

# **Celebrating National Volunteer Month**

My favorite poet, Maya Angelou, was quoted as saying "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." For me, this quote captures the importance of quality action in people's lives.

April is National Volunteer Month which celebrates those who serve. To United Way of Delaware, this special week highlights the importance of volunteering and the strength it provides to our communities in Delaware, Salem County (NJ) and beyond. It not only connects us as a community, but it provides us the opportunity to help our neighbors through our actions and deeds.



During Volunteer Month, we at United Way celebrate our volunteers' impact to people and our community. Whether your volunteer action was giving away book bags, participating in the Black Student Summit, reading at one of the local schools, traveling with the Young Men United on the HBCU College Tour, joining us for one of our powerful Poverty Simulations, donating to the Winter Wonderland to make sure 1,000 kids in Delaware had a coat, helping at one of our member agencies during MLK week or volunteering through many of the opportunities you can find on our U-Volunteer portal, *please know that you made a difference*.

Your time, talent or monetary gift shows your commitment to the action of volunteering to enhance all our lives and our state.

Thank you again for all you do and remember that people will never forget how your volunteer action big or small made them feel. Please continue to Live United through volunteering!

Sincerely,

#### Deborah

Deborah Reeves
Senior Director, Community Engagement and Partnerships



# Volunteers Help Drive Social Change in Our Communities

By Tierra Fair Vice President, Engagement & Partnerships, United Way of Delaware

National Volunteer Month is an annual celebration of the collective impact that volunteers have on their communities. This week provides an opportunity to recognize and thank the dedicated individuals who generously give their time and energy to help others. At United Way of Delaware, we celebrate our volunteers for their invaluable contributions to creating positive social change.

Volunteers play a critical role in addressing the complex social issues that affect our communities. They bring a wealth of skills, knowledge, and experience that complement the work of nonprofit organizations. Volunteers serve in a wide variety of roles, from serving meals to the homeless to tutoring children to organizing community events. Their contributions help organizations to achieve their goals and create meaningful change in the lives of those they serve.

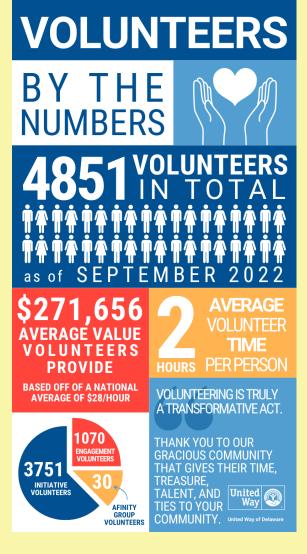
The impact of volunteers on social change cannot be overstated. They bring enthusiasm and energy to their work, inspiring others to get involved and make a difference. They help to build stronger, more resilient communities by creating connections and fostering a sense of belonging. Volunteers also provide a critical source of support for nonprofit organizations, enabling them to expand their reach and impact.

At United Way of Delaware, we are fortunate to have a strong network of volunteers who are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

From serving on our Board of Directors to participating with one of our many committees, from volunteering for the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative or one of our Affinity Groups, from assisting at one of our events or donating time, treasure and resources, you, our volunteers, are critical to our ability to our mission of creating lasting change in our community.

During National Volunteer Month we celebrate the incredible contributions of our volunteers and thank you for your unwavering commitment to social change. We encourage everyone to take a moment to thank a volunteer in their community for their hard work and dedication.

Together, we can build a better future for all. Visit <u>www.volunteer.uwde.org</u> today to sign up for volunteer opportunities across the state.



During National Volunteer Month we celebrate the impact of United Way-led community volunteers who join us in working to meet our goals of helping all Delawareans achieve early education success, career and college success, financial empowerment and racial equity and justice.

Whether your volunteer action was giving away book bags, participating in one of our impactful events like the Black Student Summit, Poverty Simulation, Winter Wonderland, or with a partner for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, your impact was felt on many levels. Your efforts worked to help to keep kids warm during the winter months, feed those without a warm meal, inspire a child to read, and house a family with no place to go. Your time and talents you share with us show your commitment to your neighbors in need.

If you'd like to come on board with us, please visit the <u>Volunteer</u> page on our website to find a job that interests you. You'll be joining 4,851 of your neighbors whose work contributed the equivalent of \$271,656 worth of time.



When a powerful tornado touched down in Sussex County at the beginning of this month, more than 100 homes and properties were damaged and one person was

tragically killed when his house collapsed.

Within days of the storm, a United Way of Delaware and Delaware 2-1-1 team led by Sussex County resident Sarah Carter was working with responding agencies, including DEMA and the Red Cross, to identify neighbors needing assistance, documenting their needs, and connecting them with the appropriate resources for assistance.

