

Transformation Times

YOUNG HEARTS, BIG IMPACT:

HOW YOUTH CAN TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES THROUGH UNITED MINISTRIES VOLUNTEERING

United Ministries is a direct services organization that serves individuals and families experiencing scarcity delivered by our five programs and several initiatives to foster a Greenville community that works together to ensure that everyone has access to the resources and the opportunity to thrive. Volunteering is an effective and meaningful way to join us on our mission to help our neighbors that are experiencing scarcity. Volunteering is the act of spending time and providing an unpaid skill or service that is intended to benefit or help individuals, communities, or organizations. Volunteering is far more than simply doing a good deed!

Benefits

Youth participation in volunteering opportunities provides a space for endless learning and fosters a connection between the youth volunteers and their community. Volunteering can help participants learn new skills, keep their skills sharp, or use existing skills in new ways. Participating in service activities boosts self-confidence and provides a natural sense of accomplishment.

Volunteering at UM

There are a number of creative ways that kids and teens can transform communities through volunteering with United Ministries and our programming including donation drives, kit-making projects, advocacy efforts, and coordinating a volunteer groups.

Donation Drive: Pay in Cans Lemonade Stand

An engaging and empathetic spin on the classic Lemonade stand! Participants are to prepare lemonade to sell to their community, however instead of cash payments, customers will pay in canned goods to donate to United Ministries' Emergency Assistance Food Pantry. Our food pantry is in urgent need of canned peas, green beans, mixed vegetables, and chicken.

Kit-Making Project: Pop Top Bags

Our neighbors experiencing homelessness at the Place of Hope day shelter are in need of food that do not require a stove or microwave to consume. Our youth volunteers can help our participants by fundraising and creating Pop Top Bags to distribute. Pop top bags can include items such as canned foods with pull tabs (fruits, tuna, beans), peanut butter, crackers, dried fruits and nuts, muffins, bottled water or juices, and shelf stable ready-to-eat foods (soups, pastas)

Donation Drive: Porch Pick-up

Coordinate a neighborhood or youth group donation drive! Youth volunteers can organize a donation drive for our current program needs in their neighborhoods or groups. Volunteers can collect donations on a specific date and time within their communities, or have donors bring their donations to a centralized location.

Kit-Making Project: Senior Kits

United Ministries supports hundreds of seniors with programming on an annual basis. Youth volunteers can give back to their community by simply putting a smile on our Seniors faces with a Senior kit. Senior kits are simple kits of items that our Seniors enjoy such as crossword puzzles, word searches, pens, and small notepads. Volunteers can collect donations of these items or purchase them via fundraising!

Advocacy & Teamwork: Youth Advocacy Squad

Gather a group of friends and dive into issues we see often in United Ministries programming such as homelessness, food insecurity, affordable housing, poverty alleviation, senior displacement, and mental health stigmas. Use the information you learn to bring awareness to the topics and coordinate a hands-on volunteer project with United Ministries to understand your advocacy research!