

Day of Action draws more than 700 volunteers to support central Iowa nonprofits

Des Moines, IA (September 14, 2021) – More than 700 volunteers gave their time to 29 nonprofits and four metro-area school districts today as part of United Way of Central Iowa’s Day of Action, the largest day of volunteer service in the region.

“Day of Action is an important way to raise awareness of the challenges people in our community face, for companies to engage employees to get involved in addressing these challenges, and for nonprofits and schools to have critical support they need to ultimately provide the solutions,” says Mary Sellers, President of United Way of Central Iowa: “As the pandemic continues, we know it’s challenging for organizations to encourage and promote volunteering in the community. We also know, however, that volunteering can have some great employee engagement benefits, like feeling fulfilled at work, strengthening relationships, and building company loyalty. I’m proud of the new and safe opportunities our Volunteer United team pulled together for today and am honored to have 25 of our corporate partners out here, united in fostering a thriving community.”

Throughout Day of Action, volunteers worked on 68 projects ranging from distributing educational materials to cleaning and organizing to building homes. Based on the hours volunteered, Day of Action generated nearly **\$64,529** in economic impact for nonprofits.

“Volunteering is one way a person can create immediate impact in our community,” said Ramona Gaukel, Volunteer Engagement Officer, United Way of Central Iowa. “And it is impact you can see and experience. According to United Health Group, 78% of people who volunteer say it lowers their stress levels. So, it is our hope that in addition to providing support to our nonprofit partners, that we are also providing a benefit to those who volunteer with United Way.”

If you were unable to volunteer today but are interested in fostering a thriving community by supporting United Way of Central Iowa, you can do so by donating at <https://www.unitedwaydm.org/givenow>. Learn more about Day of Action at [unitedwaydm.org/day-of-action](https://www.unitedwaydm.org/day-of-action).

Media Contact:

Sara Engelhart, United Way of Central Iowa
(515) 689-8668
Sara.Engelhart@unitedwaydm.org