



Char-Em United Way

2350 Mitchell Park Dr., #8
P. O. Box 1701
Petoskey, Michigan 49770

Phone: 231.487.1006
Fax: 231.487.0795
Email: info@charemunitedway.org

For Immediate Release:
For Further Information:

February 10, 2016
Lorraine Manary, (231) 487-1006
info@charemunitedway.org

Volunteer Connections Reaches over 500 Community Members

Char-Em United Way continues to match volunteers with local nonprofits through the use of Volunteer Connections. Since the improved site went live on January 22, 2014, volunteers and agencies alike have found the site easy to use and appreciate the new platform. Currently, there are 521 people registered as volunteers and 88 agencies have 113 opportunities listed. There were 697 people visiting the site seeking volunteer opportunities in the last month alone. We would love to see the number of volunteers on the site grow.

Volunteer Connections is a free resource that benefits the entire community. First introduced in late 2009, Volunteer Connections, a virtual volunteer center, is a tool Char-Em United Way uses to match available volunteers with needs that meet their skills and interests in our region. There are projects available for all ages and talents. Local volunteer needs are also served by providing additional resources for volunteer recruitment, recognition, and management. Volunteer Connections is one of the strategic initiatives developed by Char-Em United Way and is supported through donations to the United Way campaign as well as proceeds from the annual spring fund raising event, Instant Wine Cellar, that will happen April 22nd this year.

Nonprofit agencies in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties list their volunteer needs on the Volunteer Connections website. Volunteers then help with these requests, based on their skills, interests, and availability. By logging on and becoming a “Fan” of an agency, volunteers receive an email whenever a new need is posted. This way volunteers can connect to agencies they have a passion for and would like to support through their volunteerism. Organizations certainly benefit from the volunteers but the volunteers can gain much from their volunteer experiences as well. Job seekers can find opportunities to gain valuable experience, high school students can explore career possibilities, and retirees can share their knowledge and remain active in the community. Lorraine Manary, Char-Em United Way Executive Director, believes that volunteering is an integral element of citizenship. “This United Way program is helping to harness community spirit. Volunteer Connections continues to grow and serve the communities of Charlevoix and Emmet Counties,” said Manary.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer connections, or would like help joining the site, please call the Char-Em United Way office at (231) 487-1006 or email info@charemunitedway.org.