

June 14, 2010

Dear Community Partner,

Your organization is invited to participate in an exciting celebration of **Make a Difference Day** this October! **Make a Difference Day**, a national day of volunteering, takes place annually on the fourth Saturday of October. More than three million volunteers participated nationwide last year, with over 1,000 projects occurring in Ohio alone.

This year HandsOn West Central Ohio will partner with your local United Way to identify service projects within nonprofit organizations serving Darke, Logan, Miami and Shelby Counties. This partnership will provide our region with a streamlined process for engaging volunteers in celebration of **Make a Difference Day**, increasing the overall impact on our region and making it easier than ever for nonprofit organizations to take full advantage of the time offered by local volunteers. Organizations participating in the planning of this event include Darke County United Way, HandsOn West Central Ohio, Logan County United Way, Piqua Area United Way, Shelby County United Way, Tipp City Area United Way and United Way of Troy.

Your agency is invited to participate in this exciting collaboration by hosting one or more volunteer projects on Friday, October 22nd, and/or Saturday, October 23rd. Potential projects might include painting your facility, landscaping, hosting a party for your clients, preparing cards for local nursing home residents and more. Projects addressing needs in the four following focus areas are especially desired: Education, Environment, Financial Stability and Health. To propose a project, visit www.handsonwestcentralohio.org and click on "Information for Agencies" to access information about **Make a Difference Day**. In planning your projects, be sure to consider:

- Whether you want to offer the project on October 22nd, 23rd or both.
- Which shift(s) will work best for you: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- What materials your agency will need to supply or procure through in-kind donations.
- Whether there are ways to involve youth with your agency's project. (A large number of youth are expected to participate, so we especially encourage your agency to consider including them in your projects.)
- Which member of your agency's paid or volunteer staff will be designated project leader.

Informal question and answer sessions will be hosted on the following dates:

Monday, June 21st
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Darke County United Way
207 E. Fourth Street
Greenville, OH 45331

Wednesday, June 30th
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
21 Hunter Place
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

Tuesday, July 6th
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Amos Memorial Public Library Gallery
230 East North Street
Sidney, OH 45365

Thursday, July 8th
12 to 1 p.m.
Troy-Hayner Cultural Center
301 West Main Street
Troy, OH 45373

Tuesday, July 13th
2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Conference Call
Conference Dial-in Number: (218) 339-4300
Participant Access Code: 254633#

Thursday, July 15th
9 to 10 a.m.
Conference Call
Conference Dial-in Number: (218) 339-4300
Participant Access Code: 254633#

We strongly encourage you to participate in any one of these sessions to learn more about how your organization may participate in **Make a Difference Day** this October. Please contact Nikki Winner using the information below to reserve your space.

Project proposals will be accepted beginning July 12th, at which time you will receive a second invitation to participate in this event. All project proposals *must* be submitted via www.handsonwestcentralohio.org by 5:00 p.m. on August 6th. For additional assistance with project ideas and questions about how to sign your agency up or about the event itself, please contact Nicolette Winner using the information below.

Thank you for changing so many lives throughout Darke, Logan, Miami and Shelby Counties! It is our hope that this partnership for **Make a Difference Day** will better serve your agency and the community.

Sincerely,



Nicolette R. Winner, HandsOn West Central Ohio Director
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