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News

United Way of Lake County plans annual Day of Caring

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By Rhonda Colvin

RColvin@News-Herald.com

@Rho_Co

Next month will mark the 20th year the United Way of Lake County has organized a day when local businesses and volunteers can give back to the community.

And in preparation for its annual Day of Caring, which is set for June 20, the United Way is inviting local nonprofit organizations to submit project ideas that will help a person in need and can be something volunteers will be able to complete in one day.

Nick Carrabine, communications coordinator for the United Way of Lake County, said projects can be large or small. In the past, such projects have included the Lake County Council on Aging asking for volunteers to spend time with an elderly client or local cities submitting the names of residents who need assistance with yard work or painting.

Carrabine said projects for the Day of Caring can only be submitted by agencies or organizations — personal requests cannot be fulfilled. There is also no limit on the number of projects an agency can suggest. However, all of them might not be approved.

After the projects are determined, volunteers will be needed to adopt them. Volunteers can be groups from local businesses, organizations or individuals.

“Last year we had 66 projects completed in one day because we had 650 volunteers from the business community,” Carrabine said.

This year, he said the United Way hopes to have even more on hand. “We want everyone to participate, the more people we get to volunteer, the more people we can help.”

Tim Rieder, social service coordinator for the Council on Aging, said last year his agency submitted projects that resulted in local seniors receiving help with home maintenance chores that they can't do on their own, like landscaping or carpet cleaning.

“We had about three of our seniors who benefited last year, it's a great day of service,” he said.

“I think the seniors that received the help from this program are absolutely thrilled with the help they received.”

Later this month, the project list will be available and volunteers can choose which tasks they would like to adopt. May 18 is the deadline for agencies to submit project ideas and May 25 is the deadline for groups or individuals to volunteer to adopt a project.

"I don't think people in Lake County realize how many people maybe don't have the means to do things others can do," Carrabine said. "It just shows that our community still cares for one another."

For more information, call 440-639-1131.

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