

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNITED WAY HOSTS 10th ANNUAL DAY OF CARING

Hundreds Gather to Demonstrate what ‘Generations United to Give’ Really Means

CHARLESTON – Imagine more than 650 people from 54 local businesses and organizations volunteering their time on to do great things for our community. The dream becomes reality on **Wednesday, September 16, 2015** as United Way of Central West Virginia hosts its 10th annual Day of Caring event. Volunteers representing people of all ages will bring our **‘Generations United to Give’** Campaign to life! They will be paired up with local non-profit agencies in Kanawha, Putnam, Boone, Clay and Logan Counties and assist with 55 hands-on projects such as painting, cleaning, landscaping, and much more.

“Through Day of Caring, volunteers have the opportunity to help local people and agencies and see what can happen when we all work together. It’s a celebration of volunteerism and being able to support our communities with hard work while having fun and, most importantly, making a difference in the lives of those in need,” said John Ballengee, president of United Way of Central WV.

Day of Caring will begin with a kick-off rally at the **Appalachian Power Park from 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.** A kick-off rally will also take place at the same time in Putnam, Boone, Clay and Logan Counties. Participants will then head to their project site to begin their volunteer work from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Day of Caring promotes the value of volunteerism and demonstrates that we can work together to create positive change in the lives of children, families and seniors.

Community Service Director Lisa Hudnall said, “Among our volunteers this year are students from the colleges and high schools, numerous retired and senior volunteer groups and employees from more than 50 businesses that generously allow their employees to take time to give back to our community. That in itself exemplifies what the ‘Generations United to Give Campaign’ is all about and we couldn’t be more thankful for so many dedicated volunteers.”

Rally sites:

Kanawha Projects	Appalachian Power Park
Putnam Projects	Teays Valley Church of the Nazarene
Boone Projects	Madison Civic Center
Clay Project	Cressmont (Swandale 15 & 15/2 Junction)
Logan Project	PRIDE Community Services

Among the 55 Project sites are:

Kanawha County

- **Alzheimer's Association:** located at 1601 2nd Avenue, Charleston; volunteers will be assisting staff in the HODE(c) (Hands on Dementia Experience). The Hands-On Dementia Experience© is a sensitivity exercise that will challenge perceptions of the elderly, people with dementia, and what quality care really means. Participants will gain insight into the world of dementia and change perspective, as you, for a few moments, experience the world as those with dementia do. On the Day of Caring the Association will be hosting an open house style all day event for community members to participate in the HODE.
- **Believe in WV (Storehouse West Virginia):** located at 1313 Hansford St., Charleston; volunteers will unpack, sort, and prepare items from a large Costco truck for distribution to non-profit organizations and churches. This truckload contains various goods, which may include items from the following categories, furniture (indoor and outdoor), home goods (kitchen, bedding, bath), personal care (soap, shampoo), apparel, shoes, pet items, items from lawn & garden, sporting goods, baby items (toys, diapers), and more.

Putnam County

- **Teays Valley Church of the Nazarene Community Recreation Area:** located at 3937 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane; volunteers will remove an existing basketball pole, install a new backboard and net then move the pole to another location and set it in concrete. Volunteers will also spread 25 tons of sand in the new community volleyball court, install 2 posts in concrete and if time allows attach the net.
- **Hometown Senior Center:** located at 40 1st Avenue North, Hometown; volunteers will prime and paint a large room which currently has part paneling and part wall paper.

Boone County

- **EnAct Community Action:** located at 731 Hopkins Ave., Suite 102, Danville; volunteers will be putting rolling hangers, shoe carousels and other equipment together for the new clothing pantry. They will also be sorting and organizing donations.
- **Upper Big Branch Miners Memorial:** located at the Upper Big Branch Memorial and New Coal Heritage River Walk; volunteers will pull weeds and maintain planters in and around the memorial plaza. They will clean the lighting; trim trees and shrubs as necessary.

Clay County

- **Buffalo Creek Watershed:** located at Cressmont (Swandale 15 & 15/2 Junction); volunteers will assist in the construction of a walk bridge at Crestmont. This location is a prime entrance spot for the trail and will serve many future visitors. It is also located on the section of Buffalo Creek scheduled for next year's trout stocking. The project will include the modification and decking of a railroad trellis.

Logan County

- **PRIDE Community Services, Inc.:** located at 699 Stratton Street, Logan; volunteers will be painting at PRIDE's main office (multiple locations, inside and outside).

For more information on Day of Caring, please contact John Ballengee at (304) 340-3503.

About the United Way of Central West Virginia: *United Way is a volunteer-led, volunteer-driven organization representing Boone, Clay, Logan, Kanawha and Putnam counties. From the board of directors to fund-raising volunteers and the others who lend a hand each year, volunteer leaders ensure United Way continues to make an impact on the issues that matter most. By encouraging all people in central West Virginia to give, advocate or volunteer, United Way wants to show the power of “living united”. For more information, visit www.unitedwaycwv.org or call 304.340.3500.*