

Support education

- **Be a United Way Volunteer Reader.** We host two Reading Days each year – one in early March to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and one in October to join Read for the Record's national initiative. Readers receive orientation and training the morning of the event, and will read to local students in elementary schools.
- **Run a school supply drive.** Help students receive the material supplies needed for academic success by running a school supply drive. United Way conducts a communitywide drive each August and can provide collection bins, posters, and other ways to help you promote your drive. All supplies are delivered to schools throughout New London County.
 - We also need volunteers to help sort all of the donated supplies at the conclusion of the drive!
- **Assemble Literacy/Learning Kits for children.** Kits include an age-appropriate book and activities created by volunteers relating to the book's theme. Items in the Kits may be bookmarks, construction paper, crayons, letters and numbers, and an activity guide for the parent or caregiver. The Kits are delivered to local elementary schools. This project can be done on-site at your business or organization. You may accompany United Way staff with the delivery of Kits. *
- Many United Way partner programs work with children and youth. Volunteer opportunities exist at these agencies such as arts & crafts, tutoring, and reading.



HEROES WANTED:
Engagement and volunteer
opportunities with United Way
Visit uwsect.org/volunteer

Help provide a safety net for those in need



- **Assemble Family Kits.** The Family Kits will be for the use of teachers and/or school nurse when a student and their family is in need. Kits may include items such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, laundry soap, and First Aid items in addition to informational pamphlets of where to turn for help. This project can be done on-site at your business or organization. You may accompany United Way staff in the delivery of this item to elementary schools. *
- **Run a toy drive** for the Tommy Toy Fund.
- **Volunteer to sort, set-up, and distribute toys** during the Tommy Toy

Fund in December.

- **Run a winter coat, glove or mitten, hat, sock, or scarf drive.** Items can be delivered to the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Bank, and we will ensure they go to local agencies for families in need. Items may also be distributed to guests at our Mobile Food Pantry.

* A budget is required for this project.

WHAT DOES VOLUNTEERISM DO FOR YOUR COMPANY?

- Engaging current and prospective employees in a community partnership strengthens talent retention, boosts morale, and provides staff development opportunities.
- You will build your reputation as an industry and community leader with stakeholders, employees, and customers.
- Community involvement can help you reach a broader audience.
- Volunteering is a great way to give back, while getting involved in helping some of the most important issues facing our community. United Way connects employee teams to meaningful experiences that impact the lives of people living right here in Southeastern Connecticut.
- We also have individual volunteer opportunities available!

Whether it's one day or quarterly, an hour or an afternoon, we can assist you in finding the best way to get engaged with the community!

uwsect.org/volunteer

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Unless otherwise noted by the descriptions, work with your United Way Campaign Manager to begin the process of determining an activity for yourself or your team. We ask that you provide a lead time of 2-3 weeks to ensure we find the best and most meaningful experience to fit your needs.

In most cases, a United Way staffperson will be present during your volunteer activity and will take photos that can be shared with you after the conclusion of the project. United Way posts many of these photos on its social media networks and will "tag" your business or organization, and we encourage your group to do the same.

All volunteers receive a **LIVE UNITED** t-shirt to wear during your volunteer experience. Please note that some activities do require a budget, and this is noted when applicable in this guide.

All of this information may be found online at uwsect.org/volunteer or call your United Way Community Engagement staff person. Still unsure of where to turn? Call United Way at 860.464.7281.

Help in our fight against hunger

- **Sort food, check expiration dates, and pack food** for our Mobile Food Pantry at the warehouse of the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Bank.
- **Help distribute food** to families facing hunger at one of our ten monthly Mobile Food Pantry sites.
- **Maintain and harvest fresh produce** grown at the Coogan Farm Giving Garden, part of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center.
- **Run a food drive** at your business, organization, department, school, or with your civic group. We can provide materials to promote your drive, and request that you limit the drive to collecting 4-5 specific nonperishable items. We are able to tell you what items are most in need at our Food Bank at any given time.
- **Organize a meal packing event.** The meals will be delivered to the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Bank for distribution either to our 81 member emergency food programs or through the Mobile Food Pantry. This project can be done on-site at your business or organization. *
- **Assemble Snack Packs for local schools.** The Snack Packs will be for the use of teachers and/or school nurse when a student is in need of food. This project can be done on-site at your business or organization. You may accompany United Way staff in the delivery of this item to elementary schools. *
- **Provide office support** at our Food Bank. Volunteers are often needed to write thank-you notes, file, make copies, and stuff envelopes in the office at the Food Bank.
- Many United Way partner programs and member emergency food programs can also use volunteers to assist with the preparation and serving of meals and food sorting and distribution.



Join our community investment efforts

- **Be the eyes and ears of United Way donors** by serving as an Allocations Volunteer. You will review United Way partner programs, ensuring they are wisely using United Way dollars.
 - If you have expertise in the financial industry, we have a separate Financial Review Panel that reviews agency and program budgets throughout the Allocations process.
- **Join a Committee.** As needed throughout the year, United Way may solicit volunteers to serve on various committees that support the ongoing oversight of United Way's investments in the community. Committees could range from reviewing results reports to developing budget forms, and they're intended to promote the partnership between donors and partner agencies. Volunteers are recruited based on their skills in a particular area and their level of experience with United Way's Allocations process.
- **Serve on the Emergency Food & Shelter Board** to determine where to invest FEMA dollars to local agencies.



Please contact Anne Stockton for more information about any of the above Community Investment opportunities at 860.464.3321 or anne.stockton@uwsect.org.

* A budget is required for this project.