colleges, school districts and other nonprofits with volunteer projects hosted by organizations throughout the region for a day of doing good.

UWSP Community Impact Director Jesse Sprajcar said Fayette's 17th annual Day of Caring saw volunteers take to the streets, offices, parks and schools in local communities to paint, build and beautify.

"The organizations hosting the projects are responsible for providing the supplies and oversight on the day, but the United Way has historically provided paint received through donations or sponsorships to those projects in need," Sprajcar said. "This year, we were able to complete 66 projects with the help of 675 volunteers."

Sprajcar said many of Fayette County's community organizations are using all their available resources just to maintain daily operations.

"Through Day of Caring, we are able to provide valuable personpower to help these organizations complete projects that may otherwise go untouched or relieve some of the daily burden by acting as an extra set of hands to complete essential tasks," he said. "Our goal each year is to exceed the number of volunteers and projects we had the previous year and to engage new volunteers and organizations throughout the region."

During the recently held Day of Caring, volunteers from Columbia Gas, UPS, Lady Luck Casino, West Penn Power and more spent time giving back to local organizations. Sprajcar said some of this year's projects included:

- Crime Victims' Center of Fayette County - cleaning office spaces.
- Fayette County Community Action Agency - Campus Beautification project, including cleaning, painting, debris removal, power washing and more.
- Meals on Wheels - meal packing and delivery.
- Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church - painting playground equipment and light poles, power washing pavilions and tables, shed dismantling, tree trimming and sign track cleaning.
- Connellsville Area Community Center - interior painting on three floors.

Sprajcar said Day of Caring is a single-day service event unlike any other, as well as a highly impactful way to make a lasting contribution to local communities.

“It’s a great opportunity to meet new people and learn about the amazing organizations that are working to make positive changes in our region every day,” he said. “Plus, it’s fun!”

The Day of Caring is just one of the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania’s many initiatives serving Fayette County communities. The organization regularly brings together donors, volunteers, corporate and community leaders and agency partners to develop solutions and raise much-needed funds for programs like its Open Your Heart to a Senior and various school readiness initiatives.

This holiday season, United Way will use its Community Impact Grant to support nonprofit organizations serving Fayette families.

Provided annually, the grant helps improve citizens’ health, income and education outcomes. Sprajcar said some of United Way’s many beneficiaries this year include: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Laurel Region, Community Resources of Fayette County, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Fayette County Community Action Agency, Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Fayette, Wesley Health Center and the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank.

“These organizations provide critical human services throughout the year, and many provide helping hands throughout the holiday season, with partial support from United Way, as part of their organizations’ missions,” Sprajcar said.

United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania operates throughout Fayette, Allegheny, Westmoreland, southern Armstrong and Butler counties, fighting for good health, quality education, financial stability and basic needs for everyone in our communities.

Updates for the 2020 Day of Caring are coming soon. If you would like to get involved or explore any of the United Way’s other volunteer opportunities this holiday season, contact Sprajcar at jesse.sprajcar@unitedwayswpa.org.

For more information, visit www.unitedway4u.org.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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For more information, contact Kristi Rooker Kassimer, Public Relations Specialist, at 412-691-0262, kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info or Kaylie Moore, Journalist, at 724-317-6924, kmoore@fayettecountypa.info.