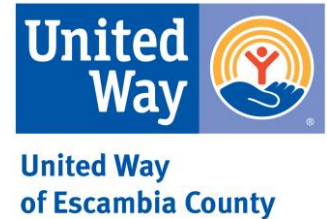


For Immediate Release

Contact: Jonathon Potrzeba
Director of Marketing
United Way of Escambia County
Phone: 850-444-7042 (direct)
Email: jonathon@unitedwayescambia.org



UNITED WAY OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY HOSTS 26th ANNUAL DAY OF CARING

Pensacola, Fla. – October 5, 2018

Over 1,300 volunteers rolled up their sleeves throughout Escambia County today to help 70 local schools and agencies complete 122 projects. Each year, Day of Caring provides generous volunteers the opportunity to learn about the needs of our community through service while providing additional capacity that ensures these agencies and schools can continue to provide critical services and resources to our community.

Groups like West Florida Hospital and Ameriprise Financial assisted JH Workman Middle School and Ferry Pass Middle School with landscaping and beautification projects. The Junior League of Pensacola provided 120 casseroles to families staying at the Ronald McDonald House, and volunteers from Escambia County Public Works brightened up Capstone Adaptive Learning & Therapy Center’s multipurpose room with a new coat of paint. Numerous groups spent the day reading with children, and others provided support to elderly clients of the Council on Aging with landscaping and home maintenance.

Projects like these, and the many others completed today, show just how dedicated our community is to fighting for the continued improvement of the health, education, and financial stability of Escambia County residents.

“We love Day of Caring, and are so excited to have ‘adopted’ Capstone as our Day of Caring site each year,” said Fern Hopkins of Escambia County Public Works. “This year, we’re painting their big room, and last year we were outside in a tractor. We are so appreciative of this event and partnership.”

Carmen Ciardello of Kiwanis of Big Lagoon assisted at the Mix It Up event at Blue Angels Elementary School which encouraged students to get out of their comfort zones and meet other students. “This project is a great way for students to meet new people and learn that it’s okay to make mistakes,” she said. “We love partnering with Blue Angels Elementary School, and we have been looking forward to Day of Caring for months.”

“This is the largest single-day volunteer event in Pensacola,” stated United Way of Escambia County’s Education Outreach and Volunteer Manager, Kristy Craig. “It’s a day that volunteers and agencies look forward to all year long, and without them, a lot of crucial projects would not be completed.”

Since the inaugural Day of Caring in 1993, United Way of Escambia County has coordinated over 27,000 volunteers to complete 2,416 projects through this event. This year’s Day of Caring was made possible by the support of Cox Communications, Florida Blue, and Whataburger.

Day of Caring is an annual reminder that great things happen when we LIVE UNITED. If you'd like more information on how to volunteer with United Way of Escambia County, visit unitedwayescambia.galaxydigital.com, contact our Volunteer Center at volunteer@unitedwayescambia.org, or call 850-434-3157.

###

United Way of Escambia County (UWEC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every citizen in our community. UWEC has operated locally for 94 years with a vision of a community United to create better opportunities for all. By investing in programs, participating in partnerships, and leveraging resources, UWEC works to meet a mission of Uniting our community to improve lives.

-END-