UNITED WAY
Central and Northeastern Connecticut

860CARES



WHY UNITED WAY?

United Way is committed to connecting people with philanthropic ways to make a difference. We are experts in creating unique and meaningful volunteer opportunities that encourage team building and collaboration, while helping employees connect with the communities in which they work. United Way 860Cares connects people, workplaces, and strategic partners across the 860 region to make a difference for local residents. Join the Onward860: United to End Poverty movement for maximum impact.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOUR WORKPLACE ENGAGE ITS EMPLOYEES?

Let United Way serve as your employee engagement consultant. Here's how:

- Provide unique, large-scale opportunities that connect your employees with United Way's work
- Increase exposure to community programs, partnerships and impact
- Work directly with community members
- Engage your employees and improve team building
- Connect corporate volunteers with causes they are passionate about
- Use United Way's global network for multi-market activations

At United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, we have a bold vision for the future - Onward860: United to End Poverty - uniting the 860 region and forging a new path. We will end poverty by deepening our impact in child literacy, housing, wages and life expectancy. We will not do this alone and cannot do it without the significant support of corporate volunteers!

ONWARD860
United to End Poverty

@unitedwayinc
unitedwayinc.org

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SIGNATURE 860CARES VOLUNTEER EVENTS

AUG

School Supply Drive

Volunteers will sort donated items, assemble school supply packages for delivery, and assist with delivery. School supplies will be distributed to early childhood centers and schools, back-to-school events tabled by United Way staff and partner agencies, and scheduled pickups by community partners. This initiative strengthens connections between families and local resources while promoting early learning, school readiness, and healthy development during the critical early years.

DEC

Reduce Hunger

Volunteers will collect, sort, and organize nonperishable food and home essential items. Contributions benefit participating food pantries in the Windham region, meeting increased needs during the winter season. This initiative closes income gaps, helping families maintain financial and housing stability by reducing household costs.

MAR

Read Across America Day

Volunteers will read the same book on the same day to classrooms across the 860 region. A related interactive activity will follow to help emphasize literacy and reading comprehension. The book will remain in the classrooms to aid in ongoing reading habits. This initiative strengthens language and literacy skills, helping foster a love of reading and improving academic and developmental outcomes.

STANDARD 860CARES VOLUNTEER ACTIVATIONS

October International Eradicate Poverty Day

United Way is offering community volunteer projects in collaboration with select strategic partners, highlighting United Way's work to close gaps in child literacy, wages, housing and life expectancy to help end poverty.

April/May National Volunteer Month

In recognition of National Volunteer Month, United Way is engaging community partner agencies in the spring to expand volunteer engagement opportunities. United Way is offering community volunteer projects in collaboration with strategic partners and care package assembly projects focused on closing gaps for individuals and families experiencing poverty.

June United Way Day of Action

Each year on or around June 21, United Way joins a worldwide movement to engage groups and individuals to make communities a better place through service, collaboration and impact. By volunteering, you are ensuring that every child can succeed in school and every family can be financially secure.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

OCT-MAY

United Way Readers

United Way Readers matches a caring volunteer with a student who struggles with their reading. Volunteers will be paired one-on-one with students to read together weekly throughout the academic year with the goal of improving the child's literacy skills.
Time commitment: Once a week for 45-60 minutes

DEC-APR

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The VITA campaign offers free tax preparation and filing for eligible families. Volunteers will commit to a minimum of one, four hour shift a week throughout the tax season, helping hardworking families claim every available tax credit.
Time commitment: Four hours a week during tax season

UNITED WAY CARE PACKAGE PROJECTS WITH TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES



Health and Wellness Care Package

Includes: Travel-Size Facial Tissues, Reusable Water Bottle, Lip Balm, Deodorant, Comfort Tea, Socks, First Aid Kit, Resource Booklet, Community Programs Pamphlet
$18 per Care Package
A volunteer typically assembles 8-10 care packages per hour



Literacy Care Package (Grades K-3)

Includes: Book, Pencils, Crayons, Notebook, Craft or Activity (created by volunteers), Bookmark, Read Aloud Tip Sheet, Community Resources
$15 per Care Package
A volunteer typically assembles 2 care packages per hour



Newborn-Toddler Care Package

Includes: Diapers, Onesies, Board Book, Bib, Socks, Wipes, Bookmark, Materials for Caregiver, Community Resources
$15 per Care Package
A volunteer typically assembles 5-6 care packages per hour



Job Search-Interview Success Care Package

Includes: Notebook, Pen, Folder, Mints, Interview Tips Sheet, Workforce Resources (job training, interview resources, upcoming events, etc.), CT*transit* bus pass
$18 per Care Package
A volunteer typically assembles 8-10 care packages per hour



Home Essentials: Kitchen-Focused Care Package

Includes: Reusable Tote Bag, Pair of Dish Towels, Dish Sponge, 8 oz. Dish Soap, 10 Count Trash Bags, Paper Towel Roll, Alcohol Disinfecting Wipes, Community Resources
$20 per Care Package
A volunteer typically assembles 8-10 care packages per hour