

2020 United Way Volunteer Connection Year End Report

Mission: Connect Volunteers and Organizations to Opportunities to Meet Needs in Marathon County.

UNITED WAY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Bundles of Joy

Over 980 packages of diapers were distributed to 10 local agencies who assist clients in meeting emergency diaper needs. In addition, wipes and formula was provided as needed to the same agencies.

Community Connection Calls

Participated in development and pilot of this program that connected six volunteers to 14 people wanting a friendly check-in once a week via phone. Over 30 hours of combatting isolation and potential referral of resources if needed.

Make a Difference Day

Over 350 volunteers joined us this year for our annual Rake-A-Thon, helping rake more than 100 yards of seniors in need in Marathon County. 54 groups (companies, families, schools, etc.) gave over 700 hours.

Reading Buddies

25 volunteers were reading to 65 Kindergarten and First Grade students each week in Marathon and Mosinee, Edgar, and Rothschild Elementary Schools until the abrupt end in March 2020 due to school closures. A virtual reading program is being tested, currently.

Ready to Read Bookshelves

Two more bookshelves were added, making a total of 9 bookshelves around the community, providing access to free books for children and their families. Solo volunteers took books to the area Free Library boxes and books were distributed to area agencies for the students they serve, as well.

Year Round United Way Support

- Emerging Leaders Career Closet
- Women United Rebecca's Closet
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- Volunteer Reception Center Disaster training
- Adopt a Classroom
- Week of Action
- Regular office, On-Call and Committee Volunteers
- 33 Group Volunteer Projects coordinated (corporate and other)

More remote and virtual volunteer options in 2020 enabled United Way to keep volunteers engaged. Thank a Health Care Worker, Thank a Business, Plant a Seed, Literacy Kits and more were added to the list of opportunities available.

LOCAL SUPPORT:

Get Connected Website: A total of 5,352 volunteers used the site during the year. 236 new users joined in 2020. There were 169 new volunteer opportunity listings posted for several of 108 agencies using the website. In-Kind items needed by local agencies were made known and responded to.

Wausau Area Volunteer Coordinators: Helped continue the connection of area volunteer coordinators as they officially became organized and affiliated with the Wisconsin Volunteer Coordinators Association.

Workplace Volunteer Council : Fill a Backpack Fill a Need: Assisted with monthly meetings and backpack distribution to Marathon County schools in late summer.

