

Week of Caring Overview



General Information

What is Week of Caring?

Week of Caring is an effort to inform, educate, and engage our community in projects that make an impact. Different programs throughout the week will connect volunteers with local nonprofit groups to complete projects that may not otherwise get done. The programs range from enjoying a meal served by a local celebrity waiter to donating blood to planting a garden at a non profit agency.

Why Should My Company or Group Participate in Week of Caring?

The benefits of volunteer involvement include bolstering team spirit among participating employees or other group members, increasing productivity and morale, and a greater understanding of the needs of the community.

Calendar of Events

Countywide Food Drive—May 5-May 10

The National Association of Letters Carriers (NALC) is teaming up with Food Gatherers and Washtenaw United Way to collect food on select postal routes on May 10th. Details of participating routes will be posted on www.wuway.org after April 28th.

Food Gatherers will also be providing food drop locations throughout the county between May 5 and May 10. Details will be posted on www.wuway.org after April 28th.

Makeover Challenge—May 5-May 9

Washtenaw United Way is excited to present the Makeover Challenge, an opportunity for agencies around the county to undergo a small makeover that will make a big difference. During Week of Caring, teams of volunteers will be assigned to an agency in need of minor construction, reorganization, and/or redecorating. On Monday, May 5, the Challenge begins with teams starting to strategize and secure supplies for their project. Teams will continue to work on their Makeover Challenge project in during the week with the majority of the work completed during the ay of Caring on Thursday, May 8. On Friday afternoon, judges will visit each makeover site and will announce the winners.

Celebrity Waiter / Dine-for-a-Cause—May 6

Our Celebrity Waiter event provides an opportunity for an excellent dining experience and a chance to give back to the community. On Tuesday, May 6, local celebrities will be waiting tables at restaurants around the county with all tips donated to Washtenaw United Way Community Investment Fund. Additionally, certain restaurants will donate a portion of the day's sales to the Community Investment Fund. See web site for updates.

Continued next page

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County Wide Blood Drive—May 7

On Wednesday, May 7, Washtenaw United Way will host a Blood Drive conducted by the American Red Cross. To make this rewarding event even more exceptional, there will be live entertainment to ease you through the donating process, as well as home-made baked goods to enjoy after you donate. We urge all eligible donors to sign up and help save a life.

Interested? Go to www.givelife.org. Where indicated enter the sponsor code, which is: **wuway**. You will be directed to the Life Savers Club blood drives. First time donors will be asked to fill in a quick registration page, return donors will only need to enter their email address and password. Select the time that fits your schedule.

Day of Caring—May 8

This year, Day of Caring will take place on Thursday, May 8. Teams of individuals and employee volunteers from local businesses and organizations will fan out to participate in community service projects throughout greater Washtenaw County. Projects involve painting, gardening, landscaping, light cleaning and/or office work. Day of Caring is an excellent opportunity for employee team-building and provides a chance for employees to have hands-on involvement in our community.

Get the Lead Out—May 9

Our Get the Lead Out program will inform the community of the presence of lead and other toxins in everyday products and children's toys. On Friday, May 9, we invite all members of the community to a Town Hall meeting at the Pittsfield Branch of the Ann Arbor Library. This meeting will provide important information regarding "shopping smart", what to do if you have products with lead and toxins, and other preventative techniques.

Youth Day of Caring—May 10

The third Annual Youth day of Caring on May 10, 2008 a collaboration with WATT (Washtenaw Area Teens for Tomorrow), Washtenaw County Government, Washtenaw Community College, the Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council, Michigan State Extension 4-H and Washtenaw United Way connects youth student volunteers ages 13 to 18 from Washtenaw county public and private schools to work on projects and volunteers ages 18 to 24 to serve as site leaders.