

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

83 projects slated for United Way's 23rd Annual Day of Caring

HAGERSTOWN, MD (October 2, 2014) – More than 850 individuals will be tackling projects at local agencies and homes of elderly and disabled county residents on Thursday, October 9, 2014. This year there are 43 nonprofit agencies and 10 homes that will be beneficiaries of services provided by volunteers who come together as individuals and teams to make a difference in their community.

The number of projects to be completed in one day is 83; these focus on general improvements and safety projects. In addition to the traditional projects, one team will install a much needed fence in the yard of a disabled toddler to provide him a safe place to play. This was a special request from the family of the autistic child and will be the first time that a toddler will receive help through a Day of Caring service project.

Day of Caring is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Volvo and First Data. Belinda Vinson, Communications Manager, Volvo Group Truck Operations, is the Day of Caring Steering committee Chairman. "I personally look forward to this annual event. For me the Day of Caring is an energizing and emotional day," Ms. Vinson commented. "Teams of men and women come together in our community to work hard, have fun, while, most importantly, making a difference in the lives of those in need." The committee has been meeting throughout the year to plan and organize this one day event. There are many businesses, churches, agencies and individuals providing financial and in-kind support as well as volunteers. Once again, Day of Caring volunteers will receive lunch due to the generosity of our local Chick-Fil-A.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any community and organization. Day of Caring participants represent the community, businesses, nonprofits, educational institutions, civic and service organizations, and local and state governments. Day of Caring teams range from two persons to more than 50 individuals. Teams include skilled construction workers, electricians, and painters, landscapers, gardeners and heavy equipment operators. "The generosity shown by area businesses and individuals, in terms of volunteer man hours, equipment and monetary commitments, is simply overwhelming," stated United Way Director of Community Impact and coordinator of Day of Caring, Kathy Saxman.

Projects also include leading activities with an agency's program participants. Another key project that also enlists the help of the public is the Book Drive. The Drive is expected to collect 10,000 or more books that will be sorted and delivered to the various agencies focusing on children and youth during the Day of Caring.

The mission of United Way is: "Through strategic leadership and investments, United Way of Washington County will impact community improvement and inspire collaborations to address critical needs in education, income and health."

United Way of Washington County is located at 33 West Franklin Street, Suite 203 in Hagerstown, MD. For more information or to make a donation please call 301-739-8200 or visit our website at www.unitedwaywashcounty.org.

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