



WVC Spotlight



Together Making a Difference.

Dear *Workplace Volunteer Council* Supporter

I hope that you will take a few moments to browse through our inaugural newsletter – **WVC Spotlight**. This is a new venture for us. It is our plan to generate three to four a year.

Since our monetary funds go directly into our three service projects, we will generate the newsletter for e-mail distribution and also make it available on our website and Facebook account. **Please send a note to us at workplacevolunteercouncil@charter.net if you wish to be on our mailing list for future editions!**

The **WVC** is fortunate to have 24 area companies that believe in what we do and support our endeavors with employee representation. This group is dynamic, driven, opinionated, giving of their time and talents, and knows how to “get the job done.” I could not be more pleased at the direction the council is taking, all that we have accomplished and all that we intend to accomplish in the future! If your organization is not already a member, I ask “why not?” and strongly encourage you to join!

If you have ideas to share, want to see them flourish and come to fruition...the **Workplace Volunteer Council** is right up your alley! As you well know, times are tough for many, and “need” is in every neighborhood. We could use you on our team to help us **Make A Difference, One Project At A Time...**

Check inside for some valuable information about our three service projects. Watch for our next edition for ***Fill A Backpack Fill A Need*** updates.

Karla Zygowicz
WVC President
 UMR – Executive Administrative Assistant

“Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.”
 Vincent Van Gogh



Corporate Membership List

- 3M
- ABR Employment Services
- Aqua Finance, Inc.
- Aspirus, Inc.
- D.C. Everest Area Schools
- Eastbay
- Greenheck Fan Corporation
- J & D Tube Benders
- K-tech Kleening Systems
- Liberty Mutual
- Linetec
- Mid-Wisconsin Bank
- Ministry Health Care
- River Valley Bank
- Ruder Ware
- Ministry Saint Clare’s Hospital
- Stoney Creek Inn
- TD Fischer Group
- UMR
- United Way Volunteer Connection
- Wausau Homes
- Wausau School District
- WOW Logistic
- WPS Health Insurance

Testimonial

Shortly after I began working at Ruder Ware in the year 2000, I was asked to attend the **Workplace Volunteer Council** meetings. Ruder Ware was already a member of the Council but needed an alternate to represent them at the monthly meetings. When the first **FABFAN** event came up both of our Ruder member representatives volunteered to assist during the week of the distribution and what an eye opener that was. The entire process of **FABFAN**, now in its 12th year, has become so evolved from what it was then. I have been a part of and have seen that evolution. It’s just something you cannot imagine without actually seeing it. All the talk, all the hype, just doesn’t do it justice; you have to see the process to actually understand what goes on to put together the distribution of backpacks for thousands of children - a final distribution that happens in a matter of just a few hours. That was the turning point for me, it was time for me to get involved at those meetings, time to participate, time to really Volunteer. From that point on I became an active member of the **WVC**. I listened, I learned, and I grew with the process. I eventually became Secretary for the **WVC** and a Volunteer Task Coordinator for **FABFAN** week and actively participate in meetings. I have gained many new and lasting friendships with the members of **WVC**. I continue to run into **WVC** members, my new friends, all over the Community, you see it seems that Volunteers of the **WVC** are active all over the Wausau area, they are good corporate citizens for their places of employment, and they become good ambassadors for their employers. I am so proud to be a member of the **WVC** and so pleased at what it has given back to me.

Rhonda Karau – **WVC** Secretary
 Ruder Ware - Librarian



WVC Service Projects



Testimonials

12 years ago, the Director of the Volunteer Center had a dream - to help children in Marathon County that were part of the state free lunch program with a backpack and supplies for school. The project is an annual event and it has grown with focused leadership and hard work into an amazing, well-organized and efficient program. I have been a part of the project in its entirety. I personally attest that the dedication and work is mind boggling. The look on the children's faces on distribution day is worth it all. Anyone who has not participated should just stop by the armory and see this amazing site. On distribution day, over 2,700 backpacks (that have been miraculously filled with supplies) lay in colorful rows on long tables. Nobody could truly fathom the hundreds of hours that volunteers have given to make this project continue. It is an honor to work on the project and with all the volunteers. I am proud to be part of an organization that cares so passionately about our young children.

Carol Howard
Past President **WVC**
ABR Employment Services – Branch Mgr.



I have had the pleasure of not only working on a worthwhile project such as the **Fill A Backpack** Program, but also in seeing some of the needy students from my school benefit. There are students in my school who come from families struggling to put food on their tables. On that one day in August, I get to see these children come to the National Guard Armory and pick out a backpack full of school supplies provided by donations from people in our community. The joy in their faces is such a pleasure to see! I was talking with one of these students – a fourth grader – and she said to me that she just wouldn't have had a backpack and school supplies this year, if it weren't for the **Fill A Backpack** Program. I am grateful to the **Workplace Volunteer Council** for allowing me to work with them on such a needed program!

Patty LesStrang
Riverside Elementary - Principal

Fill A Backpack Fill A Need 2010

This volunteer driven program provides backpacks filled with new, grade appropriate school supplies to eligible children in Marathon County.