After the initial response, our partners and volunteers helped to clear properties of fallen and damaged trees and other vegetative debris and structural debris from damaged buildings. Seeing a need, UWDE and our partners organized a forum to help those affected understand how to engage with insurance companies to rebuild their homes. The overall response has been one of the entire community coming together to help their neighbors in need.

Our local partners include <u>Delaware Health and Social Services</u> (DHSS), <u>Delaware Emergency Management Agency</u> (DEMA), <u>Delaware Voluntary Organizations</u> <u>Active in Disaster</u> (DE VOAD), <u>Good Ole Boy Foundation</u>, <u>First State Community Action Agency</u>, <u>Food Bank of Delaware</u>, <u>Delaware 211</u>, and local churches and community organizations. Corporate partners generously providing financial and volunteer support include Discover Bank, Delmarva Power, M&T Bank, and Barclays.

If you would like to make a donation to help our neighbors in need, please visit our website. Fully 100% of your donation will go directly to the affected families.



# The United Way Team in the Community

Below you will see stories of our amazing colleagues who turn their commitment to volunteerism into action in their own lives. These are but examples of our team's contributions in the community. There are many more stories that could be told.

# Sarah Cha Cha Carter Leads Efforts in Sussex County

Sarah Carter (Cha Cha), Stand By Me Program Manager and the Sussex County Community Engagement & Philanthropy Manager for United Way of Delaware (UWDE) Since the tornado hit Sussex County on April 1, she has he has been spearheading all UWDE response efforts.

A Millsboro resident, for Sarah this disaster hit very close to home. Sarah has long been an active member of her community, a leader within her Rotary Club and an active member of her church.

In the weeks since the tornado, she took her community involvement up several notches going above and beyond in the performance of her job:

- She has served as primary point of contact with DEMA and has been working with the 118 individuals/families who have reported damage.
- She helped create a process with *DE 211* to follow up with affected individuals.
- She continues to provide information/resources/referrals for immediate services such as Gift cards for food, Temporary shelter via DHSS, DEMA or the American Red Cross and referrals to the DE I
  - American Red Cross and referrals to the DE Insurance Commission for assistance in regard to claims submissions and/or questions regarding coverage
- She has organized volunteer clean-up efforts that included reaching out to faithbased individuals and community volunteers, scheduling and assigning volunteers and collaborated with The Delaware Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (DEVOAD).
- She has reached out to local and national businesses for donations to help offset the ever-growing financial burdens that many homeowners are facing.
- She has attended community forums, participated in daily calls and meetings, physically cleared land for homeowners and consoled those most in need.

Sarah Carter is the embodiment of Living United. We are proud to call her a colleague and we thank her for her extraordinary commitment.

# A Friend in Need... Kari Sullivan Encounters a Childhood Friend Affected by Tornado

United Way of Delaware's Director of Philanthropy, Kari Sullivan, has been a regular and hard-working volunteer in the affected areas of Sussex County. She told us this story about a friend she encountered after the tornado.

"During the cleanup efforts from the Sussex tornado, I came across a woman I grew up with. She lived in what would be considered low-moderate income for her entire life. She told me she had participated with United Way's *Stand By Me* (SBM) program and she was able to clean up her credit and begin to build her savings. With the help of SBM, she was able to purchase land and build a house.



She was building generational wealth and while doing better, she still falls into the category of Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE). Alice families are working, but not earning enough to meet all of their basic needs. For families like hers, one incident can destroy all that they have grown and built.

On April 1, this woman's life changed when the tornado hit her home and car and destroyed everything she owned. All she worked so hard for was gone in a matter of minutes. A couple of days later, she crossed paths with United Way of Delaware community partners and volunteers who offered help and provided basic necessities like clothing, food, and resources to help her get back on her feet. Fortunately, my friend has adequate insurance and expects to be able to make a full recovery and replace her home and car. UWDE's community partners and volunteers continue to check on my friend to assure she has the resources to endure this very trying time."



# **Angie Cright -- 30 Years of Mentoring Girls**

For 30 consecutive years, our colleague Angie Cright has served City of Wilmington girls through her work with the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay with the support of her church, Resurrection Center Church. She was recently awarded her 30 years of service pin at the Council annual meeting. Currently, Angie oversees the entire scouting program and works directly with fourth and fifth graders.

"The church wanted to have a troop because there were very few Girl Scout troops in the city," Angie explained. "Many troop leaders do the work because their children are in scouting and they leave when their children do, but I don't have children and I just stayed on for the whole 30 years!"



