

United Way of North Rock County

LIVE UNITED



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

April, 2009

TAP INTO THE ENERGY OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERISM

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2009



TO ALL WHO HAVE
JOINED HANDS
OPENED THEIR HEARTS
AND LENT THEIR MUSCLE
WE THANK YOU

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED 

Helping Children And Youth Achieve Their Potential

Youth who volunteer are less likely to engage in risky behavior, are more likely to feel connected to their communities, and tend to do better in school. Our focus this month is on helping children and youth achieve their potential.

It seems logical then that those youth who volunteer have a head-start on achieving their potential. Nationwide, 15.5 million youths between the ages of 12 and 18 contributed more than 1.3 billion hours of service during 2004.

Most youth who volunteered do so out of altruism, strongly agreeing with the statements "I would like to help make the world a better place" and "It's important to do things for others". Wisconsin is sixth in the nation as far as young adult volunteerism, ages 16 to 24 years old, with 32% who volunteer.

In north Rock County, this is the 10th year that United Way's Volunteer Network has organized Youth Service Day (YSD), in conjunction with National Volunteer Week. The energy among youth to volunteer locally is no less than national as we've had an increasing number of participants every year, with 510 who participated on April 18th. [Read more.](#) [See photos.](#)

Facts about youth volunteerism are from a national study conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service, with the U.S. Census Bureau and Independent Sector.



Give.

Photo: [Andrea Jones](#) of the Boys & Girls Club is a wonderful example of what a leadership program can do to get youth on the right path.

When you give to United Way of North Rock County, how do your dollars "Help Children and Youth Achieve Their Potential"? One area we specifically focus on is assuring quality, affordable and accessible character and leadership development and recreational experiences for all children and youth.

Dollars are invested in these related programs:

- **Boys & Girls Club of Janesville** - Youth Development & Guidance Programming
- **Boy Scouts** - Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters** - Mentoring Programs
- **Girl Scouts** - Scholarships for girls and adults
- **Lutheran Social Services** - Runaway and Youth Services Program
- **Partners in Prevention** - Positive Youth Development Programs
- **RSVP** - Intergenerational Programs
- **YMCA** - Youth Aquatics

Other youth volunteer facts:

- A youth who has a parent who volunteers is nearly three times more likely to volunteer on a regular basis.
- Only 5% of students became involved with volunteering through a school requirement.
- Young people volunteer at twice the rate of adults with 55% of young people volunteering, compared with only 29% of adults.
- 64% of teenagers who volunteer do so primarily through a religious organization, a school-based group, or a youth leadership organization such as 4-H or Scouts.
- Youth who attend religious services regularly - defined, generally, as once a week - are nearly twice as likely to be regular volunteers as youth who do not attend religious services at all.

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and Youth Day Camp programs & Scholarships for low-income youth



Advocate.

Photo: [Mark Saunders](#) is truly an advocate for youth.

All four of United Way's impact areas were developed because community needs drive our efforts. In United Way's impact area, "Helping Children and Youth Achieve Their Potential", our collective efforts are on giving every child the education they need to lead to a stable job.

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You can LIVE UNITED by helping us spread the word. Imagine how many people we could reach if everyone forwards this to five people.

+ TELL YOUR FRIENDS



Volunteer.

Photo: Allegra making a blanket

Allegra Rowland enjoys the thought of kids who've had chemo wrapped in the blankets she made on Youth Service Day. [Read all about her.](#)

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