Now in its 12th year, **FABFAN** is seeing a significant increase in requests for tickets from area schools.

Any Marathon County child who qualifies for the federal free hot lunch program is eligible.



FABFAN 2010
August 16 – 21

It's as easy as 1..2..3..

There are different ways to help and support this great project:

1. Consider a personal or corporate donation. Personal and corporate donations are welcome. Each filled backpack costs about \$40. Your donation makes a difference and can be made payable to: **WVC – FABFAN**



2. When shopping for school supplies, please consider purchasing and donating items of greatest need. The main supplies needed are new backpacks; wide lined spiral notebooks; #2 pencils; single color pocket folders; colored pencils; red, black and blue pens; washable or regular markers; erasers; plastic pencil boxes; glue; 12-inch rulers; wide-line loose leaf paper.

3. Be part of the volunteer army at the National Guard Armory. Register online to help **after June 1** at www.unitedwaymc.org/fabfan.htm.

J&D Tube Benders in Weston



Bare Necessities

Because there are people in our community without the basic necessities of everyday life, such as clean undergarments and socks, the **Bare Necessities** project was launched in 2005 by the **Workplace Volunteer Council**.

Agencies, working with clients in need, may request a week's supply of undergarments on their clients' behalf. Specified needs are filled and picked up by the agency, usually within one week.

Agencies may direct requests by email to: workplacevolunteercouncil@charter.net

Today, as needs continue to grow, **Bare Necessities** is still a much-needed community service project.



What are the **Bare Necessities**?

Undergarments such as: socks, dress and casual (white); t-shirts; bras; infant onesies; and underwear.

Donations of these items are welcome and must be **NEW PACKAGED GARMENTS ONLY**.

Monetary donations are much more helpful, as it ensures the ability to purchase items to fill a specific request, as well as support other efforts within the community.

Monetary donations can be sent directly to the **WVC**. Make checks payable to **WVC - Bare Necessities**.



Who Have We Donated To?

Marathon County Department of Social Services
Family Counseling Services
Children's Service Society of Wisconsin
Randlin Homes
GD Jones Elementary
St. Anne's
American Red Cross
John Marshall School
Hawthorn Hills
Wausau Family Resource Center
Lutheran Social Services
Wausau School District
Lincoln Elementary School
The Salvation Army
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse
Marathon County Restorative Justice Program
The Women's Community
Other special projects

Testimonial

Please pass on a huge THANK YOU to the **Workplace Volunteer Council** for the **Bare Necessities** project. We had our Youth decorate the white Lumina bags that we placed underwear in. We thought it was a personal touch...plus it made a strong impact on many of our Youth realizing that receiving underwear for Christmas would be special if one might not have any. We shared that several of these children when asked, what they wanted or needed for Christmas specifically asked for underwear. You KNOW they need it when a 12-year old boy asks for underwear and socks as part of his Christmas List!! YOU are providing a wonderful, MUCH needed essential.

Again, thank you for your generous support of families in need. We do believe that it takes an entire community to raise kids and the **WVC** is helping that process along. THANK YOU...for caring and sharing!!
Deanne Jenkins - Covenant Community Presbyterian Church

Workplace Volunteer Council

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Website:
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The **Workplace Volunteer Council** is an affiliated program of the United Way of Marathon County. The **Workplace Volunteer Council** is a self-governed program and solely in charge of operations. The United Way serves as the fiscal agent to the **Workplace Volunteer Council**.

What is the purpose of WVC?

- ✓ Promote community volunteerism
- ✓ Identify new opportunities for employee involvement
- ✓ Promote networking among member businesses
- ✓ Serve as a communications vehicle between businesses and the non-profit sector



A six year old little is girl sitting in a classroom with her head down on a desk so she can't hear her classmates tease her because her hair and clothing are dirty. When her mom picks her up after school, it is not to go home but back to a park and the family car where they have been living since her mom fell on hard times.

When faced with hardships, the purchase of basic essentials such as soap and toothpaste can be viewed by many as unaffordable luxuries. These very basic needs can have a drastic impact on self-esteem and the ability to overcome hardship.

Back to Basics is a community project of **Workplace Volunteer Council**.

It is the collection and distribution of toiletry items to organizations such as The Salvation Army, The Women's Community, North Central Health Care, and other agencies with clients in need.

Won't you please help positively impact someone's daily life?

Every item donated helps someone in need in a multitude of ways. Monetary donations are always welcome. Checks should be made payable to **WVC – Back to Basics**.

Supply Needs:

Shampoo/Conditioner for Adults	Toothbrushes/toothpaste for Adults and Children
Shampoo/Conditioner for Children	Lip Balm
Shower Puffs	Dental Floss/Mouthwash
Brushes/Combs	Washcloths
Body Soap (gel is preferred)	Shaving Cream
Deodorant – Male and Female	Disposable Razors for Men/Women
Lotion – Hand and Body	Feminine Hygiene Products
Band-aids/Q-tips	Kleenex