Angie's goal is to expose the scouts to new experiences. "Exposure to new things can change a person's life," she said. "Over the years, we've taken girls to London twice, and to California and Canada. We always help the girls qualify for the high Girl Scout awards, because these are important for their college applications."

Achieving the awards requires service work, and one recent group undertook organizing, cleaning and painting the church's food pantry to make it a more welcoming space. They worked to add fresh foods to the pantry, since the church is located in one of Wilmington's food deserts. Middle school girls added a pet food pantry during the pandemic.

"I'd like to thank the church congregation for their support over the years, and in particular, thank Bishop Townsend for all he does to help us continue to provide scouting opportunities," Angie said.

Angie, we at United Way are proud to count you among our family and we're proud of what you have achieved, Thank you for your constant support of the young girls in our community.

## A Teen Speaks: Volunteering Isn't All Work and No Play

By Tatiana Fair, MOT Charter School, Class of 2024

As a young person living in Delaware, I have seen firsthand the need for greater racial justice and equality in our communities. That's why I volunteered to plan and execute the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative's Black Student Summit this year. This event brought together high school students from across the state to learn about racial justice issues, connect with one another, and develop leadership skills.

Volunteering to plan the Black Student Summit was a rewarding experience that taught me a lot about the power of community organizing and activism. Here are a few reasons why I think teenagers should get involved with volunteering in their community, too:

Making a difference: Volunteering allows you to make a real difference in the world by contributing your time



and talents to help others. By getting involved with causes you care about, you can help create positive change in your community and beyond.

Tatiana Fair performs at the Black Student Summit

Developing new skills: Volunteering can help you develop new skills and gain valuable experience that can enhance your personal and professional growth. Whether you're organizing an event, working with others, or learning new things, volunteering provides opportunities for growth and development. I've been practising my social media marketing skills and now I help run the Black Student Summit Instagram page. Follow us at @delaware\_bss

Meeting new people: Volunteering can be a great way to meet new people and connect with like-minded individuals who share your interests and passions. Building relationships with others can help you feel more connected and engaged in your community. I've met some really great friends that I think I'll have for a lifetime just from volunteering.

Making an impact: By volunteering, you are showing your support for causes and organizations that are making a positive impact in your community. Your contributions can help these groups achieve their goals and make a real difference in the world.

Having fun: Volunteering doesn't have to be all work and no play. Many volunteer opportunities are fun and enjoyable, whether you're working on an event, helping out with a project, or simply spending time with others who share your interests.

If you're a teenager looking to get involved with volunteering in your community, there are plenty of opportunities available. Whether you're interested in working with a local nonprofit, volunteering at a community event, or starting your own initiative, there are many ways to make a difference and get involved.

By volunteering, you can learn new skills, meet new people, and make a real impact on the world around you. So why not get involved today? You might just find that it's one of the most rewarding experiences of your life.

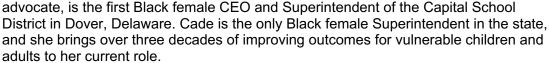
# Dr. Valecia Cade Appointed to Presidential Commission Member of the United Way of Delaware Board of Directors

Dr. Vilicia Cade, CEO and Superintendent of the Capital School District, has been appointed by President Biden to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans.

A media release from the Capital School District described Dr. Cade in these words:

described Dr. Cade in these words:

"Vilicia Cade, an accomplished educational leader, scholar, author, and social justice



Her portfolio of public-private partnerships validates her track record in improving the quality of life and economic opportunities for her students. Cade is known for her inspired and innovative approaches to bolstering community, faith-based, and business partnerships interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. Notably, she was a key administrator of the Brooklyn High School's New Visions reform project, Co-Creator of the College Readiness Scholars Institute at the University of Delaware, and



is credited for launching numerous parent empowerment programs.

Cade enthusiastically embraces her personal journey as a former ward of the State of New York, described in her debut bestseller If Not For Love. Her story resonates with many Black Americans illuminating the gaps in our child welfare system. Her childhood has established a firm foundation for resilience proving why empowering the disenfranchised is quintessential. Cade ... [is a current member of the Board of Directors] of United Way of Delaware.

Cade earned her bachelor's degree, three master's degrees, and doctorate from New York University. In 2020, she received the prestigious Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Education Advocate Centennial Dove Award. A radio personality on the Stellar Awarded WNZN in Lorain, Ohio, she uses urban inspiration to connect the significance of service, educational equity, and economic development."

In response to this appointment, Dr. Cade said, "I remain humbled and poised to serve our nation as a member of this prestigious advisory commission, and look forward to using my life experiences, educational accomplishments and professional advancements to add value to the commission's vital work."

