

# Volunteers Make an Impact



Through an exciting new partnership with Kimberly-Clark's Depend® brand and United Way Worldwide, United Way Fox Cities was chosen as one of ten United Ways nationally to expand volunteer outreach to encourage healthy, active and independent living

at all ages. United Way Fox Cities used this opportunity to engage Fox Cities residents in two special volunteer events to pack literacy and healthy meal kits for distribution to low-income families.

With the help of the Volunteer Center of East Central Wisconsin and the Volunteer Center's RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program, 90 volunteers responded in less than 5 days to help pack the kits. In late January, 56 volunteers worked in teams to pack more than 700 literacy kits for pre-kindergarten through sixth grades. The kits contained grade-appropriate Scholastic® books and a flyer to promote reading as a family. Two weeks later, more than 500 healthy meal kits containing all of the ingredients for a healthy soup recipe were assembled by 34 volunteers. Volunteers at the events had a great time giving back to their community through these events; one volunteer said, "I enjoyed being a part of something that can make such a great impact in the community."



After the kits were assembled, they were distributed at the United Way Fox Cities Emerging Leaders' Valentine's Family Festival. The festival is a fun event in the middle of the long Wisconsin winter focused on serving lower-income families.

Liesl Britzke, an Emerging Leader who helped to coordinate the festival, said, "I was so excited to give each child books and a healthy meal kit. How cool is that, to provide a meal for families that otherwise may not have one?" This year, more than 600 children attended the event with their families and received the kits.

Volunteers who helped pack the kits included retired and senior volunteers, corporate volunteers, families, young professionals, university students and leadership teams. Because of the new partnership with Depend®, and the wonderful efforts of the volunteers, hundreds of families in the Fox Cities have new books to read and a healthy meal to enjoy together. ■