

Lucas Camuso-Stall

Sr. Director, Public Relations & Advocacy

lucas.stall@unitedwaytoledo.org

(419) 254-4652 office | (765) 977-3712 mobile



United Way of Greater Toledo
Serving Lucas, Wood,
& Ottawa counties

United Way Celebrates Volunteers During “United & Thankful”

[Nov. 24, 2020, TOLEDO, OH] – United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) is taking the month of November as an opportunity to recognize their volunteers who have given thousands of hours over the course of this pandemic, in what the organization calls, “United & Thankful.”

Last year, prior to Thanksgiving, UWGT hosted a lunchtime snack pack assembly event, where hundreds of individuals came together to help provide food to children in need. The gathering was dubbed “United & Thankful,” but, due to the pandemic and the inability to gather in groups, UWGT has transitioned this event as a time to show its appreciation for volunteers online.

“We are so thankful for everything our volunteers have done. They spent countless hours making a difference and their dedication is what inspires us and our community,” said Jennifer Archer, senior director of communications & engagement at UWGT.

Since March, UWGT volunteers participated in opportunities such as building snack packs, helping with family food box / bag assembly and distribution, virtual tutoring and participating in other socially distanced volunteer initiatives.

The difference volunteers have made, and continue to make, are apparent. Since March, over 1,700 individuals have signed up to volunteer, totaling 16,000 volunteer hours to date. Furthermore, volunteers assembled over 80,000 snack packs for kids.

“Despite the pandemic, our volunteer numbers have been strong and we have been able to reach many of our snack pack building goals. It is all thanks to the wonderful, diverse team of volunteers that devote time to their community,” said Archer. “We have some volunteers that take the bus to our office. Others were laid off due to the pandemic and now volunteer their free time. Some volunteers even need the meal kits for their own children, and still come.”

This month, UWGT has been posting profiles of these folks on their social media pages, celebrating all the work they have done and their reasons to give back.

Any in-person volunteering at UWGT is done with social distancing in mind. UWGT has taken the steps to make sure that workspaces are sanitized, masks are worn, temperatures are checked at the door and that the building undergoes daily sanitation. The snack pack assembly times are done in three to four “mini-builds” to keep folks safe. Any concerns that volunteers may have are welcome to reach out to UWGT to ask questions.

If you would like to volunteer, visit www.FeedToledoKids.org. For more information on UWGT’s volunteer efforts, visit their blog post [here](#).

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