

NEWS RELEASE



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Day Of Caring to Kick Off United Way Campaign

Stillwater Area United Way campaign kicks off September 17th at 7:30 A.M. with the Day of Caring event where volunteer teams from throughout the community will take part in making needed improvements to the 24 United Way agencies.

Day of Caring is a community-wide event with more than 29 teams of volunteers ready to tackle a variety of different tasks for the United Way agencies. These tasks vary from manual labor, such as painting rooms and yard work to client interaction, such as delivering meals to senior citizens.

“Volunteer teams range anywhere from 2 to 27 people this year,” said Kyle Gibbs, Project Chair for Day of Caring and Stillwater Area United Way Board President. “At last count we had 311 volunteers for this year. Think about that, this totals 1244 man-hours of free labor to the United Way agencies. That is about the amount of time a full-time employee works in 7 months.”

Gibbs continued, “On a broader note, the United Way Day of Caring committee voluntarily orchestrates this event. The planning and organizing starts in mid-June each year and continues right up to the Day of Caring in September. On average, we match 300 volunteers with 75 projects at 20 or so locations. We feed them a donated breakfast held at Sirloin Stockade and purchase all the materials with donated money from Stillwater Medical Center – it really does take a community!”

The agencies affiliated with the United Way provide a wide variety of different services. These services range from providing mentoring services for children to providing residential services for adults with developmental disabilities. These agencies work year round to serve the Stillwater community and often need money and volunteers to help maintain a working facility.

“These agencies benefit tremendously from Day of Caring,” said Sheri Carter, Stillwater Area United Way’s Executive Director. “Our agencies provide such wonderful, needed services, mostly on shoe-string budgets. Many times things needed at the agencies themselves get neglected. Things like painting that require time and money may get put on the back-burner due to time and financial constraints. The Day of Caring volunteers provide all of the manpower, and our generous sponsors provide the finances to get the projects done free of charge to the agencies.”

This year, 18 senior citizens will be delivered meals courtesy of Mobile Meals and the volunteer teams. These senior citizens not only get a meal but are also given a chance to socialize with someone new.

“One out of three Stillwater area residents will be touched by a United Way agency this year,” Carter said. “When the agencies are maintained and cared for, the people using the services benefit as well. Also, when the community provides this kind of caring for its community, it

strengthens the community as a whole. Day of Caring is the best example there could possibly be for how to 'LIVE UNITED'."

For more information about Stillwater Area United Way, Day of Caring or how you can get involved, please visit www.stillwaterunitedway.org or call 405-377-2161.

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Photo Caption: Kyle Gibbs, Stillwater Area United Way Board President, helps prepare supplies for the 2009 Day of Caring, which will provide man power to complete 75 needed projects for the 24 local United Way agencies.