# **Seeking Teens to Help Plan Anti-Bullying Summit**

The next Gay Student Association Anti-Bullying Summit iwill be held on November 4, 2023 at Delaware Technical & Community College in Newark.

Planning is beginning now! The Pride Council is looking for student leaders to join the team. They will have the opportunity to shape the Summit including but not limited to:

- choosing guest speakers
- hosting the Summit program
- planning workshops topics
- choosing lunch options
- designing Summit t-shirts
- · completing décor
- AND MORE!



Help plan the next GSA/Anti-Bullying Summit Planning meetings are virtual

Sign up and find out more at bit.ly/uwdegsa23



If you or a teen you know is interested, sign up today at <a href="bit.ly/uwdegsa23">bit.ly/uwdegsa23</a>. The first planning meeting is Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

## New Challenge Session Begins May 22 - Enroll Now!

The 2023 Racial Equity Challenge series, powered by United Way of Delaware (UWDE) and Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative is a quarterly journey of self-discovery designed to help Delawareans build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership.

RACIAL SALES SALES

For five consecutive days each quarter during 2023, participants are prompted with a daily e-mail challenge — such as reading an article, listening to a podcast, or watching a video, and are then encouraged to reflect on the

watching a video-and are then encouraged to reflect on that content and to relate the situation to their own lives.

Participants discover how racial inequity and social injustice impact our community. The goal is to build new understandings and new connections and in so doing, to begin dismantling systemic racism in Delaware.

The next session begins May 22. Sign up now!



Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week is a time to recognize and appreciate those who work with youth during out-of-school hours. Afterschool Professionals are skilled individuals who work with children and youth in diverse school and community-based settings to provide a wide variety of positive developmental relationships and experiences during out-of-school hours.

The *Delaware Afterschool Network* (DEAN) endorses the goal that all school-age children be academically, socially, culturally and physically healthy. DEAN, along with its partners, works to create a long-term policy voice for afterschool programs; advocates for policies that support high-quality programs; supports the afterschool workforce; increases public awareness regarding afterschool programs; builds bridges between schools and community-based organizations and supports family-centered practices.

"Afterschool providers play an integral role in young people's everyday learning as they absorb all the teachable moments together," said *Regina Sidney-Brown, MSODL,* Director, Delaware Afterschool Network. "Through regular interaction with young people, some of the many areas we can facilitate teaching include addressing various academic skills, teaching social interactions with adults and peers, demonstrating the importance of following directions and having a structured routine, and learning problem-solving in social and non-social situations."

On this special week, let's recognize, appreciate, and advocate for afterschool professionals who make a profound difference in the lives of young people. Research shows that Afterschool Professionals make a profound difference in the lives of young people. We encourage you to join us in thanking the afterschool professionals you know!



# When Volunteer Work is an Important Part of Your Resume

Volunteers often say they receive as much or more personal benefit from the work than the contribution they provide. As volunteers ourselves, we concur. But as the recipient of donated time and labor, we at united Way know we could not fulfil our mission without extensive volunteer contributions. We are grateful for every minute.

One perhaps overlooked benefit to our young volunteers is the ability to add real-world work experience to their developing resume. One example of that is Emily Aguirre.

Emily started as a volunteer for UWDE with Latino Community Focus work while still in college and stayed with us up to and beyond her graduation from



UWDE with a bachelor's degree in Marketing and Communications. She currently works for Chase and continues volunteering as part of the steering committee for UWDE Latinos Unidos. She sent us this note to express her feelings about volunteering:

"I am so grateful to UWDE and the opportunity to volunteer. Volunteering is a delight when you can give back to your community and know you are helping others. It has helped me grow. When I was interviewed for my current position at Chase, I was proud to mention I was an active volunteer for UWDE Latino Unidos. Thank you, UWDE, for the opportunity to give back."

Emily, thank you for all you have done and continue to do for United Way and the Latino community in Delaware.

Enjoy Día Del Niño - Children's Day Festivities in Seaford this Sunday!





# **Community Announcements**

The events below are happening over the next several weeks. Be sure to mark your calendars now to save the dates and times.

