



MEDIA RELEASE

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United Way increases the impact of volunteerism through Day of Caring

OLYMPIA - United Way of Thurston County will kick off the 21st Annual Day of Caring on September 27 with over 750 registered participants. This event is the single largest day of volunteerism in Thurston County, and an opportunity for hundreds of participants to give back to their community.

Last year, over 600 volunteers dedicated approximately 3,600 hours to nearly 40 projects. This year, United Way has increased the impact. Thurston County's Day of Caring event grew from 425 participants in 2011, and is approaching the size of larger United Ways like Pierce and Snohomish Counties.

Individuals from workplaces, church groups, neighborhood associations and service clubs will donate their time to volunteer projects that will benefit organizations seeking additional help in planting gardens, pressure washing buildings, organizing donated books for children, and more.

Projects include painting and landscaping low-income, disabled individual's homes, harvesting for food banks, park repair, and invasive plant pulling. Day of Caring brings the community together in ways seldom seen: incoming Evergreen State College freshman will work with WSECU and Townsend Security computer encryption firm employees at Nature Nurtures Farm; Over 30 Providence St. Pete's Hospital staff will harvest in the Kiwanis fields; Thurston County Bar Association will field a team at Nisqually Land Trust, and personnel from multiple state agencies plan to use their vacation time to volunteer at five different sites.

"Day of Caring engages and brings together our community to work for the common good in a way no other single day activity does," said United Way of Thurston County Executive Director, Paul Knox. "We are heartened by the 80 percent growth in participation in the past two years – simply amazing!"

For questions about Day of Caring, please contact Michelle Rodriguez at mrodriguez@unitedway-thurston.org or call (360) 943-2773 x13.

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