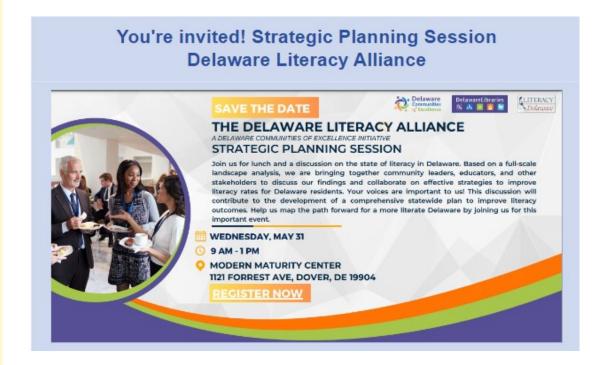
## **Help Stamp Out Hunger on May 13**

On **Saturday, May 13**, United Way will join our long-term partner, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) for a day-long food drive. Every year, letter carriers drop off co-branded bags in more than 10,000 communities across America and on May 13 they collect the bags filled with food. Last year, they collected some 43.1 million pounds of food.



Here in Delaware, the Letter Carriers food drive is conducted in partnership with the AFL-CIO, UWDE and the Food Bank of Delaware. Our sponsor Discover will cover the cost of the bags that will be delivered to each mailbox. Our partners still need volunteers. Learn more <u>here</u>.

Fresh, nutritious food is a requirement for healthy living and should not be a luxury. Thank you for your commitment to help end hunger in our communities.



# "A CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS"

#### **Parents, Community Members and Educators**

Please join us for the last event in our series "A Conversation with Parents." Pertaining to education, health and financial stability for your family, these coversations provide a safe space for you to discuss issues with others and share your experiences and life lessons. This session celebrates a continuation of Mental Health Awareness Month.

#### May 16, 2023

"Possibilities and Solutions."

Topics include:

- Boundaries and consequences
- o Problem solving, goal setting.
- Responsible Decision Making

Location: Route 9 Library & Innovation Center,

3022 New Castle Ave, New Castle, DE

Time: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

A \$40 ShopRite gift card will be raffled at the session. YOU MUST ATTEND TO WIN!

Registration is strongly recommended. Register at https://bit.ly/convoparents















For more information contact: Ken Livingston at klivingston@uwde.org



# GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY THE CRITICAL ROLE OF BLACKS IN Medicine

Sunday, April 30th, 3:00pm – 4:30pm Wilmington Public Library 10 E. 10th Street Wilmington, Delaware 19801

#### **Guest Speaker**

Dr. Richard Allen Williams, M.D., FACC

Founder of the Association of Black Cardiologists, Founder & President of the Minority Health Institute, Health Equity Expert, International Scholar, Author & Philanthropist



Health Equity Panel Discussion moderated by Dr. Marshala Lee-McCall, NMA First State Chapter President

4:30pm - 6:30pm | Book Signing
"Jam Session" Reception featuring
Odyssey & Dr. Richard Allen Williams



Presented by: Center for Global Africa @ Delaware State University in partnership with the First State Chapter of the National Medical Association

RSVP Required: info@centerforglobalafrica.com www.centerforglobalafrica.com Contact Information: 302.690.8407 Supporting Partners: Wilmington Public Library and Interdenominational Ministers Action Council (IMAC)









# FREE FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

The Truth About Reading\* The Invisible Crisis Hiding in Plain Sight

Directed by Emmy Award Winner Nick Nanton

Watch the Movie Trailer!





Monday April 24th 5:30-7:30pm Georgetown Public Library Tuesday April 25th 5:00-7:00pm Wilmington Institute Library Wednesday April 26th 5:30-7:30pm Bear Public Library Thursday April 27th 5:30-7:30pm Dover Public Library

Monday May 1st 4:00-6:00pm Christiana Care Wilmington Gateway Center

Monday May 15th 4:00 - 6:00pm Carl M. Freeman Office Building

Use the QR code to secure YOUR seat or visit www.literacydelaware.org/event/thetruth-about-reading-movie-screening to register

















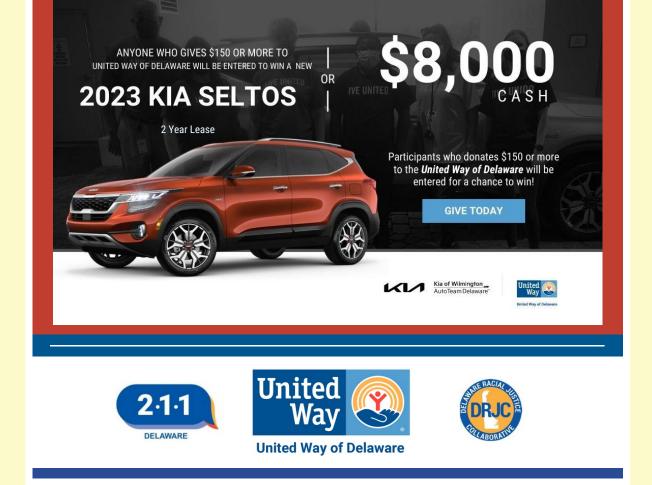












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